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PU Statue Gone Again

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PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Forest Grove (Special) — It didn't happen here Monday.

The Boxer "flash," that is.

Throughout the weekend word has been quietly circulated around campus that the bronze, Oriental-style statue would be thrown up for grabs Monday.

The Boxer, for the uninitiated, has represented the spirit of Pacific University since it was presented to the school in 1896. Reddish-brown in color and weighing some 20 pounds, Boxer appears to be a cross between a dragon, a unicorn and a dog, with perhaps a dash of gargoyle blood.

Allegedly, it is the coat of arms of the Laing family and was cast in about 1580 in Ming Dynasty China.

Since it was filched by a student in 1900, the Boxer was supposed to be "flashed" on campus each year, touching off a riotous scramble for possession.

However, for the past four years, neither horn nor scale of the animal has been seen on campus. Varying reasons have been given for the disappearance of the statue, but none of the rumors really explained the break with tradition.

Recently, however, word began to circulate through the fraternities, sororities and dormitories that Boxer would reappear. Three times in as many months a flash day was set. Each was a false alarm.

Monday, though, was to be the real thing. The student possessing the beast was seen with it around campus Saturday night. It would be flashed Monday, he said.

Trophy Disappears

Unfortunately, members of the campus fraternity, Gamma Sigma, had other ideas. Shadowing the Boxer holder, the fraternity men managed to steal the statue from the back of the convertible he was driving, thus adding another chapter to the Boxer legend.

Expectedly, the fraternity men did not "flash" their prize Monday. In fact, some students told The Oregonian the statue had been spirited south, to Ashland or Klamath Falls, for safekeeping.

Moreover, some students said Boxer, which was first separated from one of its appendages in 1912 and which has been repeatedly patched and welded since, was again in pieces.

The fraternity men's nighttime coup apparently netted them only the head and body. Other portions of the well-worn beast are held by other Greek organizations on campus.

According to one student, the Phi Lambda Omicron sorority has either a tail or a leg from the statue safely locked away. Another fraternity, Phi Beta, is reputed to have either a leg or a paw from the animal.
