

Boxing

continued from page 1A

was one of 11 bouts held Feb. 24 at the Northwest Meet of Champions at the Double Tree Hotel in Springfield. When the box office closed, more than 200 people were turned away from the door. The diverse audience varied greatly from rowdy college students to retired boxers, parents and even children.

But students are doing more than simply watching the action. Many students — both men and women — have stepped into the ring to test their power at the events as well.

"Everyone wonders what it would be like to step foot through those ropes. Knowing you are going demonstrate in front of people, and your peers, your expertise is risking a lot,"

Fraser said.

For junior psychology major Jessica Binder, Thursday was her first officially sanctioned fight. Binder started boxing two years ago at the Hard Knox Gym in Eugene.

"It sounded interesting so I went in for a free lesson and just loved it," Binder said.

To train for a competition like this one, Binder dedicates herself to running four or five miles a day and sparring every night for two or three hours, including weekends.

She stressed she wants to be taken seriously. "I'm not going to cry or bitch if I break a nail. I'm an athlete, and I'm a fighter," Binder said.

Hard Knox Gym owner Kip Tripplet trains Binder, who said he is like a family member to her. She explained that because boxing isn't a team sport, you don't

have teammates to keep you going.

"He [Tripplet] has been a huge motivator for me," Binder said. Amateur boxing differs slight-

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Jessica Binder boxer

ly from the big heavyweight bouts on Pay Per View. Each fight consists of three one-minute rounds. Participants must wear head gear, and they do not fight for money — they fight for fun. In professional boxing, or what Fraser described as "prize fighting," fights last for 11 three-

minute rounds.

"Boxing is 95 percent mental. Boxing is knowing what to look for, developing a style. You have to anticipate the person's moves, five moves before they make it. You have to psych yourself up to get in the ring. It's a battle, and you have to be mentally prepared before you can begin to be physically prepared," Binder said. Binder also added that in amateur women's lightweight fighting, a match is based on a point system. Points can be scored based on how many punches are thrown, how many punches are connected with, style and footwork, as opposed to knockouts, which are more common in heavier weight fighting.

Binder had to drop 11 pounds in a week and a half to cut down to the weight class below hers before the match against Tegan Shlaughter, a woman from Portland. Binder felt her fighting weight of 139 pounds caused her not to be as strong and as energetic as she could have been. She was tired right away.

"In sparring, it is good to be on the defense and wait for your opponent to make a mistake, and open up for you to move in. But in the ring it is different. You just go; it's a flurry. You don't have a

chance to wait for them to make a mistake."

In the match, Binder and Shlaughter didn't have strength behind their punches. But the fighters were steady in their battle. "That really didn't convey my style, and it didn't give me a chance to show my skill. It turned into a messy fight," Binder said.

The referee had Jessica's had in the air by the time the three rounds had elapsed.

Binder received positive support and congratulations from her father Marc Binder, a retired physician, and his fiancée, Marcy Schein. Her boyfriend of two years Chris Gillis, a senior biology and Spanish major, also watched the match.

"I get nervous whenever she steps into the ring," he said. Gillis explained that while he never doubted she would win, the big smile in his direction when they placed a medal around her neck only confirmed the victory.

"The match was not one-sided. It was closer than I had anticipated, but Jessica fought the better fight," Gillis said.

Binder's next test will be the next amateur event at the Double Tree Hotel on Friday, May 26th.

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WRC meeting

continued from page 1A

companies that manufacture University licensed products would be monitored to ensure that conditions and wages are acceptable for the workers.

Several other universities across the country have already joined on with the WRC, such as Brown University, New York University and Oberlin College.

Since last year, the Human Rights Alliance, which is a subsection of the Survival Center, has been attempting to initiate a change in the University's relationship with the companies that make its products. Last fall, Frohnmayer formed a committee comprised of faculty, staff and six students to further study the issue and recommend a course of action.

Many students, however, have grown tired of waiting.

"We want to emphasize the fact that even though Frohnmayer has created a committee ... there has actually been no action taken," HRA member Agatha Schmaedick said. "We feel the time has come."

Change began last week when 75 percent of voting students supported a ballot measure to have the University join the WRC. Backers of the consortium took the opportunity to show the University administration that this was something the student body wanted.

But many of the students still feel their voices are not being

heard. At a press conference outside after the meeting, they expressed dismay in the way the issue was being treated by the administration.

"Six students in there had the biggest showing of support," ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani said. "Instead of [the administration] embracing this opportunity, we were entirely marginalized by a letter from Duncan McDonald."

In the letter, McDonald, University vice president of public affairs and development, warned that its decision should not be influenced by the votes of other student groups.

The presence of police officers in the lobby of Johnson Hall during the meeting didn't help the students feel that their voices were being considered valid.

"It's apparent that whenever you question power structures, it's fitting that they would feel that is very threatening," HRA member Jevon Cutler said. "But I question why they would feel the need to call police out."

The WRC is one of a few existing monitoring systems available to the University. Another option being considered by the administration is the Fair Labor Association. The students, however, strongly support the WRC rather than the FLA for a number of reasons. Mostly that is because the WRC does not preannounce visits from its inspectors, while the FLA does. In scheduling visits to the factories, students claim companies are given time to hide any possible transgressions.

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