

IT'S NOT THEIR MONEY!

The *Hattiesburg American*, [November 1, 2009](#), reported: “Mayor Johnny DuPree says that the city subsidizes about \$800,000 of the zoo’s annual \$1.2 million budget...” I can’t help but wonder, how many teachers, police, or firefighters could we support with \$800,000?

President Saunders bought an airplane with your tax dollars during a recession and now hides the plane’s use from accountability. Usmnews.net had, before President Saunders barred public tracking of the plane’s use from being reported, [estimated the cost](#) at \$31,500 for a month as compared to commercial travel at \$450. However, programs have been eliminated, professors have been handed terminal contracts, and nearly [sixty percent of scholarships](#) are “underwater” – bureaucratic jargon for explaining the Foundation lost so much of its contributors’ money that it cannot provide scholarships to our students.

Let me make the following recommendation to our leaders: Mayor DuPree and USM President Saunders, put your zoo and airplane up for sale. Use our tax dollars for necessary functions.

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