

Transphobic essay published by Criminology Professor Mike S. Adams of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

A report by Lynn Conway* and Leandra Vicci
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A transphobic essay entitled "[Perversity and diversity at my little university](#),"[1] was published on August 24, 2005 by [Mike S. Adams](#), an [associate professor of criminal justice](#) in the [Criminal Justice Program](#) at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Believing in free speech, the First Amendment and academic freedom, we in no way wish to curtail Adams's right to express his views on transgender and transsexual people. In fact we hope Adams's views become better known and well-assigned to him, so that others can effectively critique the nature and effects of his teachings.

In his article ([see below](#)) Adams ridicules four courageous young students who are now undergoing gender transitions at other universities – ridiculing them openly by name and in grossly sexualized terms at this particularly difficult time in their lives.

It is reported that "Adams usually saves his ink for those instances where he thinks bias has evolved into discrimination" [2]. Our report simply follows Adams's own rule on when to "write about such cases" of obvious discrimination [2]: In his recent article, Adams has gone well beyond his usually rather clever liberal-baiting attention-seeking, and instead reveals a darker, less well-controlled, discriminatory side of his personality.

The Adams's article raises important questions about the context in which UNC students of criminal justice are being prepared for their roles as protectors of all citizens, including gender minorities. We reflect on that context in this report.

Reflecting on violence against transgender people:

In recent years, law enforcement has become aware of the violence so often perpetrated against transgender people. Such violence was hidden away in the past, seldom seen for what it was. Many trans people have been socially marginalized and lacked any means to speak out. Cops often looked the other way when encountering hate crimes against "those people", and have often been perpetrators of such violence themselves [3].

For these reasons, the extreme level of violence against the trans community long went unidentified in official crime statistics. However, that it exists is now all too clear. See for example "[Disposable People: A wave of violence engulfs the transgendered, whose murder rate may outpace that of all other hate killings](#)," by Bob Moser in the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Winter 2003 Intelligence Report [4]. See too Gwendolyn Ann Smith's famed memorial website, "[Remembering Our Dead](#)"[5].

Recent incidents of terrible hate crimes against trans people have gained wider public notice, and there's now a growing public outcry against such crimes [6]. Thus police in many jurisdictions now take these crimes far more seriously than in the past – and prosecutors are pressing many of the cases to the full extent of the law [6] – especially as more and more trans people bravely step forward to press charges against attackers [3].

The growing awareness of anti-trans violence has also led many cities to provide police special training on the dangers facing trans people. For example, see “[On the Streets: In Washington, D.C., police now take crime against sexual minorities seriously. A seasoned street cop explains how and why](#)” in the SPLC Winter 2003 Intelligence Report [7].

Questions for the Criminal Justice Program at UNC:

The [Criminal Justice Program](#) (CRJ) at UNC educates future leaders of law enforcement in the State of North Carolina. The program opens its webpage with the following line:

“The Criminal Justice Program offers a social science orientation which enables students to gain a better understanding of American society and its diversity. . . .”

The publication of Adams's essay raises key questions for all academic programs in criminal justice to ponder. At issue is whether such programs are educating leaders to become part of the solution (in protecting gender minorities) – or part of the problem.

UNC CRJ faculty must be aware of the violence visited upon transgender people. Indeed it seems likely they would have discussed it among themselves while preparing to provide students with “a better understanding of American society and its diversity...”

Do the other [UNC CRJ faculty members](#) take offense at what Adams says about young gender transitioners? Do they sense how he is propping-up an old-time “cop culture” that ridicules and dehumanizes gender minorities? Do they see how this adds fuel to the fires of violence against trans people? If so, we hope their voices will be heard on the matter.

As background, we urge CRJ faculty members to become familiar with transgenderism, for example by studying the University of Michigan's “[Report of the Provost's TBLG Task Force](#).” That report contains many practical recommendations for improving university campus environments for transgender students, faculty and staff [8].

CRJ faculty should also study equal employment opportunity (EEO) and human resources (HR) protections provided transgender employees by the major corporations in North Carolina, especially by high-tech firms in the Research Triangle – many of which support employees who are undergoing gender transitions. Lists of corporations providing such protections are given in the [Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index](#) [9].

Meanwhile, the fact that the UNC criminal justice students are being exposed to openly discriminatory transphobia by one of their faculty members doesn't bode well for the long-term security and individual rights of transgender residents of North Carolina.

