

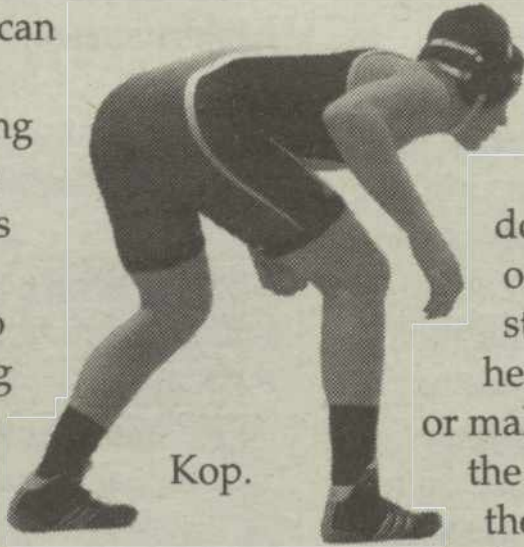
ASB needs to lend support to alternative sports

■ LOGAN KELLY

Staff Reporter

"The 12th Man," "The Kop" and "The Timbers Army" are names of a few of the world's well-known sport supporters groups. Every one of these groups have had their famous moments. The most recent was the Seattle Seahawks' run to the Super Bowl. All the talk was about how loud SAFECO field was. Fans can only speculate how intimidating the atmosphere was for Seattle's opponents.

Anyone who knows anything about soccer knows the Liverpool Football Club is a prominent club not only in its home, England, but also in European competitions. The Kop is the nickname of



Kop.

the massive group of Reds' fans who show their passion at every game. Their most famous song, "You'll Never Walk Alone," when chances for a win were looking dim.

One spectacular moment for the Kop happened during the 2005 Champions League final in Istanbul, Turkey. Liverpool was up against perennial Italy dominators AC

Milan. At the conclusion of the first 45 minutes the Reds' were down 3-0. Instead of sitting in the stands with their heads in their hands or making a charge at the "The Devils" fans, the Kop made one of the most electrifying performances of "You'll Never Walk Alone." It gave me goose bumps and brought a tear to my eye. Rafa's Men

(Liverpool's manager is named Rafael Benitez) were so uplifted, they scored three goals to tie and won in penalty kicks. How's that for a thanks?

Why do these stories belong in the "Amplifier?" Well, we have a problem at our wonderful school: Nobody seems to support our school's lesser known athletic programs.

Take for example the boy's soccer team's thrilling game against Lake Oswego. The Laker fans did not seem to mind the trip; there were more of them there than West Linn fans. The lack of attendance by West Linn students really raised some questions in my mind.

Why is it that no one seems to have respect for girl's basketball, boy's soccer,

cross country, girl's soccer and all of the other activities except football? I'll tell you, it's because our own Associated Student Body makes little effort to promote these sports. They put

on Homecoming Week which focuses on Varsity Football. Both the game and the dance were packed. That's the kind of attendance that will lift a team.

ASB also put on a dance for boys' basketball. One ASB member commented that the goal was to "pack the gym." I went to the game and saw just how packed the gym was. Try and find someone who was there.

Good luck. The ASB was trying. Now try more and try harder.

It's time to start thinking

outside of the box about how to bring in new fans to sporting events they would not normally go to. There need to be incentives in place that will make people feel like a part of the school community and make them want to support the lesser recognized teams. Students came to the Homecoming Carnival and then stayed and hung out. It put them in a jovial mood. The atmosphere transferred to the stadium, making for a spirited football game.

In order to bring in fans to other sports than football, ASB needs to start making our school sporting events exciting. If they do, more sports will become popular and all athletes will walk through the hallways with heads held high and fans will feel like part of a school community. Think "Friday Night Lights."

Excessive packaging, worth harm to environment?

