

PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY



PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Pacific Boxer Lives

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Forest Grove, Ore.--Boxer has been reincarnated.

Boxer is the official Pacific University mascot, symbol of spirit, and name for athletic teams. It was a 400-plus year old Chinese idol, often called a unicorn, from the Ming Dynasty. It has been missing from campus since 1969.

Now, due to the efforts of three women students, a new Boxer has been cast and is gradually being introduced to the current crop of Pacific students by alumni.

The new Boxer is as close to the original as possible. It stands about a foot and a half high and weighs some 60 pounds. Its hoofs and the tips of its tail and horns are very sharp. This fact will bear more notice as the story of Boxer unfolds.

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The students who raised some \$1,000 from students and alumni and through fund raising activities for the new Boxer are Janet Leasher, Morrison, Colo., a first year optometry student; Linda Parker, Littleton, Colo., a senior in pre-physical therapy, and Kim Smith, Corvallis, no longer a Pacific student, but active in the project last year.

The new Boxer is currently in the hands of two alumni who have already "flashed" him on campus and expect to do so several times in coming weeks to create campus interest and then to have a "throw out" or "toss out."

The original Boxer was given to Pacific in 1896. From 1902 until its disappearance in 1969, Boxer was a much sought after object by Pacific classes, organizations, and individuals. It was a highlight of college days to have Boxer in one's possession or to belong to a group which had Boxer. Boxer would be "flashed" at various campus functions or simply as students were walking across campus to say "Hey, we've got Boxer."

Periodically, there would be an announced or a surprise "throw out" or "toss out." Boxer would be thrown to a group of awaiting students. The group soon grew to include most of the student body, and a real free-for-all would often ensue.

The girls who have brought Boxer back hope that coming "throw outs" do not become violent, and the alumni also note the potentially lethal sharpness of Boxer's appendages.

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A Boxer Code of Ethics has been written by the women. It states that Boxer belongs to current students, faculty, and staff and that Boxer must be handled in "a positive way and must never be used for a vengeful or otherwise negative purpose."

It also states that any injury suffered by an individual during an attempt to obtain Boxer is the responsibility of the individual. It ends, "Boxer shall not be taken from the state of Oregon."

The original Boxer was taken from campus after the Oct. 16, 1969, "throw out" and has never been seen on campus since. Previously it was believed to have been in Europe and various parts of the United States.

The current crop of students want to keep the new Boxer as a symbol of loyalty, respect, and pride for Pacific. They expect all kinds of mysterious activities involving Boxer, but they emphasize the positive spirit of fun..

As spring approaches, Boxer fever increases among the alumni wanting to give current students the real Boxer spirit. There are bound to be interesting and exciting days ahead on the Pacific campus.