

Editorial

What is a Boxer? Not really a mascot

By Ray Nelson

What Is a boxer?

Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns are all boxers, but not the kind I'm looking for.

Some people wear boxers, those are definitely not the ones I am speaking of.

A boxer can be a small, ugly, vicious dog. I am not interested in any type of dog.

The boxer I am referring to is the mascot of Pacific University. What exactly is that boxer? Well ... I guess it's a ... or it's a group ... OK so I don't exactly know. Pacific University's Boxer, I believe, is in reference to the Chinese Boxer Rebellion that took place in 1899. A group of upset Chinese started a rebellion against the British who were at that time really causing some friction. The Chinese proceeded to capture the British Embassy and to this day that event is known as the Boxer Rebellion.

The use of the Boxer as a mascot has some significance in a historical sense, yet, is that what a mascot is for?

Pacific has a magnificent historical background without using the Boxer as a mascot. Pacific needs to think seriously about what a mascot is for and if the boxer is accomplishing its purpose.

To me, a mascot is something that the school can use as an identifying symbol, something that the students can use as a common interest to help rally their academic, athletic and extra-curricular groups on to success.

It's hard to sit at sporting events, yell, GO BOXERS and then have the entire visiting team and crowd look at you in utter disbelief. Or have someone ask what your school's mascot is, knowing darn well that if you tell them you'll end up explaining an hour's worth of Chinese history, only to be giggled at. Even the Oregonian, still refers to Pacific from time to time as the Badgers. The Badgers used to be Pacific's mascot. (Not much better than Boxers)

Everyone seems to get upset when mention of a new mascot comes about. People don't like the idea of the boxer tradition fading away. The Boxer tradition doesn't have to die. A brass statue can just as easily be tossed if we had another mascot. As for using the statue for publicity photos, face it the thing's ugly.

Now, all these views are opinions. I can do that in an editorial, remember? This topic always seems to stir up some conflicting feelings, so I am going to give you (the students and faculty) a chance to voice your feelings on the issue. Below you will find a form, fill it out and return it to UC Box #009. The results will be tabulated and printed in the next issue of the Index.

MASCOT POLL

Do you think that Pacific University's mascot should remain the BOXERS? Yes _____ No _____

If yes why?

If no, what would you change it to 1. _____

2. _____

What are the reasons for your choice of new mascot?