

BU Mascot: A Brief History



BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

Highlights:

- BU mascot is the Boston Terrier; mascot does not have an official name.
- Live (and later costumed) terriers, as embodiments of the BU mascot, have existed since the 1920s.
- BU's live/costumed mascots have had at least 7 names, since 1925.
- “Rhett,” as a mascot name, has been in use since 1983

Timeline

- Nov. 1922: Boston Terrier wins student vote to become BU mascot.
- Oct. 10, 1925: **Pep**, a terrier pup, adopted as official mascot by BU football team.
- Oct. 11, 1927: *BU News* identifies mascot as **Kappa**.
- 1933: **Danny** purchased by student subscription. [*Drowns in Charles River in 1935*]
- Nov. 1935: **Danny II** christened as new mascot by Terrier football.
- Oct. 1949: New pup given to Dean Percy to replace former mascot, who ran away. Named **Gulliver** after student contest (in Nov).

Timeline

- 1956: new live mascot named **Fumbles** (later renamed **Touchdown**)
- 1969: “**Terrier III**” dies; no live mascot between 1969-1980.
- Nov. 1983: **Rhett** (costumed mascot) introduced at home football game.
- 2008: **Rhett** (unofficial live mascot) makes 1st appearance. [*Dies in Apr. 2019*]



Will This Terrier Become
B.U.'s Official Mascot?



Will a scrappy, wide-awake Boston terrier become Boston University's official symbol?
Since the publication of the sports editorial in last week's issue of the B. U. News, suggesting the terrier as possibly a suitable symbol, much interest has been aroused.
"The terrier is too diminutive" one student, a football man, said "He would be excellent for some institution like a high school, but he would give the public an unfair opinion of the size and strength of this university. I believe that some powerful animal like an elephant or a dragon would be much better."
The idea of a terrier, which was inspired by "Tim" Ward formerly editor of the Beanpot, was suggested

by way of feeling out sentiment as to the adoption of some such symbol. It was thought that the fact a terrier has been associated always with Boston might make it especially appropriate.
The drawing which accompanies from Ward's pen, shows how the terrier might appear, if adopted.
The Yale bulldog, the Princeton tiger the army goat, the navy mule, the Leland Stanford American Indian and the Brown bear are some of the better known symbols of this kind.
The plan is for some such symbol to be selected, perhaps by popular vote early in the fall, which will stand in the public mind for all B. U. teams.
The News will be glad to receive nominations.

BU News, 16 May 1922

- The idea of a terrier, which was inspired by 'Tim' Ward formerly editor of *The Beanpot*, was suggested by way of feeling out sentiment as to the adoption of some such symbol...[T]he fact that a **terrier has been associated always with Boston** might make it especially appropriate."
- "The plan is for some such symbol to be selected, perhaps by **popular vote early in the fall**, which will stand in the public mind for all B.U. teams"

CHOOSING A MASCOT

The proposal, made originally in the NEWS, that the students of Boston University should choose a "mascot" to be the emblem of our football and other athletic teams, has had the good effect at least of arousing a lot of discussion.

There have been several animals, of good or bad repute, suggested. The NEWS thinks the time has come for closure of the debate. Have all spoken who wish? Then let the previous question be moved.

The outstanding candidates for the honor are undoubtedly the bull moose and the Boston terrier.

In last week's NEWS there appeared a cartoon, and an article reviewing the nicknames of many of the athletic teams of colleges and universities all over the country. The writer of this article admitted himself at a loss to understand the reason for such appellations as "Tigers" for Princeton and "Bulldog" for Yale. Let the NEWS enlighten him. Both were originally made popular by newspaper sporting writers. "Tiger" was suggested by the Princeton uniform of orange and black stripes. "Bulldog" was suggested by a trait of Yale football teams—the typical courage and determination of the bull dog.

These team nicknames are desirable only so far as they are appropriate—so far as they stimulate the imagination, and also, and by no means least, so far as they readily lend themselves to the uses of the newspaper headline writer and sporting cartoonist. From that point of view, either the moose or the Boston terrier would be an excellent choice.

The NEWS, however, wishes to urge several reasons why the Boston terrier rather than the moose, should be chosen to represent Boston University.