References:

1. "[Perversity and diversity at my little university](#)," by Mike S. Adams, Townhall.com, August 24, 2005.
2. "[Prof sails against liberal tide: UNCW's Adams relishes role of combative contrarian](#)," by G. D. Gearino, The News & Observer, April 17, 2005.
3. "[Cop Indicted in transsexual's assault](#)," by Guillermo Contreras and Vianna Davila, San Antonio Express News, October 21, 2005.
4. "[Disposable People: A wave of violence engulfs the transgendered, whose murder rate may outpace that of all other hate killings](#)," by Bob Moser, SPLC Intelligence Report, Winter 2003.
5. "[Remembering Our Dead](#)," by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, www.gender.org/remember/.
6. "[Legacy Of Gwen Araujo: Death Of Gay, Trans Panic Defense](#)", by Michelle Locke, Associated Press, September 16, 2005.
7. "[On the Streets: In Washington, D.C., police now take crime against sexual minorities seriously. A seasoned street cop explains how and why](#)," SPLC Intelligence Report, Winter 2003.
8. "[Report of the Provost's TBLG Task Force](#)," Office of the Provost, University of Michigan, www.provost.umich.edu, April 26, 2004. ([click here for PDF version](#))
9. [Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index \(CEI\)](#), www.hrc.org.

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Columns



Perversity and diversity at my little university

Aug 24, 2005

by [Mike S. Adams](#) ([bio](#) | [archive](#) | [contact](#))

Most people don't know it, but there is a war currently being waged within the UNC system. The administrations of each of the sixteen campuses are trying to outdo one another when it comes to funding unmitigated idiocy and perversion in the name of "diversity." Recently, UNC-Asheville showed a porn movie to 200 students in order to take the lead. That has administrators at UNC-Wilmington fighting mad and fighting back.

In an effort to take the lead in this race (and become the most idiotic university in North Carolina), UNCW is helping to sponsor a showing of the film "Trans Generation." In fact, the Office of Campus Diversity, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the UNCW Women's Resource Center are all pitching in to help.

For those who don't know, "Trans Generation" is an eight-part documentary series that charts the lives of four college students undergoing "gender transition." It is produced by the same people who brought us the classics "Inside Deep Throat" and "Party Monster."

According to the flier, the film features "Gabbie, Lucas, Raci, and T.J." who are "confronting the challenges of school, campus life, family" and changing their sex." The film joins the four transitioning youths "two soon-to-be-ex-males and two soon-to-be-ex-females - as they "define who they are and take control of their gender identity."

Although I don't know whether to wear a dress or a suit, you can bet that I will be there on Wednesday, September 14th, at 7:30 p.m. in UNCW's Cameron Hall Auditorium to experience this monumental event. Since it is free and open to the public, I plan to bring a lot of friends and ask a lot of questions. Some of them follow:

1. I noticed that the Women's Resource Center is co-sponsoring this program. Is that because they are pleased that two of the students in the film wanted to have surgery in order to become women?

2. Is the Women's Resource Center offended by the two women who wanted to become men? Will the two new men get their new hoo-hoo dillies from the two new women? How does that work, exactly?
3. When a woman has a hoo-hoo dilly surgically attached, does that not legitimize Freud's sexist notion of penis envy? Is that something the Women's Center really wants to touch - figuratively speaking?
4. Is it misogyny that causes a woman to have a sex-change?
5. Is it mister-ogyny that causes a man to have a sex change?
6. In the past, UNC has spent tax-dollars to address the problem of teen self-mutilation. Why is the system now spending tax dollars to encourage self-mutilation in the form of sex-changes? Are we, a) having trouble making up our minds or do we, b) enjoy going in complete circles at tax-payer expense?
7. Most people think of someone who wants to surgically remove his or her sex organs as mentally ill. How did the diversity movement arrive at the conclusion that this is not a sign of mental illness? And how did it become a cause for celebration as we ?celebrate sexual diversity? with taxpayer-funded events?
8. The last time I saw a trans-gendered person at a UNCW diversity event, she (formerly he) said (when she was a he) that he was advised by his psychiatrist to move to a cabin in the mountains. The reason was that he (now a she) was so violent and dangerous that he (now she) might hurt someone. But when he became a she by cutting off his hoo-hoo dilly, she became less angry. Does the university support hoo-hoo dilly removal as a form of anger management?
9. Have you ever considered putting a fence around UNCW and hanging up a sign that says ?Welcome to the North Carolina State Zoo??
10. If your answer to number 9 was ?yes,? I know some capitalists that could help you out. Together we could sell tickets and erase some of this wasteful government spending.

Mike S. Adams (www.DrAdams.org) got the inspiration for this column from former Senator Jesse Helms.

***** Note:** Adams's article was also posted at the following sites on Aug. 26, 2005. In these sites the quotes and apostrophes appear correctly, instead of incorrectly (as question marks) as in the above version:

http://www.proudtobecanadian.ca/columnists/index/writergroup/perversity_and_diversity_at_my_little_university
<http://www.proudtobecanadian.ca/columnists/index/writergroup/2511/>