Bruin Junior Traditions Never Die; They Just Change with the Times

According to legend a black bear named Bruin was captured in about 1880. He was kept under a bridge in the canyon east of the college. As Bruin advanced in years he became grouchy and ill-tempered. The results: his early demise at the hands of his keepers. Students took the skin and had a taxidermy mount made.

One of the classes in the 1890's stole Bruin and decided to show him off on their "class day". Another class, unfortunately, decided to take him away. Thus the traditional scraping over Bruin and hiding him for safety began.

According to the March 22, 1938 Crescent the pep club girls created a dummy and called it Mr. Smith. It was given to the seniors at a pep rally. A few weeks later the seniors flashed Mr. Smith in a student chapel and a near riot resulted. Mr. Smith was forthwith torn to bits.

The seniors then made a dummy and christened him Bruin Jr. in memory of the original Bruin. The Student-Faculty Committee on Cooperation prepared rules and soon action was underway. That Friday, Bruin Jr. was awarded to the seniors who were allowed a 15 minute head start. By careful planning the freshmen gained possession, flashed him and made a successful getaway.

The October 13, 1947 Crescent noted that the fourth Bruin Jr. was ready for conflict.

Bruin Jr. has had a lively life this past year too. Each class had possession of BJ with the freshman class being the only class to obtain him through physical battle, says Howard Macy.

Some highlights of the year are the Columbus Day fight amid falling trees, the "girls only" fight (with the frosh victorious) and the various court actions. Who knows, maybe this Friday some class other than the Freshmen will show up for a fight.

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