

More Bad News from USM and Kappa Sigma

In his [30-Oct-2013](#) article for *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "Sexual assault reported at USM," *THA* reporter, Jessie Bass, had the responsibility of telling Pine Belt area citizens that the environment at USM had taken a turn for the worse. According to Bass, "University of Southern Mississippi police are investigating a report of a rape that allegedly occurred at the Kappa Sigma fraternity house earlier this month." The USMPD was still investigating the incident at the time Bass filed his report.

This is not the first time [Kappa Sigma](#) has been involved in bad behavior. In 2008, the fraternity [lost its charter](#) and house after a particularly egregious hazing incident. That incident left a USM co-ed in intensive care from alcohol poisoning. In 2011, Kappa Sigma was reinstated on campus.

USMPD Chief, Bob Hopkins, told Bass that the "the investigation is taking some time due to difficulties rounding up witnesses to events leading up to and following the alleged assault. 'It's getting all the witnesses to be able to get in here because of their class schedules and work,' he said."

THA commenters are expressing incredulity at Hopkins' statements. "Class schedules and work? Really? College kids that were at a late-night fraternity party and are considered witnesses to a possible felony assault have just been TOO BUSY - during the last 2 weeks - to sit down and tell the police what they did or didn't see?"

This raises the question whether USM is in for another round of bad press and denials that "party school" problems exist. Given the University's already [low standing](#) in the academic community, it won't be surprising if there are more comments like the one posted in response to *THA*'s report: "Cut the USM police some slack; it takes some time to carefully construct a cover up."