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Life in the Ruins of Detroit

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History Workshop Journal, Volume 63, Issue 1, 1 March 2007, Pages 288–302,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/hwj/dbm022>

Published: 01 March 2007

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To American sports fans, Detroit might have seemed like it was on a roll in 2006. In February the city hosted the nation's signature event, the Super Bowl, the National Football League championship game that is preceded by a week-long debauch revolving around football, corporate culture and expensive parties. The NFL awards the Super Bowl to cities several years in advance and Detroit made cleaning itself up an obsession. It ended up receiving good marks for the appearance of its central business district and the way it handled thousands of visitors.

In October Detroit was the site of a more spontaneous sporting event, the World Series, the best-of-seven-game championship of Major League Baseball. Two games of the series took place in the new 350 million-dollar ballpark that is next to the new...

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Online ISSN 1477-4569

Print ISSN 1363-3554

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