

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

OUR UGLY SECRET

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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.

### TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR READERS

The excitement and pleasure of moving my daughter to State for her freshmen year was quickly eclipsed by the horror of her roommate's steady stream of boys in her dorm room. My daughter had to often sleep a few feet away from a boy she hardly knew, who was many times not fully dressed.

She told me the following:

1. Boys were constantly roaming the hallways during the long visiting hours and standing in the hall as the girls left the showers.
2. Many of these young girls were obviously terrified of becoming pregnant as evidenced by boxes of pregnancy tests and Plan B boxes in the trash in the restroom
- 3.. So-called visitation rules aren't really enforced.

As a mother these are my thoughts---the age requirement to drink alcohol, buy cigarettes, or gamble is 21 because these are high-risk activities. Allowing young men and women to be behind closed doors for hours is just as high-risk, if not more so. It's extremely dangerous.

. Poor young girls, thrown into such alarming situations. Countless more will be in this same situation in the future if the Open Bedroom policy is not changed--and soon.

My prayer is that more students and parents will have the courage to share their stories so we can wake Mississippians up to the truth of what is happening on our college campuses, and we can lead the charge in making changes that will protect our students.

*Mother of a college student*

I was assigned to Oak Hall my freshman year at MSU. My dorm room was really nice. I was matched with a roommate. We got along fine, but we had very different belief systems. She constantly had boys in our room and I didn't know any of them. Sometimes they would spend the night with her. I got where I dreaded opening the door to our room because I never knew what I was gonna walk into. I was considering requesting a new roommate at that point. Then one day I walked in our room and my roommate was engaged in sexual activity with two boys and they were recording it with an iPhone. That was the final straw and I never went back in that room until she moved out.

*2018 MSU fall semester*

> I moved into Rice Hall my freshman year at MSU. It's an older building and everyone on each floor shares a restroom and showers because the rooms don't have private restrooms. Boys are only allowed in the girls' dorm rooms during certain hours, but those rules are rarely, if ever, enforced. Anytime I needed to take a shower or use the restroom, I had to be fully dressed because there were always men in the hallways. I frequently saw condom wrappers, pregnancy tests, and empty Plan B packages in the trash cans in the restroom on our floor. When my roommate's boyfriend was in town, he stayed in our room. I was/am friends with my roommate and didn't want to say anything that would cause friction between us and I didn't want to get her into any trouble, so anywhere from 2-4 nights a week I had to sleep 6 feet away from them. Not only was it incredibly weird sleeping in the same room with a couple, it made me extremely uncomfortable sharing a bedroom with a man. That situation wasn't a rare occurrence, it was and is the norm in all dorms at MSU. I put in a request for a new room and roommate. The university was able to accommodate that request, but only after the entire first semester was over.

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*2018 MSU freshman*

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