

Celebration new synonym for violence



MATTHEW J. RUSH
Sportswriter

Is it all necessary? What happened to the good old days of confetti, rice and old-fashioned celebration?

Looting and rioting have no place in sports, period. I'm not just talking about the recent celebration in Chicago, where several people were killed and hundreds arrested, I'm talking about several major cities that boast a champion in a particular professional or collegiate sport.

The most dramatic and violent display of post-season excitement occurred in Dallas after the Cowboys won Super Bowl XXVII. To relish the gory details, midway through the celebration, rioting erupted and the fighting that took place afterwards was quite disheartening.

Sadly, the crush of the riots were alleged to be part of a retaliation by all people because of the Rodney King trial outcome. One man said that L.A. had its turn and now it was Dallas' turn to show its displeasure.

This, of course, was not the reason for the recent arrests and deaths in Montreal or Chicago, who won the hockey and basketball championships respectively. Regardless, the looting and rioting is not needed by anyone nor does it serve a purpose. Is it so much to ask that people celebrate together in a relaxed environment without destroying police cars, private shops on street corners or other people who claim to cheer for the same team?

It seems to me that people are looking for any excuse to turn into wild savages. They are looking for any means to vent their frustrations, whatever they may be.

Violence is in the heart of every man and woman, but I thought the idea of celebration was to be proud of your team and its accomplishments, not to practice new wrestling moves on fellow fans and citizens alike.

Some will blame this raucous behavior on drinking and with that I disagree. Celebration will inevitably involve 'spirits' and I think that this is somewhat traditional. Champagne in the locker room, a cold beer and for some, a good smoke are all a part of traditional celebration. The means by which one celebrates is undoubtedly up to the party involved and should cause no harm to the public.

The line between public and private celebration is somewhat fuzzy, but when there are lives being lost and costly damage being done to the property, the point is quite clear: the essence of the festivities is lost.

Unfortunately, this kind of bedlam also takes place on the college level. The Texas-OU weekend, for example, has been tainted with mass violence and looting in Dallas' West End Market Place over the past several years. The weekend's traditional festivities have now been officially banned because of this unnecessary behavior.

Another example of this crazed looting comes from a colleague of mine at the University of Michigan. According to him, after the semi-final game of the NCAA Championships, mass rioting, looting of shops and businesses as well as

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Out with the old . . .

Deware, Downs scheduled for demolition

By ROY CLAY

The Battalion

A piece of Texas A&M's past will soon become a part of the history books. P.L. Downs Natatorium and DeWare Field House have been designated for demolition year 1996. Due to the age of the two buildings and the inevitable decline that comes with it, the school has decided to raze them after the completion of the new Recreational Sports Building and Natatorium.

