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<p style="text-align:center">Celebrity Online Bashing Is Alarmingly Harmful</p>

Celebrities of our time have been actively speaking out about their feelings of being blocked from expressing their own thoughts and doing things their own ways by people's unnecessary judgements. Recently, Taylor Swift told the Rolling Stone in a September 2019 interview that she felt like her situation was hopeless because people had so much fun hating her and they did not really need many reasons to do it while she was not sure exactly what she did that was so wrong (Hiatt par. 6-12). This October 2019, South Korean K-Pop star and actress Sulli killed herself, where most people believe the biggest cause of her suicide was that she could not bear the hate people got on her. It is sadder to learn that Sulli herself in 2015 was a host of the Korean television show "The Night of Hate Comments," which featured celebrity guests poking fun at their experiences with online criticism and cyberbullying (Fortin par. 6-9). Visibly now that online celebrity bashing is alarmingly harmful not only to celebrities themselves but to the core values of our society that they represent, should we want a culture of tolerance and no more of a culture of shame?

There is no doubt in why we should value freedom of expression, as "[f]reedom of expression, in all of its symbolic varieties, are the foundation of [the] human being… and the realization of our humanity depends on the protection and fostering of freedom of expression" (Cushman 348), as we want for ourselves the free flow of knowledge, ideas, and information.

We get to communicate anonymously and immediately on the Internet, but are we doing wrong our freedom of expression?

To solve the problem of celebrity online bashing, this proposal will discuss toxic fan culture and regulating online hate speech along with suggested solutions to making celebrity online bashing less damaging.

About toxic fan culture, the 'one-sided para-social relationship,' in which the fan knows much about the celebrity but the celebrity knows nothing about that fan, only make them blindly demanding their favorite celebrities to charmingly please them (Ouvrein et al 943-944). Therefore, direct interaction between fan and celebrities is made possible online by social platforms, such as Tweeter, Instagram, and on, can help make fan culture less toxic because the fan-celebrity relationship is no longer one-sided. Celebrities may feel easier to speak out about their struggles. Then, people can have conversations about the talking points and learn much about empathy and tolerance for the hardship of others' lives.

Moreover, the public face of celebrity has the power of norm-activating, which means the public lives celebrities represent can make normal what we think as normal and abnormal in the way we should behave every day (Lindenberg et al 100). When we see celebrities speaking out about their struggles and got listened, accepted, we find it normal to share our stories, to speak up for ourselves without the fear of being shamed for our mistakes.

About regulating online hate speech, while technological regulation like Internet Service Provider with voluntary codes of conduct or Terms of Service can play a crucial role in reducing the level of online hate speech, relying on technological regulation only gives sole power to providers—not users—as whichever users' content considered "offensive" can be taken down by providers. Also, many Terms of Service agreements are extremely narrow in focus, "so while

libelous or defamatory speech is prohibited, such codes of conduct do not extend to those acts that fall within the First Amendment's free speech protections" (Banks 236-237). Therefore, it is better that we shift our focus aiming at building a universal consensus that give people the choice to decide what is good for themselves and for our society.

Celebrities have the incredible power to increase communication for public education and stigma reduction by becoming the talking points. People are more active in seeking related information when a celebrity publicly aired their experience with issues, especially health and being emotionally distressed (Dillman et al 1335). Therefore, there should be more celebrities working with campaigns to effectively send out messages concerning mental health issue and hate speech. We can be encouraged to think differently about how we have been treating each other and how we behave online and offline.

Ultimately, we—who value freedom of expression—should support a culture of tolerance, to contribute to reclaim and report defamatory speech as responsible users of the Internet. As we can make celebrity online bashing less harmful, we can make our cyberspace less harmful with less hatred for all of us.

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