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# UMass student accused of writing racist messages

## UMass bans man from campus

By **Matt Rocheleau**

| GLOBE CORRESPONDENT | OCTOBER 21, 2014



COMMENTS

A University of Massachusetts Amherst student has been ordered to stay away from the college while he faces charges in connection with two racist messages found scrawled on the doors of campus dorm rooms this month.

Devin Ayres, 20, of North Andover, was arraigned Monday in Eastern Hampshire District Court on one count of vandalizing property, a felony; and one count of property damage to intimidate, a misdemeanor, according to the Northwestern district attorney's office.

Ayres, who was arrested late Friday, was also ordered by a judge to stay away from the campus and individuals who were targeted by the messages, prosecutors said. He posted bail,

which was set at \$200, and is due back in court Nov. 21.

UMass officials declined to comment on Ayres's status other than to say he "is no longer on our campus."

Campus police launched an investigation into racist vandalism after several messages were found earlier this month.

Some of the messages called for killing black and Mexican people, according to media reports.

At least five discriminatory messages have been found, campus officials said. UMass police are continuing to investigate the other messages.

"Such expressions of hate and intolerance have no place on our campus," chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy wrote in a campuswide e-mail. "We condemn language intended to marginalize or make any member of our community unsafe, and we will aggressively investigate this matter for criminal and administrative reviews."

At campus gatherings over the past week, students have expressed concern about the messages, condemned the graffiti, and called for a more respectful climate.

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