A minor reason is that the moose is not suggestive of a city university. For a Maine college it might do, the moose being native to that state. Neither is the moose an animal naturally courageous or bold. The bull moose is a wicked fighter, to be sure, but he is not aggressive. He is naturally timid, and chiefly anxious to run away. Only when he is wounded and cornered, or when his domain is trespassed upon during the mating season, does he show fight.

The principal objection to the choice of the moose, as the NEWS sees it, is that the emblem is already associated in the public mind with two connections distinctly non-collegiate. The moose was the political emblem of the Progressive party, and it is not at all unlikely that two years from now it will again feature a presidential campaign. It is also the chosen emblem of a secret fraternal order, the Loyal Order of Moose, an organization hardly collegiate in character. This duplication of emblems might very conceivably cause misunderstanding and confusion in the minds of the public.

The chief argument advanced against the choice of the Boston terrier is that it is too small an animal to typify an institution of the size of Boston University. If that argument is logical, we may as well select the elephant and be done with it. The elephant suggests size; he is endowed with tremendous strength and unquestioned courage, but he is slow, lumbering and awkward. The Boston terrier may be small, but he is marked by impressive traits—the courage and determination of the bulldog, and the speed, zip, aggressiveness and enterprise that distinguish the terrier breed, and, above all, loyalty. And he is not necessarily a small animal. The "toy" terrier is not the only specimen of the breed. Every dog show recognizes Boston terrier classes in which the dogs weigh forty or fifty pounds.

Editorial column: BU News, November 21, 1922

- “The Boston terrier may be small, but he is marked by impressive traits—the **courage and determination** of the bulldog, and the **speed zip, aggressiveness and enterprise** that distinguish the terrier breed, and, above all, **loyalty.**”
- “He is the **only animal which is distinctive of Boston and of Boston alone.** His official name is **BOSTON TERRIER.** No other college can steal our thunder in that choice. There are other bears, other tigers and other bulldogs, but there would be only one Boston terrier, since Boston College has officially adopted the name ‘Eagles’ to typify the topographical location of its eyrie.”

Just Another Terrier Victory!

Even "Kappa," the B. U. Terrier mascot, knows how to cover the pigskin. During the halves of the game Saturday the cheer leaders tossed the football from one to another with the pup in pursuit. At times it was hard to distinguish the dog from the ball as they rolled all over the field. The going was hard at first for the pup, but he soon found a way to capture his objective.

He pulled the raw-hide loose and with it between his teeth, carried the ball to the sidelines. Even after he was tied to a post and the ball placed under a sweater the Terrier was determined to have that ball. He pulled and he tugged while the B. U. cheering section stood in silence out of respect for the Colby song. At last the pup broke away, dug underneath the sweater, got the football by the lacing, and began to swing it about in the air triumphantly.



BU News, October 11, 1927 Boston Terrier mascot "Kappa"

BU News, November 29, 1935 Boston Terrier mascot "Danny II" at Nickerson Field in Weston, MA



SEEN FROM THE STANDS

Here is the presentation of Danny II to President Daniel L. Marsh last Saturday by State Representative George Demeter, Law '24, and Andrew J. Gray, news editor of the News.

CLA Soph Wins Terrier Contest



The WINNAH!

The judges have decided and the terrier mascot's got a name. Gulliver I is now at the letterbox mailing \$25 to Joe Brickley, CLA sophomore.

To all others who offered their suggestions, Gulliver I barks a fond "Arf! Arf!" which in canine language means, "Thank you ever so much for your time and efforts!"

BU News, November 15, 1949 "Gulliver" announced



Boston University / On May 10, 1957, football captains Jack Regan (left) and Larry Venecoor posed in Marsh Plaza with mascot "Fumbles," whose name was later (wisely) changed to "Touchdown."

SPORTS

The Daily Free Press — Tuesday, November 29, 1983



“Rhet,” the Terriers new mascot was unveiled two weeks ago in the football team’s final home game. “Rhet” was created by Daryll Wright (above). “Rhet’s” name was created by taking the first few letters of the word “Terrier” and spelling it backwards. “It’s also appropriate because Rhett Butler (from *Gone With the Wind*) was a scoundrel and a gentleman, and so is our mascot,” said Wright.

“Rhett is a gentleman for each woman he meets, a sparring partner for each man and a caring mischievous playmate for each child.”

“Rhett” is a one syllable call name that comes from the first three letters of Terrier, spelled backwards. The allusion to Rhett Butler from *Gone with the Wind*, is not entirely incidental. Rhett is a gentleman and a scoundrel.

