

Randall: Rundown gymnasium to receive repairs

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After Niemeyer was built, Randall underwent a few improvements itself. The weight room downstairs tripled in size, new classrooms were built on the second floor and the waiting area was added. These were just some of the major improvements to the building. Some

more of the minor fixes have happened over time, such as upgrading equipment in the weight room as time went on, new sports equipment and of course general upkeep and maintenance. This allows the building and the classes contained therein to be fully functional and capable.

Randall will be receiving some more improvements this year as well, some of

which are in plain sight. An obvious fix would be the cracked window on one of the gym doors in Randall, which was broken during a baseball practice.

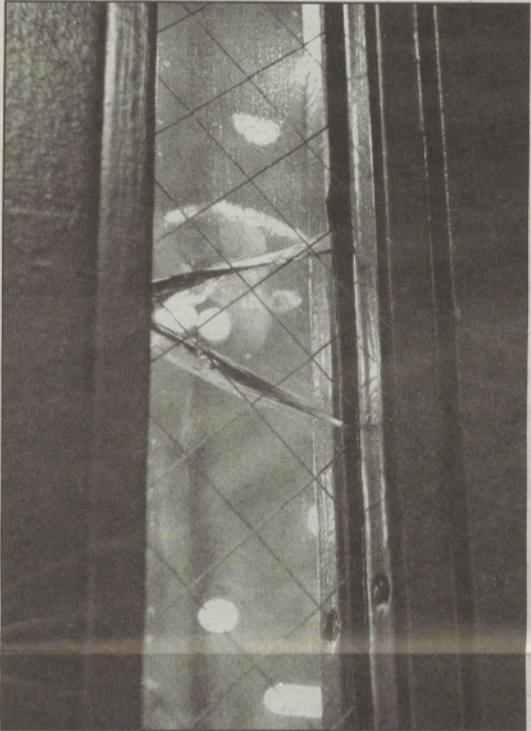
"That's definitely on our list of things to fix. We also have some new improvements to make that will definitely help the building to function better and more efficiently," said Bob Cochran, dean of campus

services, who mentioned that automated heating and air condition was included in the projected upgrades. "It will allow for better temperature control inside the building."

This project is slated to be finished before graduation this year. Campus services also hopes to fix the water heater issues in the locker room showers, among other projects that are planned or

still in discussion.

All in all, Randall is a living legacy of the college, and helps to define the history of CCC. For reasons that are sentimental, ethical and budget conscious, this building will hopefully remain on Clackamas' campus for another 40 years, maybe even longer. Only time and a dedicated staff will tell how Randall will stand through it all.



One of the windows leading into the gym in Randall was cracked by a stray baseball during practice.



The "R" in Randall is a sign of the age and repair need of the building, which was officially opened in 1972. The college is hoping to do more repairs on the building this spring.

All photos by Hillary Cole The Clackamas Print

NWAACC basketball championships too cool for Tri-Cities



By John William Howard
Sports Editor

You've all had that experience where you go to pull into a parking spot, but a short car you hadn't seen at first was hiding behind a bigger vehicle, forcing you to back out and find another place to park. Obnoxious, right? It's even worse when it's a tumbleweed.

You see, several months ago, I was asked to be the official reporter for the NWAACC basketball championships. I happily accepted, and the first weekend in March, I was on my way to the Tri-Cities, Wash. for a long weekend of basketball.

I picked up my press credentials, checked in to my

hotel and went to sleep; knowing that the next morning would be the beginning of perhaps the most strenuous weekend I'd ever experienced. As it turns out, I was right.

Early the next morning, I made the drive to the Toyota Center, an arena of decent size that was obviously built for hockey. A few relics of the hockey roots of the arena were still visible, despite the fact that huge rubber mats had been laid over the ice, on top of which sat a pair of basketball courts with a massive curtain separating the two.

The games began at 8 a.m., and after getting out of my car to drag the massive tumbleweed to the nearest island, I parked and made my way to the sideline of the women's court, where Clackamas Community College and Bellevue College were about to square off in the first round. Reaching the press table that would be a home for my laptop and me for the next four days; I felt the cold emanating from the floor and mentally patted myself on the back for wearing my wool coat that

morning.

The first game finished without much of a hitch, other than the fact that the women's side of the arena was basically empty, as was the men's. I chalked that up to the time of day. The only people there were the few fans that had followed the teams from their respective cities, not casual fans from the host city itself. Sure that attendance would pick up as the day continued, I dismissed the empty seats and focused on my work.

The problem was, things never really got any better. There were a few exceptions, such as when host and eventual champion Columbia Basin College played that afternoon, but even then there were plenty of bright orange plastic seats still empty.

The highlight of the first day was on the men's side, when the top two teams in the coaches' poll and the number one seeds from their respective regions lost in the first round. The defeat of Clark College by Yakima Valley Community College and the shocking victory by SW Oregon Community

College over Whatcom Community College had all the volunteers and many of the people who would normally have been wandering the concourses reenter to watch the finish of a pair of fantastic basketball games.

What that proves is that people will watch games for the sport itself if the product is good enough, even if they aren't supporting either of the teams. That begs the question, why have the tournament out in the middle of nowhere? Wouldn't it make sense to move it to a more central and more accessible location?

Let's play executive director for a second here and pretend that we're considering Portland as a new place to host the NWAACC championships.

The first thing to look at is the size of the city. The Portland metro area is almost nine times the size of the Tri-Cities. That means that there are a lot more casual fans that would be willing to come out and watch the games. It's a much more visible event when the host city is bigger, which could bring in more sponsors.

Another aspect to look at is the location. The Tri-Cities are far away from just about everywhere with the exception of schools like Columbia Basin, Walla Walla Community College and Yakima Valley. Portland, however, is located on I-5, almost exactly in the north-south center of the area that the NWAACC covers. Sure, teams like Spokane Community College would have a long drive, but it would be 100 miles less than the SW Oregon men had to travel to reach the tournament this year.

Basically, I don't see what the love relationship between the NWAACC and Tri-Cities is. The arena isn't all that great (it's far too big, and it's extremely cold all the time), the location is far from central and the big name sponsors aren't all that flashy. Yes, there were several steps of improvement this year with the added TV coverage at the championship games, but I would like to see a major shift in the way things work. It doesn't have to be Portland, I just shouldn't have to fight tumbleweeds for a parking spot.