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Gossip site banned at Tenn. State

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The University of Massachusetts is not planning to block access to the site, according to University spokesperson Patrick J. Callahan.

"While this private Web site contains gossip and some objectionable material, the University doesn't have a history of blocking access to Web sites," said Callahan. "And in this specific case, the University has not been asked to take such an action.

But some students said they wish the site would be blocked at UMass.

"I'm absolutely against it," said Alyson Agoglia a junior marketing major who has seen the site and said she knows some of the students' names mentioned. "I think they should ban it here."

Randi Hapenny, also a junior marketing major, said she agreed.

"I think it's a way for jealous people to publicly demolish someone's name without having to deal with consequences," Hapenny said.

"I think it's kind of stupid," said junior accounting major Alec Goolsby. "I've seen some pretty mean stuff on there."

When asked if banning a Web site was a violation of free speech, senior Samantha Fleischman, majoring in architecture, said, "There's a difference between free speech and having a Web site that is slanderous and ruining people's lives. When I heard about it I couldn't believe it. It's so high school."

Others said they weren't so sure.

"I'm not saying I'm against it, but I could see it as being detrimental," said senior classics major Rachel Seavey.

Her friend Stephanie Stenz, a senior and nursing major, said she too was undecided on the issue.

"The site is kind of petty because we're college students, but I can see both sides of the story," Stenz said.

Some JuicyCampus users have faced legal trouble for their posts.

Less than two months after the site launched on October 24, 2007, a student at Loyola Marymount University was arrested for posting a threat about a school shooting on JuicyCampus. Though he posted anonymously, police subpoenaed his IP address from JuicyCampus to track him down.

In March, a Colgate University student was arrested when he used the site to threaten to shoot his classmates in hopes of having his classes canceled.

Several weeks ago, a University of Delaware student filed a federal lawsuit against five anonymous individuals who posted comments about her on JuicyCampus claiming to have experienced "significant psychological and economic injuries," from statements the defendants knew were damaging and not true. The plaintiff was referred to in the comments as one of the "biggest sluts" on the campus and had "laid up" with three different men in one night.

Online tormenting proved deadly in September 2006 when a 13-year-old girl from St. Louis hanged herself after becoming upset over mean messages she read on her MySpace page.

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POLL
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