RHETT IS A GENTLEMAN FOR EACH WOMAN HE MEETS,
A SPARRING PARTNER FOR EACH MAN AND A CARING
MISCHIEVOUS PLAYMATE FOR EACH CHILD.

"RHETT" IS A ONE SYLLABLE CALL NAME THAT COMES
FROM THE FIRST THREE LETTERS OF TERRIER, SPELLED
BACKWARDS. THE ALLUSION TO RHETT BUTLER FROM
"GONE WITH THE WIND," IS NOT ENTIRELY INCIDENTAL;
RHETT IS A GENTLEMAN AND A SCOUNDREL.



❖ Senior Banquet ❖

PRESIDENT SILBER RECOGNIZED DARRYL WRIGHT FOR CREATING RHETT FOR BOSTON UNIVERSITY. ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1986, THE LICENCE FOR RHETT'S COPYRIGHT WAS SIGNED OVER TO THE UNIVERSITY.



EACH OF THE 1,800 GRADUATING SENIORS RECEIVED A SILVER RHETT BALLOON AND A T-SHIRT AS MOMENTOS OF THE BREAKFAST BANQUET.



Original 1983 "Rhet" costume





New costume 1996



New costume c.2004
(ears more rounded)



Costume redesign c.2008
(ears more pointed, different nose)

The Long Battle Over ‘Gone With the Wind’

The 1939 blockbuster once symbolized the ultimate in mass entertainment. But African-Americans have protested against it from the start, even if white America didn’t want to hear it.

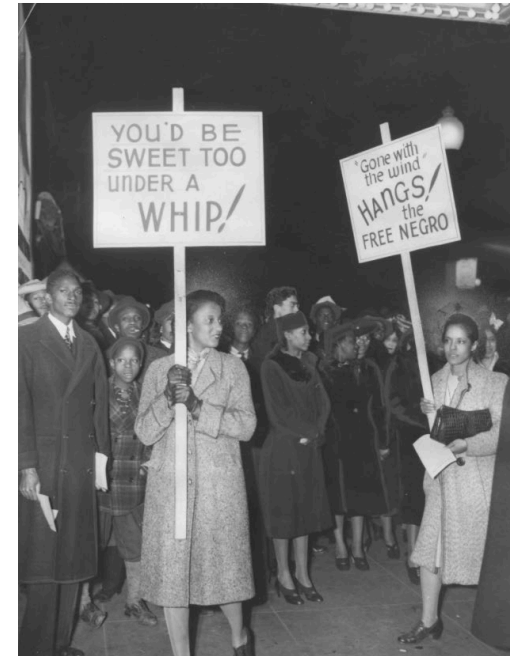


“Gone With the Wind,” starring Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O’Hara, left, and Hattie McDaniel as Mammy, has enduringly shaped popular understanding of the Civil War and Reconstruction perhaps more than any other cultural artifact. MGM



By **Jennifer Schuessler**

Published June 14, 2020 Updated June 15, 2020



Many African-Americans, like these protesters outside a theater in 1940, objected to the flawed history and racist stereotypes in “Gone With the Wind,” including its depiction of “happy” slaves. Afro American Newspapers/Gado, via Getty Images

The film tried to sanitize some of the novel’s racist elements. References to the Ku Klux Klan, which the novel calls “a tragic necessity,” were omitted. Reluctantly, Selznick also [cut from the script](#) a common but notorious racial slur (“the hate word,” as one African-American journalist who weighed in put it).

The film also finessed a scene from the book where Scarlett, while riding alone through a shantytown, is nearly raped by a black man, which prompts a retaliatory raid by the Klan. Instead, the attacker is a poor white man, and the nature of the posse that rides out to avenge her honor is not specified.

Word for Word / A Scholarly Debate

Rhett and Scarlett: Rough Sex Or Rape? Feminists Give a Damn

THE O.J. Simpson trial is one reflection of how domestic violence haunts American society. Is "Gone With the Wind" another? Specifically, did Rhett Butler rape or, less offensively, ravish Scarlett O'Hara?

The debate began a few years back in academic journals and the lecture hall between two feminist philosophers — one of them Christina Hoff Sommers, who has since outraged many feminists with her book "Who Stole Feminism? How Women Betrayed Women," published last year. The argument in her book — that feminism is dominated by those who seek to persuade the public that American women "are not the free creatures we think we are" — is foreshadowed in the dispute over Margaret Mitchell's Civil War saga.

