

PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY



*Great but
that about the
one line I questioned
OK.
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SAMPLE

Aug. 27, 1993

Mr. Sean M. Riley
14559 Ramona Blvd. #15
Anaheim, CA 98332

Dear Sean,

"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 event. Just as many argue the stupidity of it all.

Although 413 years old (according to available information the statue was made in 1580), the 25-pound, bronze Chinese idol became the student idol in 1899 after a chapel speaker lectured about Eastern universities and their mascot traditions. At that time Boxer was called "College Spirit." The lecture was all it took to encourage the beginnings of the Boxer Toss. Since then the Boxer has been fought over by groups as large as 300 (1950) in battles that could last for up to nine hours (1929). Student injuries were always reported as minor--just a friendly wrestling match. Boxer was never so lucky. Over the years it has lost at one time or another, its tail, headspike, both front legs, most ornamentation, and even its head. Each time it was injured, the students lovingly reassembled the statue and prepared it for the next assignment. Sometimes this could include being buried in the town cemetery, or being taken to another country as happened during the first World War.

But sometime between 1969 and 1971 Boxer disappeared. In 1971 the Black Student Union claimed to hold the mascot, saying that until a peaceful solution could be found, they would continue to hold him. But rumors quickly spread that he had been melted down or had left the area. Some believed the newly defunct Phi Beta Tau fraternity had removed the statue for the last time. Because no firm date for Boxer's disappearance has been found, both stories are plausible.

Later stories included those of Boxer having been taken to Germany where it resides in a military hospital, or that the Phi Beta Tau fraternity, reintroduced to the University in 1989, still holds Boxer and will release it only to another member of the fraternity. In 1976 an Alumnus reported having seen Boxer in Berkeley, California. Others say it resides in Tennessee. The most popular story is still the meltdown theory, although no one has claimed responsibility for the act. Twenty years later the rumors still circulate.

Ten years passed without Boxer. In 1981 impatient students raised the money to cast a new Boxer. And though this replica, cast in bronze to resemble Boxer during his later years, 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 recognized that the students are calling for the return of some of the older traditions, the Pacific University Museum and the Alumni Office have teamed together in an attempt to solve the Boxer mystery. If successful, an important piece of Pacific's history will be found and returned to campus.

[Our proposal is that the "Spirit of Pacific" should eventually rest-on exhibit-in the museum, to be enjoyed by students and campus visitors alike.] *I would leave at this last sentence*

While the goal of the search is the return of Boxer, it is not the intent of either office to allow it to be tossed. The new role assigned to Boxer upon its return will allow the long legacy of this Chinese incense burner on our campus to become tangible once again. If you know where Boxer has been hiding all these years, please contact either Alice Hoskins in Alumni Relations, or Rick Read, the Museum Curator. Call 1-800-635-1561, or write to them at 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116.

Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated...

Thank you.

Best Wishes,

Rick Read
Museum Curator

Alice Hoskins
Director of Alumni Services

Chris Riley
July 1993

Boxer Contacts and Rumours:

1) Edna Gehring

Director of Multicultural Services and
Wellness Education at Pacific U., 359-2200

2) John Henry Howard

Attorney of law: Office of John H. Howard
3585 Maple St. Ste. 220
Ventura, Ca.93003, 805 644-5894

Home: 926 Shokat Dr.

Ojai, Ca. 93023, 649-3336

3) Moses Williams, ss# 523-70-3072

4) Alice Hoskins

Director of Alumni Relations at Pacific U., ext. 2206

5) Boxer videos in archives

6) Leon Meade

Pres. of Meade Enterprises, Inc.
675 NW 7th Ave. Ste.7
Canby, Or. 97013, 266-1134

Leon Meade cont.

Home: 23838 S. Barlow Rd.

Canby, Or. 97013, 226-3174

7) Vince Powell

3245 NW Parkview Dr.
Beaverton, Or. 97006, 233-4889

Merv Cooper
Chadwick Webman

Merv Cooper
3325 E. Main St.
Hillsboro OR 97123

8) KGW, ch. 8, 226-5000

9) KOIN, ch. 6, 464-0600

✓ 10) David Cook

Retired teacher of math and physical education

921 E. 101st. St

Los Angeles, Ca. 90002, 564-1551

✓ 11) Phil Miner

Director of Alumni Relations/Annual fund

Hamline School of Law

1536 Hewitt Ave.

St. Paul, Mn 55116, (612) 698-3571

✓ 12) Jim Crossland

911 SW Broadway Dr. #14

Portland, Or. 97201, 224-2047

✓ 13) Barney Lerten

reporter for The Bulletin

home: 1850 NE Lotus Dr. Apt. 33

1526 NW Hill St.

Bend, Or. 97701

Bend. Or. 97701, 382-1811

385-8454

Rumour has it that David Cook either has it, or knows of its whereabouts. Nothing confirmed. No contact has been made.

Last year (1992) Vince Powell called P.U. and said he knew who had boxer #1, and that the dog was with an alumnis who lived in Gresham. The only person living in Gresham is Leon Mead, a heavy doner to the University. When contacted, he acted surprised that anyone would think he

had it. Needless to say, the person who called him believes he is playing game with the University. Strong possibility in her mind that he has it.

Rumour has it that the original was melted down into either Black Panther medallions or peace medallions. (I find this unlikely.)

The last known person who possess Boxer was Denis Roy Williams (72). He is now missing, with only a ss# available to use for locating him. Several people have suggested contacting the FBI. Several seem to think he still has it, or at least knows where it is. The person suggested for contacting is John Henry Howard who supposedly knows the whereabouts of "Moses" Williams.

Finally, a story has it that Boxer was taken to Tennessee by the graduated leader of a fraternity. The story goes on to say that if the members of the frat will come to pick it up, he'll return it to them. No one else.

Archives
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2043 COLLEGE WAY
FOREST GROVE, OREGON 97116

Vince Powell
3245 NW Parkview Dr.
Beaverton OR 97006

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FOREST GROVE, OREGON 97116

David Cook
921 E. 101st. St
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