

ANOTHER NUGGET?

On 23-Nov-2013, [WDAM TV news reported](#) that a new golden eagle mascot had arrived. Curiously, the report observed “The new eagle is permitted to the Hattiesburg Zoo and will be permanently housed in its enclosure.”

Why isn't the new eagle being housed on campus? Wasn't that where the original Nugget was maintained?

For answers, check out [Deadspin's report](#), “Who Killed Nugget II? Solving the Death of Southern Miss' Mascot”.



The condensed version of the story from Deadspin is as follows:

All was well in Hattiesburg until Dec. 6, 1992, when Nugget II's corpse was found in his aviary.

It's unclear how long it takes for a Golden Eagle to starve to death, but the month previous, Nugget II's handler, a *registered* falconer, withdrew from the school. Since Nugget was a gift from the United States government, USM could not simply ship him out of town the way it did with Nugget I. Responsibility for Nugget II fell to another student trainer. A few weeks later, Nugget II was dead and USM was looking at a fine and possible jail time for the responsible parties.

As Deadspin explains, in addition to fines and penalties, “Southern Miss also forfeited its permit allowing it to house a Golden Eagle on campus. There would be no Nugget III.”

A suspicious incident, no blame, and administrators involved in a cover up. Does anything ever change at Southern Miss?