In case you missed it, the debate has resurfaced again. Here are excerpts.

TOM KUNTZ

From a speech given last fall to the American Enterprise Institute by Ms. Sommers, an associate professor of philosophy at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and reprinted in the current issue of *The American Enterprise*:

Until 1989, I was an academic feminist in good standing. My essays were included in female anthologies. I was invited to feminist conferences. My courses were cross-listed with Women's Studies. I ran afoul of the feminist establishment when I published an essay in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

als crushed by such men.

In a culture in which these sorts of betrayals are routine, it is no surprise that this scene arouses the sexual desire of some men. The name of Richard Speck, to take one example, can remind us that all rape is not the pleasurable fantasy intimated in "Gone With the Wind." To put the point graphically: would "many women" still swoon over Butler's rape of O'Hara if they knew he urinated on her? When you're the victim of a rape, you don't have much choice over what goes on.

excessive muscularity. . . . O'Hara and Butler eventually marry, but their relationship is far from blissful. . . . [Butler warns]: "I'm riding you with a slack rein, my pet, but don't forget that I'm riding with curb and spur just the same." When O'Hara expresses her desire to have no more children, [clearly implying] that she wishes no further sexual relations, they quarrel. Says O'Hara, "I shall lock my door every night." Responded Butler, "Why bother? If I wanted you, no lock would keep me out." This sounds to me like a verbal threat of rape. Is it merely my own "humiliating construction" to see it so?

The controversial sexual encounter develops after a drinking bout in which Butler becomes progressively more violent and intimidating. . . .

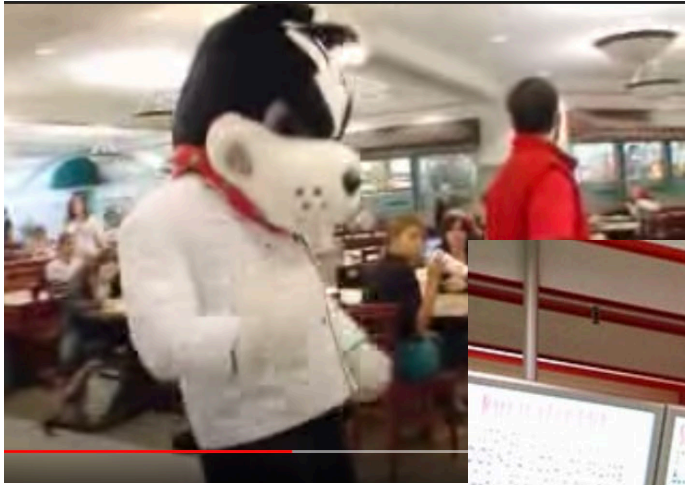
"Observe my hands, my dear," he said, flexing them. . . . "I could tear you to pieces with them with no trouble whatsoever and I would do it if it would take Ashley out of your mind. But it wouldn't. So I think I'll remove him from your mind forever this way. I'll put my hands, so, on each side of your head and I'll smash your skull between them like a walnut and that will blot him out." . . .

Then the fateful paragraph: "He swung her off her feet into his arms and started up the stairs. Her head was crushed against his chest. . . . He hurt her and she cried out. . . . Up the stairs, he went in the utter darkness, up, up, and she was wild with fear. . . . He stopped suddenly on the landing and, turning her swiftly in his arms, bent

Blocked due to copyright.
See full page image or
microfilm.

Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in "Gone With the Wind." MGM

"[Rhett Butler] was bullying and breaking [Scarlett];" "He had humbled her, hurt her, used her brutally through a wild and mad night." (novel)



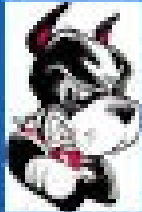
Rhett at BU (Beyond the Costume)

* Rhett's East/West (dining);

* Rhett's West closed in Nov 2019.



*Rhett Bench (installed Fall 2019)



A Rhett Talk

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

WICKED
The Hard Problem of
Countering the Use of
Biological Weapons (BW)

John D. Woodward, Jr.
Professor of International Relations
The Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
Boston University
Sept. 10, 2018

© 2018 John D. Woodward, Jr. All rights reserved.

*Rhett Talks, Tedx-style
(*ongoing*)