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# Restraining order settles Belanger case

By Kathryn Ritchie  
Maine Campus staff

The Attorney General's Office reached an agreement late last week with Casey Belanger, the University of Maine student accused of sending threatening e-mail to several folders on the FirstClass computer system. Both Belanger and a judge have signed a "consent judgment," permanently restraining him from harassing anyone of a minority status, according to Assistant Attorney General Stephen Wessler.

"While what he did was extremely scary and prejudiced, it is I think at this point something that has been addressed through

the court system," Wessler said. He said that he believed the order will ensure Belanger doesn't do this again.

"I think everybody can feel comfortable now," Wessler said.

The suit originated on Oct. 16 when a UMaine student read Belanger's FirstClass resume, which listed "fags" under his dislikes. The student copied Belanger's resume off his FirstClass account and sent it to the gay/lesbian/bisexual, religion, politics and debate folders, asking "Who does this kid think he is?"

Belanger, 19, responded to the student who copied his resume with a diatribe of homophobic slurs and threats. The reply went

to all of the folders the original message went to. Belanger has since said that he didn't know the message would be sent to anyone but the original student. He said he also believed at the time of the reply that that particular student was the same person who had been sending him harassing e-mail through an anonymous account.

Under the restraining order guidelines, Wessler said Belanger can only use the FirstClass system for uses established by the University. Public Safety Investigator Chris Gardner, who is also the campus Civil Rights officer, said yesterday he could not comment on any of the terms

of the restraining order until he had read it.

According to Wessler, if Belanger breaks any terms of the restraining order, he faces criminal proceedings.

"We were confident we would have achieved the same result if we'd gone to trial," Wessler said.

In the law suit, Belanger had also faced the possibility of a \$5,000 fine for the civil violation.

"I had the option to fight the complaint," Belanger said. "Had I lost I would have had the injunction anyway."

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## Belanger

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Belanger said people on campus didn't react badly to him after the civil rights suit against him hit the news. He said most were supportive of him.

"It was never really a big deal," he said.

Since the suit was filed, Belanger said he has only been allowed to use his CAPS ac-

count on campus, which he called "horribly, horribly hard to use." He said he was told if he had "some desperate reason" he had to use FirstClass, he had to ask Public Safety.

Belanger said he has a meeting today with Robert Dana, associate dean of students and community life, to ask that his FirstClass privileges only be suspended

until the end of this semester, instead of until the end of next semester. He said if he got his FirstClass account back, he would be willing to have restricted access to the public folders on FirstClass.

"I don't think suspending me from using FirstClass is going to stop it from happening again," Belanger said.

When asked if he would ever write a similar message again, Belanger replied, "God no." He said at this start of the suit, his father reminded him that sometimes it's best to keep your opinions to yourself and your mouth shut.

"I think I'm going to follow that a little more ardently," Belanger said.