

*Clarion-Ledger  
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## OUR UGLY SECRET

Women are being abused, raped, and humiliated every day at Mississippi's public universities, and the people who can stop it don't care.

Parents who are sending their daughters to live in the dormitories of Mississippi State, or Ole Miss, or Southern Miss, or our other universities probably think that their children are being protected, but they are not. The rules which forbade men from entering women's dormitories, except for the public area downstairs, have quietly been replaced.

Male visitors are allowed in women's dormitory rooms now at the following times at Ole Miss and similar times for our other universities.

9:00 a.m.—midnight —Sunday through Thursday

9:00 a.m.—2:00 a.m.—Friday and Saturday

The downstairs public rooms have in some instances been removed. A dormitory room has room for two twin beds and little else. The adults in charge of our universities know what the combination of alcohol, hormones, and a young couple locked in a spartan bedroom is likely to produce.

Men and women are *not* physically equal; the playing field is not level here.

The Me Too movement has opened the eyes of America to the truth that sexual assaults mostly go unreported because the victims aren't believed and there are no other witnesses; moreover, if the victim makes waves, she herself is blamed.

Consider the pros and cons of this issue:

Pros: None!

Cons: Many and varied---The following are just a few of the problems we think are caused by this policy:

- The administrations of these institutions are gravely endangering young girls who are leaving the safety of their homes.
- This policy encourages young men to pressure girls into allowing them in their rooms.
- A man can have his reputation damaged for life by a scorned girlfriend even if he were innocent.
- The administrations are obviously promoting promiscuity.
- Having men in the dormitory rooms is a trespass on the innocent roommates' rights.
- In most cases freshmen girls don't have a choice: they must live in these dangerous dormitories.

We are a group of ladies who are deeply concerned about this safety issue. If you share our concern, here is how you can help:

1. Join our organization, Safe Dormitories Association, by emailing us at [info@saferdorms.com](mailto:info@saferdorms.com). We are an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit group, but we don't need your money: we need your support. Individually we are scattered and weak; together we can make a difference.

2. Do you know of dormitory sexual assault incidents? Share what specific information you can with us. It will be kept confidential; no victims will ever be identified by us.

3. If you are a victim of sexual assault, contact us; we will put you in touch with a competent lawyer who is willing to sue your university and the IHL, both of whom we believe to be complicit.

4. Pray for us, for our universities, and for our precious children attending these schools.

Paid for by Safe Dormitories Association

Lexington, Mississippi

[saferdorms.com](http://saferdorms.com)

## CONCERNS OF THE SAFE DORMITORIES ASSOCIATION

It seems that the IHL and all of the administrations of our state campuses in Mississippi have made the decision to allow men to roam freely in the women's dormitories and to stay in the girls' rooms for long unsupervised hours far into the night. The absurdity of the lack of rules and standards in our state universities is beyond description. Anyone who thinks that young people, seventeen and eighteen-year-olds, just leaving the safety of their homes, do not need the strong under-girding of safe boundaries and social standards is delusional. Not only do young people need restraints, but they need even more restraints than the previous generations because the culture of our nation is truly more dangerous than it was in earlier years.

Young women need protection from the superior strength and often ignoble desires of many young men. They also need protective restraints for their own emerging womanly passions. Young men need these same restraints. The IHL and administrations' lack of rules and standards on college campuses borders on *criminal neglect* of our young people. If the IHL and college administrations do nothing to correct this policy, then they are complicit in and guilty of the inevitable dire consequences which result from this permissiveness.

For our young men and women of noble character and high purpose, a return to sanity on our college campuses will greatly encourage, protect, and strengthen their resolve to lead upstanding lives and to achieve the excellent education for which they are in college.

Mississippi must take the courageous move for a return to decency and safety on all universities. NOW IS THE TIME!