■ ALEX FRYE

Contributing Writer

Have you ever found yourself opening something and when finished found that the amount of packaging far exceeded its contents? Or, have you ever found yourself walking through a grocery store wondering why you see individually wrapped coconuts and cucumbers in the produce section? This is an example of one of America's and the world's greatest environmental downfalls: excessive packaging.

In 2005, the United States alone produced 245 million tons of waste and only 79 million (30%) was recycled. From what I can see, there is no excuse for producing 166 million tons of trash that will most likely be on this earth for several thousand years without decomposing or being recycled!

During my research, I had an extremely difficult time finding waste and packaging information about the U.S. This alone is quite troubling as an indicator of public interest. The majority of informational websites on excessive packaging came from China or the United Kingdom. It appears that this issue is not being addressed seriously in the U.S. We are, without doubt, prioritizing profit over the environment. Glitzy and large packaging attracts consumers, and this appears to be the only consideration. This shows us how much the U.S. cares! Being one of the most materialistic and wasteful countries in the world, don't you think that we have the responsibility to pay the most attention to it?

According to The Women's Institute in the

U.K., the U.K. produced 88,000 tons of weekly household waste in the form of packaging, equalling 4.6 million tons a year. With five times the population of the U.K., even if the U.S. were to hold true to even their waste amounts, we create 440,000 tons a week of packaging waste alone.

The average person in the U.S. creates 4.5 lbs. of waste per day. Why? Can you think of a good reason? For example, an average high school student either buys or brings a lunch.

If people buy lunch, numerous non-recyclable

products will be put in the garbage within a half hour. Uneaten food, Styrofoam trays, plastic utensils, napkins, food packaging and more will go straight to the landfill. If they bring a lunch, it's probable that they will not use a reusable lunch box and bring a plastic or paper bag. Prepared foods, in individual sizes, are extremely over-packaged. For example, if someone brings applesauce for lunch, the little plastic cup with a foil cover will be thrown away after use. What happened to buying bulk and using reusable

containers like Tupperware? Buying in bulk is very smart for the environment and for budgets. Buying a six pack of applesauce cups costs more money (about two cents more per ounce) and creates a lot of unnecessary waste.

Foods and toys seem to be some of the most excessively packaged items. Some exceptionally overpackaged foods that I found included Lunchables and, yes it's true, individually wrapped peanut butter slices.

Excessive Packaging

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Garden growth saves arctic bears

■ CARLY FEKE

Contributing Writer

Stop! Think before you throw away your soda can in the trash. Not only can you save energy and aluminum material by recycling it, you can also save the life of animals in the Arctic. But it's not just their lives that you're saving, by decreasing global warming, it also could be yours.

Global warming is when heating occurs from carbon dioxide traps the sun's heat near Earth's surface, causing Earth's

temperature to rise according to www.wcit.org/tradeis/glossary.htm. And at howstuffworks.com, they say in the last 100 years the sea level has risen six to eight inches and the earth's temperature has increased about half a degree celsius. May not sound like a problem, but even the smallest change in our earth's temperature can cause major damage. The Antarctic is about 90 percent of our planet's ice, and the average cover is 7,000 feet thick. If all that ice melts that would mean the sea level would rise about 200 feet.

For the first time, researchers found evidence of polar bears drowning. The ice floes they feed and live on are getting smaller and moving apart forcing the bears to take long journeys

into the waters of the Arctic. Some bears have to swim up to 60 miles for food. The number of polar bears drowning in open sea has doubled in the past 20 years. Global warming could turn the polar bear's (and are own) lives upside down. Some scientists say in 100 years from now, polar bears could be completely extinct. Everyone and anyone can change that by doing five easy steps.

1. Drive less, walk more (or ride your bike)
2. Reuse, reduce, recycle
3. Tell people about global warming
4. Grow your own garden for fruits and vegetables
5. Turn off lights when not in use

All of these changes can save energy and decrease carbon dioxide, which is the cause of Global warming. If we don't change parts of our life, not only will the polar bear's life will be at stake, so will our own.

