



For the past 22 years, University archivist Keith Richard has been in charge of storing the University's history.

GUARDIAN of the PAST

On the side of Fenton Hall is an ordinary doorknob attached to a common door that leads to an unusually fascinating place.

The door opens to what looks like a janitor's closet. It's small. There's dirt in the corners and cardboard boxes lying purposeless on the concrete floor.

An arrow painted on a sign points the way upstairs and beckons the curious to continue. "Archives," it reads. Treasures await.

Steep, narrow, steel, gray stairs lead the inquisitive to the second floor where you'll find the memory of this living institution.

The past lives of the University rest lifeless, quietly housed on shelves. Pictures and papers are piled in boxes. They sit side by side with the history of the future.

The room is as silent as a library but less solemn. It is a place that begs intrigue, with more the atmosphere of an empty antique store.

Pictures of football teams from more than 50 years ago hang from the beams. A poster decorates the end of a bookshelf

— a relic from 1925 when freshman initiation was more a feared rite of passage than a rite to party.

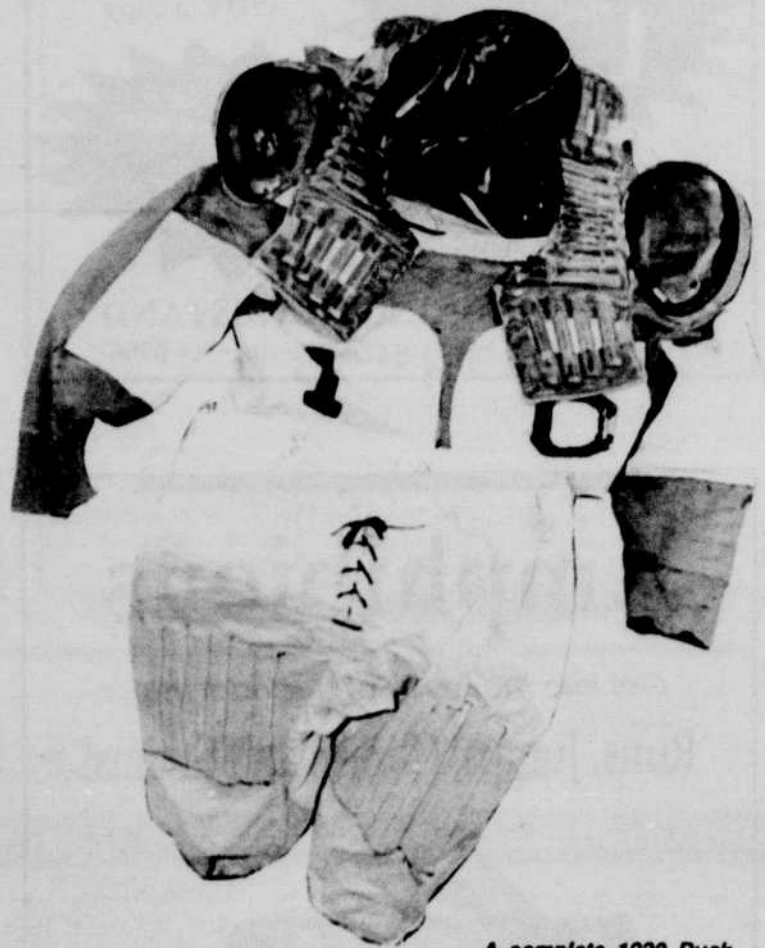
"Slaughter awaits ye," the sign warns freshmen, "putrified, pobby, pimpled, puffed up, pepless pups. Bow down your stinking carcasses, oh cringing cowards and OBEY the puissant edicts of your heartless masters."

New books rest next to the aging books with brown, peeling covers held together by string. In a cardboard box on another shelf is stuff — recognizable, recent stuff, yet to be filed.

Included is a letter, dated 5-16-91, from gay and lesbian students to University President Myles Brand demanding that military recruiters be banned from campus. A future artifact.

There are novelties carefully displayed and others that look like nothing but clutter.

Shiny and dull trophies, autographed baseballs. Dusty china dishes stacked on top of one another. Their connection to



A complete 1920 Duck football uniform is one of many relics on the shelves in the archives.

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Taken in 1870, this photograph shows a homestead on the location where the EMU now stands.

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