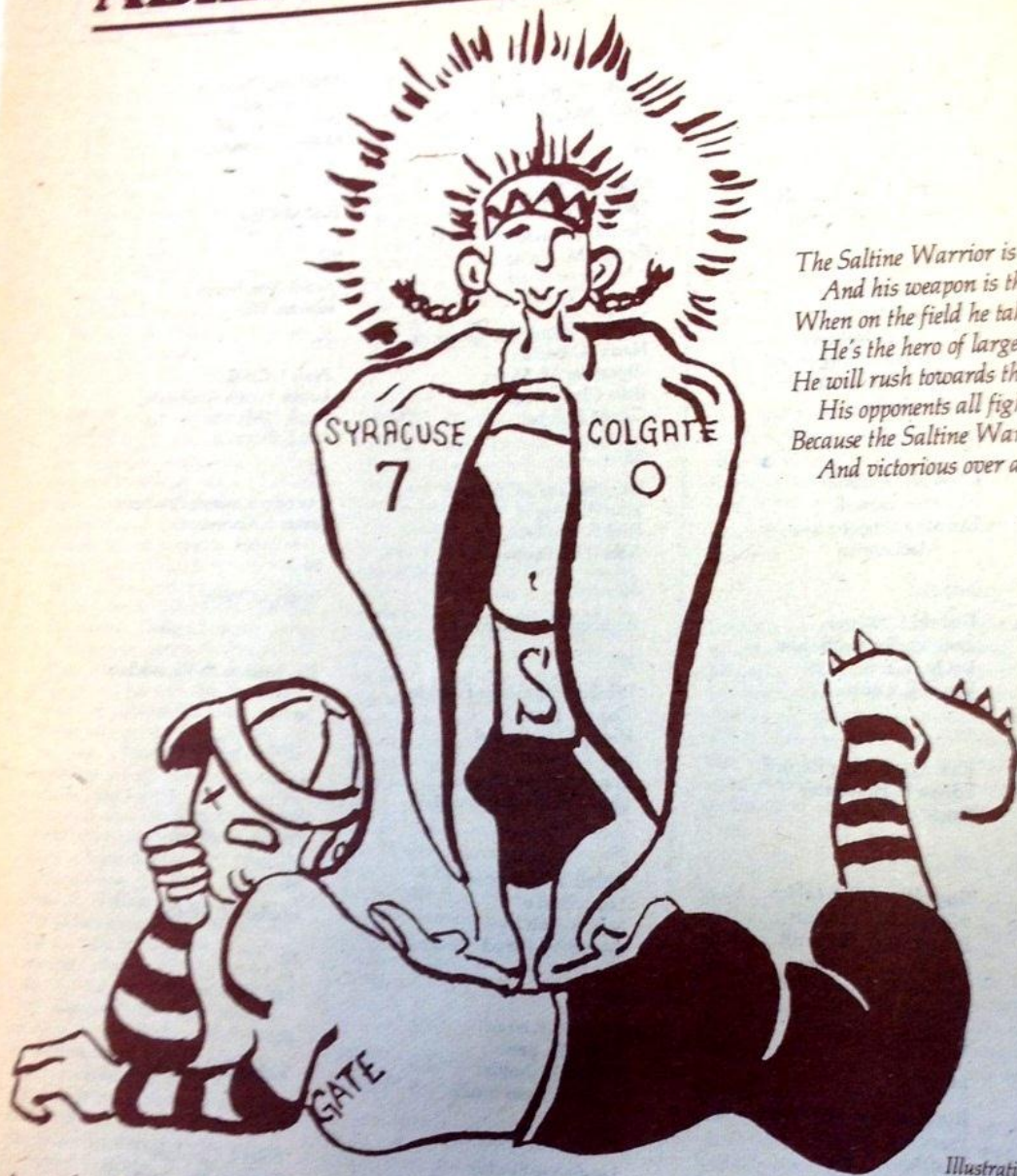


ÀBIENTÔT The Demise of the Saltine Warrior



The Saltine Warrior is a bold, brave man,
And his weapon is the pigskin ball.
When on the field he takes a good firm stand,
He's the hero of large and small.
He will rush towards the goal with his might and man,
His opponents all fight but they fight in vain,
Because the Saltine Warrior is a bold, bad man
And victorious over all!

—Samuel E. Darby, Jr. '13

Illustration from the 1948 Onondagan.

Army has its mule, Cornell its Big Red bear, and Princeton its tiger, but up on Piety Hill, the Orangemen are without a mascot. The Saltine Warrior, once SU's symbol of strength, courage, and pride, no longer reigns victorious. After a request from Native American students last fall, the university deliberated the use of an American Indian as the mascot. Concerned that the warrior offered a stereotypic portrait of American Indians, the office of student affairs decided to drop the mascot entirely at the end of the spring semester. The search is now on for a new mascot, something or someone to characterize or personify SU, according to Melvin C. Mounts, vice president for student affairs. The mascot, explains Mounts, should incite the support of the crowd at athletic

events, and in turn generate support for the teams themselves.

So far, however, none of the suggested replacements for the mascot have generated much enthusiasm. Pundits have advanced a couple of humorous choices—a saltine cracker or a SUnkist orange—but nothing yet considered by Mounts and his committee adequately captures the spirit of SU.

When the football season opens at home against Florida State in September, no buckskinned, befeathered figure will lead the Orangemen down the field. Only the statue of the Warrior in front of Carnegie Library—back arched boldly against the sky—will remain, a memento of a rich Syracuse tradition that is no more.