

TEXT MINING A UNIVERSITY TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT

ANALYZING 47 YEARS OF CAMPUS NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

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History of the Alligator

- Florida Alligator founded 1906 as University of Florida's student-run newspaper.
- Newspaper left campus and privatized in 1973, becoming the Independent Florida Alligator.
- Now fully archived in the UF Digital Collections (UFDC) - <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/alligator>
- Provides coverage of news about UF, and also content from outside UF including national, college, and local community news.

Methods & Results

- Text search features were used on both platforms to search the keyword "transgender" through the OCR of PDF files (UFDC) and HTML text (Alligator.org).
- Search results entered on a spreadsheet by date ascending and content type: News, Opinions/Letters to the Editor & Editorial, and Events.
- Title, word counts, notes on the context of word usage, and permalinks to the articles also recorded.
- Initial search of 1973-2020 issues generated 266 results, revealing not only the word "transgender," but also variants of the word.
- A gap of several critical years was exposed and a search feature at the Independent Florida Alligator's website was used to fill in the missing span.
- Inconsistencies were unexpectedly found in search features of both online versions of the newspaper.

Key Findings

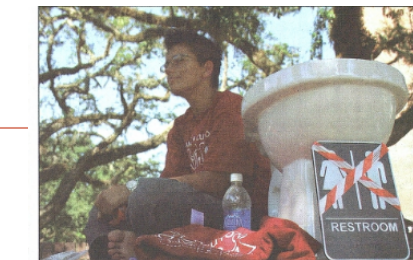
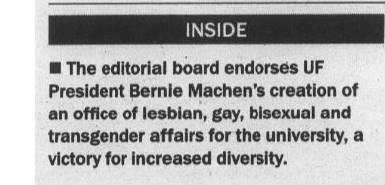
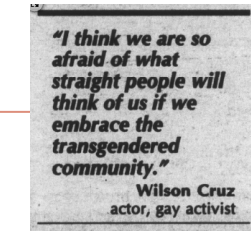
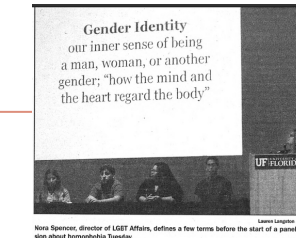
- October 9, 1997 issue has first mention of "transgendered" was published in a "Letter to the Editor" on National Coming Out Day.
- Early terms included "transgendered" and "transgenderism," which are now considered inappropriate and insensitive.
- First instance of "Trans" was found in 2013 and used as an adjective.
- "Transphobia" first appeared in 2014.
- Growth in transgender awareness demonstrated through nationally recognized speakers invited to campus: Kate Bornstein, Isis King, S. Bear Bergman, Janet Mock, and Laverne Cox.

Phase II

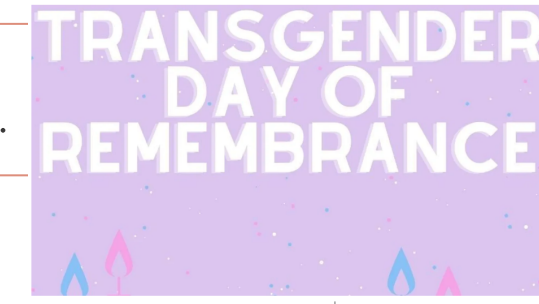
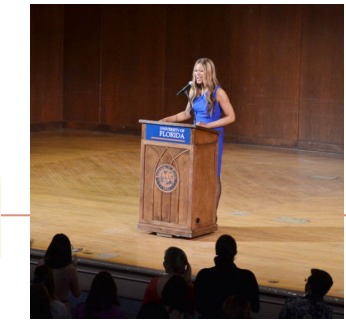
- .txt file dump obtained from UFDC and analysis forthcoming using Notepad++ and other text mining tools.
- Future search planned for additional terms and alternate spellings such as non-binary/nonbinary, genderqueer, two-spirit, gender non-conforming, etc.
- UFDC's migration to a new CMS will provide different search features that can be used for our research.

Selected Timeline

- 2000** Transgendered activist, Kate Bornstein, speaks at National Coming Out Week.
- 2001** "More than Two Boxes," a discussion on transgendered & two-spirited issues held.
- 2004** Alligator editorial board endorses President Machen's creation of the Office of LGBT Affairs. First Director of LGBT Affairs, Tamara Cohen, appointed.
- 2006** Campus vigil held for National Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- 2007** Kate Bornstein, makes second appearance.
- 2010** Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil, organized by UF LGBT Affairs, held on Plaza of the Americas. Alligator poll shows 68% readers polled support Obama's appointment of a transgender official.
- 2011** RuPaul, Keynote speaker: Pride Month. QTPOC organization forms on campus.
- 2013** Trans* Days, a three-day campaign held & guest speaker, Isis King, spreads transgender awareness in Pugh Hall talk.
- 2014** Lavern Cox & Janet Mock speak on campus.
- 2015** First Trans Health Month held.
- 2017** First public Transgender Day of Remembrance held in city of Gainesville. WST4930 is 1st class taught on transgender studies.
- 2019** Transgender Day of Remembrance held at Depot Park in Gainesville.



Monday's question: Are you against Obama appointing a transgender official? **32% YES** **68% NO** 109 TOTAL VOTES



Flu Turcotte holds a candle during the Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil at Depot Park Wednesday night. More than 50 people attended to remember those who lost their lives to transphobic violence. Read the full story on page 8.