



... Pacific's Boxer was even held in the hands of 1968 Presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon.

# 1974. . . Saga of missing Boxer continues

By Phil Way

For over seventy years the tradition of Boxer has reflected a spirit of Pacific University.

Traditions, though, as is the case of Boxer, have faded away with the past generation.

The 369 year old, reddish-brown figurine of the Ming Dynasty, with triangle horns on its head, spikes above its spine, and weighing about twenty pounds, was the envy of nearly every individual in its early days at Pacific.

The idol was obtained in 1896 from the mother of a Class of 1867 graduate, Dr. J.E. Walker.

Richard Faulkner '02 ripped off Boxer from the chapel and what turned out to be the oldest tradition in the history of Pacific University.

The bronze figure was first separated from its appendages in 1912 when Boxer's tail and one front leg were torn off in a class scrimmage.

Boxer was not reunited until 1914 because no one wanted to part with their piece of the idol.

Numerous welding jobs have been needed since Boxer has encountered many small riots.

Boxer's appearances were then mostly at small gatherings and meetings but has also been hunted down by detectives in hopes Pacific could retain him.

The object has visited various parts of the world in its lifetime. Perhaps the most exciting event in Boxer's life was flying in combat with a pilot during World War I.

In cold storage lockers, underneath bridges, buried in cemeteries, placed in belfries, stashed in sewers, and hidden in trunks of cars are some of the more likely locations that Boxer has known to be at.

Three Pacific student coeds re-

ceived the figure in February, 1940 from a farmer who's son found it lying in a field.

The girls placed a letter in the Index advertising that he would be thrown out in front of the gym (now the area between Clarke Hall and UC) on March 29.

As it was tossed out from a hidden car, a fight for the possession of the idol raged on for two hours, moving from the gym area to the Forest Grove-Banks highway, back to campus, and then over to Main Street.

The first pictures of the "flash" were printed in the April 5, 1940 edition of the Index.

During the past five years, though, Boxer has appeared only once on campus, the fall of 1969.

An organization, to be kept anonymous, got hold of the object and threatened to melt it down and make rings and medallions representing their organization.

This group felt that too much undermining and fighting of this spirited tradition was senseless.

Should one group spoil a tradition that has been an integral part of Pacific University's history?

Even though whoever has possession of Boxer can do what he wishes to do with him, it should still exist within the confines of the university.

Emphasis has been placed on individuality and identity of self, as views on traditions have changed.

Boxer may have been thrown out for the last time into the chasm between generations and changing values.

If Boxer has not been melted down and is in the area, why not "flash" him at least once during Pacific University's 125th anniversary.

## JC PENNEY

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