

A Walk Through the History of Southern Miss

Part 1

usmnews.net commences a new series revisiting nationally embarrassing events in the history of Southern Miss. Tonight we start with Nugget, the Golden Eagle mascot, being starved to death.



September 8, 1993

Eagle Starved to Death at Southern Mississippi

Hattiesburg, Mississippi -- Government investigators have ruled that the University of Southern Mississippi's mascot, an eagle, starved to death. The U.S. Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that malnutrition from improper feeding had caused the death in December of the 10-year-old eagle, named "Nugget" .

The university has surrendered a permit allowing it to keep an eagle. It also has agreed to donate \$5,000 to groups that help eagles.

Investigators determined that a student handler, who was not a registered falconer, had put food in the eagle's cage but had not made sure the eagle ate it.

The local assistant U.S. attorney said no criminal action would be taken.

[Deadspin](#) minced no words: "In 1993, Southern Mississippi's golden eagle mascot Nugget II starved to death under mysterious circumstances, and alumni paid off the government to make questions go away."