

MAN CLUBS

by BEAU BERKLEY design MADISON JERDE

Beat-up boxers, tough rugby players, tech-savvy engineers and footwear fashionistos; manliness comes in many forms. The definition of manly is hidden in the actions, muddled into the movements and behavior of men. Finding that definition is up to the observer.

BOXING



In the depths of State Gymnasium, at the end of a deep bland hallway, tucked away from the luxuries of automatic drinking fountains and stationary bikes connected to TVs, is the constant cadence of dozens of fists pounding away like sticks to a snare drum. Behind the door at the end of the deep bland hallway is a bygone group of throwbacks that get a cheap thrill off that perfect harmony of fists meeting flesh.

“No one who boxes can get in the ring without liking it [getting hit] a little,” said Jessie Ortiz, a long, wiry 19 year old. “If you don’t like getting hit in the face, don’t get in the ring.”

Take a look at the faces, some are bruised and slightly

swollen, sleek with sweat and clad with minor cuts. The faces match the ring.

The four corners are marked by red and blue turnbuckles, a few are missing, a few are torn from the years spent catching wayward fighters trapped with their backs to the wall. The canvas is complemented by the ropes: red, white and blue despite the fact that the white has taken on a shade of brown after catching hundreds of boxers scrambling for a way out.

There is no place for glitz or glamor in this room. No time for egos or a half-ass effort.

They all have their reasons for being here: some are bored, some want an escape

from school or life or as Josh Marker puts it, some just need a therapy session.

One by one, they file in and out of the ring to exchange blows with each other. Mouths open, faces flush red, some bleeding. This is the therapy Marker was talking about.

“Most guys have this pent up aggression that they don’t know they had,” Marker said. “They come in and try it once and they instantly are hooked because they are like, ‘wow, I’m happy,’ and everything is just better.”

Cold, wet and caked in mud. That's an ideal afternoon for these gents.

As the ISU rugby club takes to the pitch at the Southwest Sports Complex, embracing the hard, unforgiving ground, they become part of a tradition nearly 50 years in the making. Fifty years of scrumming across the Midwest playing other universities, adorned in skin-tight jerseys and shorts that don't leave much to the imagination.

Don't let the scanty clothing fool you. They come with the territory and are mandatory when bone jarring hits and putting one's body on the line are concerned, something Brandon Bay has become accustomed to.

"Contact. That's the reason I got into it [rugby]," Bay said. "I started hitting people and thought this is pretty cool."

That's the reaction of most new participants, said club President Anthony Frein. One practice, one hit, and they're hooked. "A lot of people think we're just a bunch of guys trying to beat the shit out of each other but it's actually a really

good team experience and if someone comes more than twice, they'll usually be around for a while," Frein said.

It's a game of inches, but not in the traditional football sense. It's a game much more dependent on gaining ground. There are no 80 yard touchdown runs or hail marys and no one player puts himself above the team, because if that happens, nobody succeeds.

"It's a different type of athlete that plays rugby, more team oriented and if you got someone who wants to be a superstar, you're team is going to suck," Frein said. "It almost does you more harm."

As for team trainers, they have no need. On one occasion, after a teammate broke his

ankle, the ambulance was taking too long to respond, so the team did what any rational thinking group of men would do in this situation: splint the break with empty beer bottles. Who said nothing good comes from alcohol?

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RUGBY

SNEAKERHEADS



Every Saturday morning, you can find Nicholas Milner, president of Sneakerheads, plopped in front of his computer screen awaiting the newest sneaker release, hoping that nobody gets to it before he does.

You could call him a foot fashionista of sorts.

"It's not a normal thing, especially for guys because it's fashion," Milner said. "...But it's my passion. If I told you I collected stamps would you say anything about it? No. It's my hobby."

Shoes are constantly tromping through Milner's mind, same goes for the other members of Sneakerheads. Whether they are at work or walking through campus, their thoughts are

on shoes.

Sometimes, Milner will even stop a passerby to take a picture of their shoes.

"I'm constantly judging peoples feet," said member Jack Halupnik.

"I didn't want to say it, but I judge people hardcore. I can tell almost the type of person you are. If you're wearing some piece of crap with holes in it, you obviously don't care about your looks or you're not into sports or anything," Milner chimes in, now that the air has been cleared.

In just the second year after the club's inception, there are now a total of 20 members after just having five in the first year. The club is currently planning on attending a sneaker

convention in Kansas City this spring as well as working on starting and sponsoring a basketball tournament for Iowa State students. The club is also working with Shoes that Fit, a charity organization in Des Moines, to supply Ames grade school students with school supplies.

As for having too many shoes, Milner, who has over 60 pairs, says the only people who badger him about having too many shoes are those who care about him.

"My girlfriend says it, my family says it, my friends say it but that's kind of a compliment," Milner said.

Once thought to be made of cheese, the glowing rock in the sky that we know as the moon is home to a material known as Regolith, a dusty material that coats the surface of large rocks and something the ISU Lunabotics club finds very intriguing.

The Lunabotics club is comprised of students of all majors that create, design, build and operate a robot capable of collecting materials, primarily Regolith, from various bodies in space like the moon, an asteroid or Mars. As for what makes Regolith important, well, David Peiffer explains it much clearer.

“You can extract a couple useful things out of the Regolith, the material found on the moon, one of them is that you can extract oxygen and hydrogen, so between the two you can support human life,”

Peiffer said.

The club was originally a course for seniors to prepare a robot for the NASA Robotic Mining Competition, an annual competition held at the Kennedy Space Center in Merritt Island, Fla., but was converted into a club three years later so

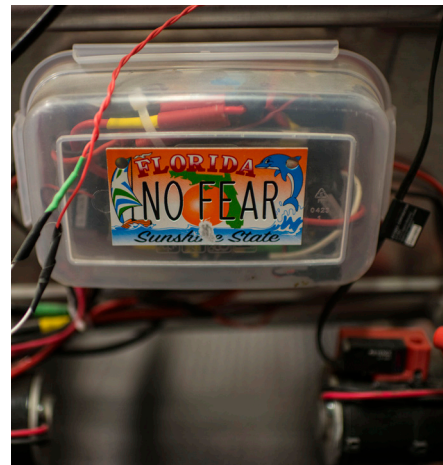
members can potentially work on the project for four years instead of just one.

Last year, the trip to the NASA Robotic Mining Competition proved quite fruitful for the group of moon miners.

The team received first place for the on-site mining, third overall finish and first place for the Joe Kosmo Award for Excellence. The team's prize for their feats? Not your standard medal or blue ribbon, that's for sure. Peiffer said the club received up to \$8,000 dollars for its phenomenal finishes.

Peiffer also said that some of the information gathered at the NASA Robotic Mining Competition aids NASA in their research of the moon as a possible launch/fuel point for future missions that could go further into space.

The Lunabotics club continues to slave away in the basement of the Nuclear Engineering building, constructing machines in the hopes of taking one more giant leap for mankind.



LUNABOTICS