

# BOXER DISAPPEARANCE A DELUSION



Above: Bover himself. Left: Boxer Toss, with the wrestlers ending up with possession. Opposite page, top far left: Leon Mead, class of '52, the alumna who was in control of Boxer during the school year from Homecoming to March, addressing the student body at the Boxer Forum. Opposite page, top left: "Bring Back the Badger!" chants the students as John Anderberg leads the walk out on Mead. Anderberg's reason's for staging the walk out is that he and the other students were trying to show "the stupidity of the whole thing," meaning the forum itself. Opposite page, above left: Taken in 1986, this picture glimpses only the various things Boxer has been through and seen since its existence.

1989

Boxer, Pacific's 60 to 70 lb. mascot, has experienced much controversy this year. With the theft of Boxer from a Kappa Delta Sorority member's apartment, Boxer disappeared from the Pacific campus for approximately 6 months. Since it was barely seen last year also, the meaning of Boxer and its spirit almost died. Boxer almost became a permanent part of Pacific's history.

Boxer's revival began on the first week of March with the Boxer Forum. Once the Boxer Forum was announced to the students, many students prepared themselves to show their spirit. Alum Leon Mead, the possessor of Boxer for those missing six months, spoke to the students of the theft during Homecoming and shared his view of the situation, whereupon the students protested his and the other alumni involved actions by interrupting Mead and leaving the Forum.

Right after the Forum, Boxer was returned to the Kappa Delta Sorority and once the Sorority tossed Boxer on May 3rd, Boxer was busy for the rest of the year. The wrestlers again won the Boxer and individual wrestlers were given time to do what they wanted with Boxer, such as showing it off to various alumni, drinking some beers with Boxer at home, and taking Boxer camping for the weekend.

The wrestlers also brought Boxer to Arbo, the end of the year party for all students held at Lincoln Park. As the wrestlers were about to take Boxer to a safe spot, an impromptu Boxer Toss started, and after a mild struggle, Boxer and the wrestlers left safely.

Such events as this have heightened student interest in the Boxer tradition, and have given the students a reason to feel anticipation for the upcoming year.



BOXER



## BOXER ORIGINS

One of the most enduring traditions at Pacific University-- Boxer--began in 1896 when this Chinese figure was donated to the school by Mary Richardson Walker. Mrs. Walker got Boxer from her son, Rev. J. Elkanah Walker, who graduated from Pacific in 1867 and served for many years as a missionary in Foochow, China.

When it first arrived, the strange doglike statue was exhibited for about three years in Marsh Hall's Brighton Chapel. It was first whisked away in 1899 by students from the Class of 1902, starting the traditions of the Boxer "toss" and "flash."

Long a symbol of the "Spirit of Pacific University," Boxer officially replaced the Badger as the school's mascot in 1969. Ironically the last public showing of Boxer occurred on October 16, 1969--it hasn't been seen since. A replacement of Boxer was recast in 1975 and this statue became the new object of status on the campus.

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## MING: Failed Attempt to Replace Boxer

Ming, a Chinese temple idol, was given to Pacific University in 1948 by Mary Elizabeth Smith Tomme ('40) and Georgena Potts ('38). After unsuccessfully trying to locate a duplicate of Boxer in Japan, they mailed this statue to President Walter Giersbach hoping it could replace Boxer, missing since 1946. This prompted a "flash" in the fall of 1948 when Boxer returned to campus. Ming was then stored in the university vault until the mid-1950s when it was placed in the President's office. The statue was displayed in the university museum in 1959, and after a mere two days, it was stolen by students who wanted to ensure that Boxer remained the "Spirit of Pacific University." Ming hasn't been seen since.

Four students from the class of 1925 pose with Hathor (elephant), the Phi Alpha Tau Debate Cup, and Boxer. Pictured, from left to right, are: John Conroy, Lee Weber, George Tucker, Leonard Alley, and Bruce Roe.