

Draft copy!

Have You Seen This Dog?

NOTICIBLE TRAITS:

always smiling,
moves in a flash
loves a good fight

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

missing the tail,
headspike, and
possible a foot.

The Pacific University mascot, using the name "Boxer" was last seen in Forest Grove, Oregon in 1972. Since that time no record of his whereabouts can be found. While a replica has been cast, the original is still missing. If you have any information as to his location or current situation, please send it to: Pacific University

c/o Rick Read, Archives

2043 College Way

Forest Grove, OR. 97116

The reward shall be paid in full to whoever returns Boxer home. No questions asked. Boxer must be the original to qualify.

Draft copy of letter to send to alumni, &c.:

"Where's Boxer?"

It's a question asked by students since the turn of the century, a rallying cry for comradery and school spirit. Usually the cry signals the coming of the traditional and controversial Boxer Toss. Most students look forward to the day they see Boxer, and many take part in the Toss. Just as many argue the stupidity of it all.

Although 350 years old, the bronze Chinese idol became the student idol in 1900 after a chapel speaker lectured about Eastern universities and their mascot traditions. That was all it took to encourage the beginnings of the Boxer Toss. Since then Boxer has been fought over by groups as large as 500 in battles that could last for nine hours. Student injuries were always reported as minor--just a friendly wrestling match. Boxer was never so lucky. Over the last 93 years he has lost at one time or another, his tail, headspike, both front legs, most ornamentation, and even his head. Each time he was injured, the students reassembled the statue and prepared him for his next assignment. Sometimes this could include being buried in the town cemetery, or being taken to another country as happened in World War One.

But in 1971 Boxer disappeared. At the time the BSU was believed to hold the dog, but rumors spread that he had been melted down, or had left the area. Twenty years later, the rumors still circulate. The current

stories include those of Boxer having been taken to Germany to reside in a military hospital, or that a fraternity leader residing in Tennessee has possession of the dog and will release custody only to another member of the fraternity. In 1976 an Alumnus reported having sighted Boxer in Berkeley, Ca. The most popular is still the meltdown theory.

It wasn't until 1981 that impatient students raised the money to cast a new Boxer. And though this young pup is cherished and tossed on an infrequent basis, the memory of the original remains strong. That memory has prompted a new group to ask, "Where's Boxer?" Having realized that the students are slowly out-growing the old traditions, the museum and administration have teamed together to solve the Boxer mystery. An important piece of Pacific's history, the two groups hope to secure the return of the dog. In addition, with the University currently in a state of transition, the Boxer Spirit is needed now more than ever before.

While the goal of the search is the return of Boxer to the campus, it is not the intention of either the administration or the museum to allow it to be tossed. A new, more dignified role shall be assigned to him upon his return, and in this way, a new tradition established. If you have any information as to the whereabouts of Boxer, please send it to either Alice Hoskins in the development office, or Rick Read, the museum curator.