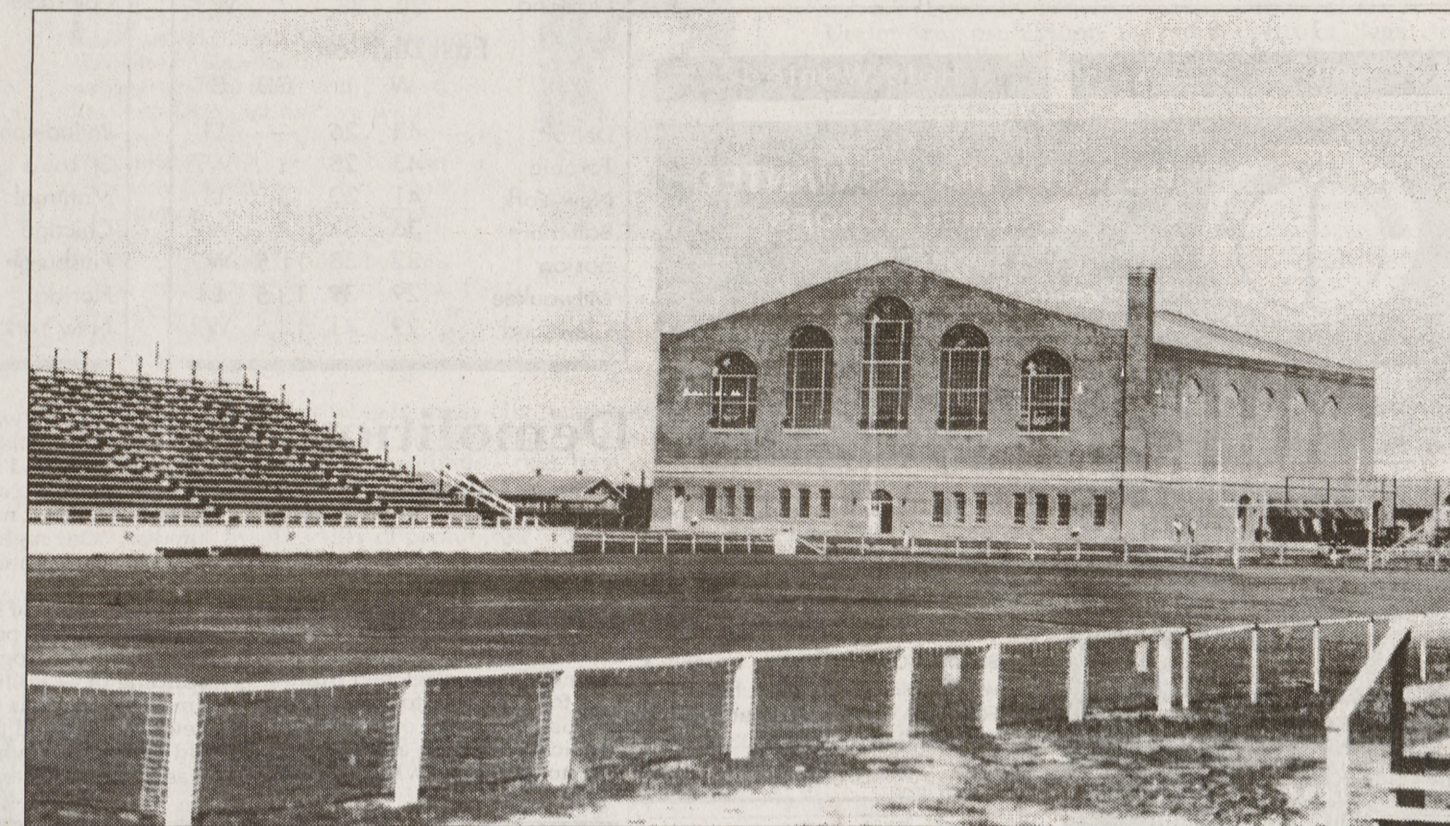
For over 60 years, Downs has served as the University's recreational and competitive swimming facility. Built in 1932 at a cost of \$77,243, the facility was named after a member of the Board of Regents instrumental in the natatorium project. Downs was designed and built by members of the college staff led by F.E. Giesecke, the college architect in 1932.

"You can't duplicate the workmanship of that period," said Martha Nix, pool manager for Texas A&M. "They weren't in a hurry to build P.L. Downs."

Extensive mosaics cover the walls, deck and the entire tank. Drain covers, hand rails and pool ladders are made of solid brass, and the ceiling is made of wood. When Downs first opened, the large arching windows were lined with flower boxes filled with Boston ferns.

Downs Natatorium was designed in a Mediterranean style popular in that era. It was built, partially, in response to the University of Texas erecting its indoor facility in Austin. The UT pool measured 75 feet with 8 lanes. Not wanting to be outdone, A&M built its pool to measure 100 feet long and 9 lanes wide. The mosaics along the water's edge mark every foot of the pool's length, thus showing A&M's perceived superiority over its rival.

Nix also pointed out that although the building has declined to the point where



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

DeWare Field House, seen here in the mid 1930s, is scheduled for demolition in 1996. DeWare, originally named Memorial Gymnasium, was built in 1924. In the foreground is the early Kyle Field.

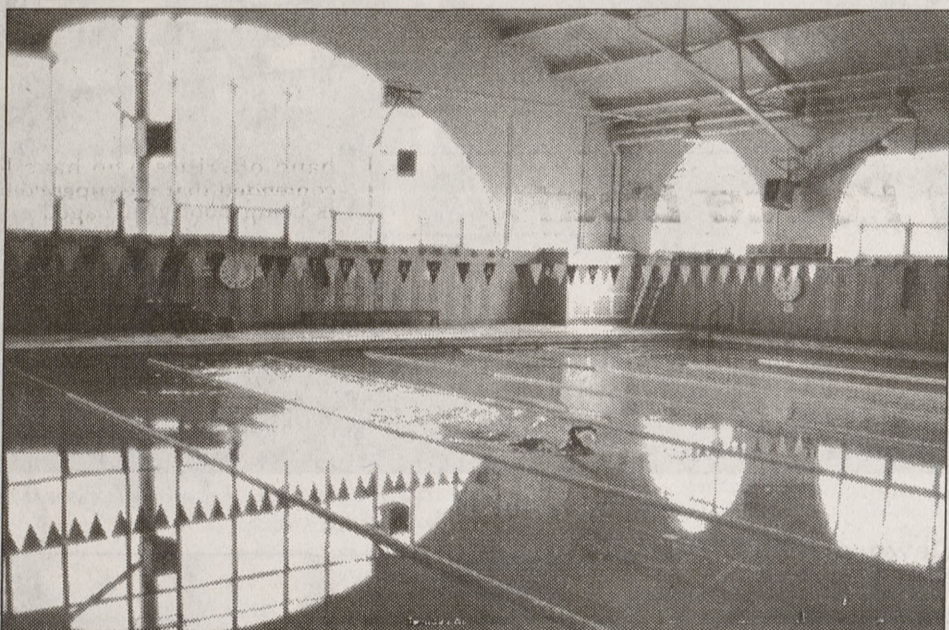
renovation is no longer feasible, the pool itself is in excellent condition. The tank has no visible cracks, and the water is a clear light blue, denoting a good filtering system. However, Wofford Cain Pool, the outdoor facility, displays patchwork

where cracks have surfaced on the tank; the surrounding pool area is showing the signs of age, as well. Also scheduled for demolition, Cain Pool was built in 1962 at a cost of \$141,939.

DeWare Field House, originally named Memorial Gymnasium, was built in 1924 by J.E. Johnson. Designed by the college architect E.B. LaRoche, the gym-

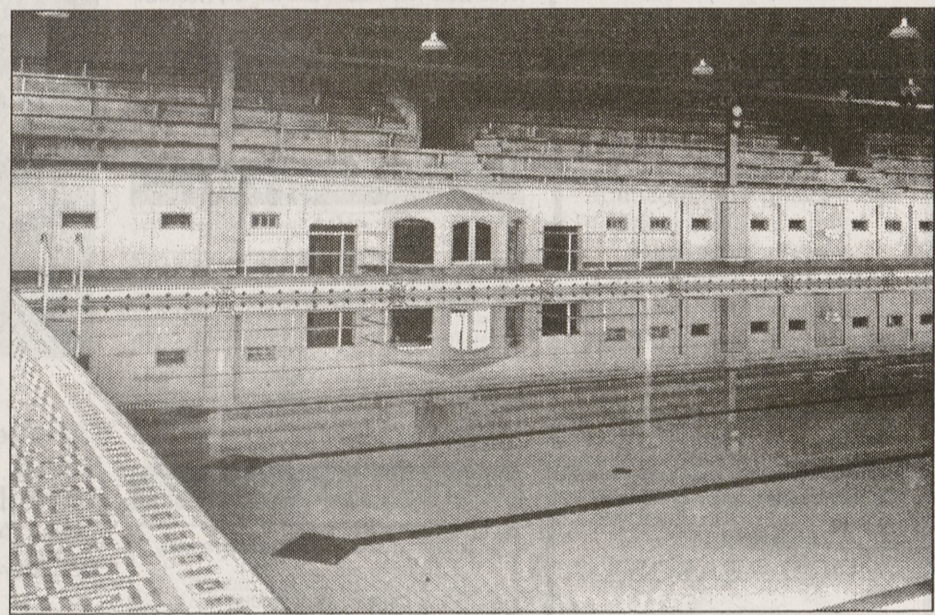
nasium resembles only one other building on campus. According to a manuscript written by Ernest Langford, head of the architecture department from 1929 to 1956, Memorial Gymnasium is similar in style to the animal husbandry building, now called the Pavilion. The facility was later renamed for Charles A. De-

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BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

(Above) P.L. Downs Natatorium, scheduled for demolition in 1996, was constructed in 1932 for \$77,243. It was built to rival the recently built pool at the University of Texas at Austin. (Right) Downs in the mid 1950s.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Wimbledon Security tightens after spectator taunts Graf

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBLEDON, England — The spectre of the stabbing of Monica Seles haunted Wimbledon on Tuesday as a German in the front row of Centre Court was banned after shouting at Steffi Graf: "You're responsible!"

Less than two months after an obsessed German fan of Graf knifed Seles because he couldn't tolerate her No. 1 ranking, Graf became the victim of verbal abuse as she began defense of her Wimbledon title with Seles still recuperating.

"Steffi, you're responsible for everything," the man shouted in German mid-



Graf

month.

Graf halted the match against Sharpe between points and walked to the um-

pire. She didn't ask that the man be removed, only that he be quiet during play.

The man, in his early 30s, remained in his seat throughout the match, newly deployed security guards warily surrounding the court. He then was taken away by police during the next match, between Germans Boris Becker and Marc Goellner, to be questioned for 90 minutes. He told police he flew in from Frankfurt Monday night and camped outside Wimbledon overnight on a queue for one of the 600 Centre Court passes available to the public each day at \$27 apiece.

Authorities did not identify the man, offer a motive for his actions or indicate

whether he was armed.

"He was not arrested," tournament referee Alan Mills said. "When asked to leave, the man was happy to comply. The Championship security guards have been instructed to refuse this spectator access to the grounds for the duration of the Championships."

"There's nothing I can do about it," Graf said. "And I don't think too much about it, either. I was surprised he was there again today, but I don't take it too seriously."

No. 2 seed Martina Navratilova began

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