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IN YOUR WORDS

FIFA chief in charge, unscathed
If he doesn't step down he is condoning the corruption. And his policy of opening up the World Cup is a failure. He should admit his mistakes and resign if there is to be semblance of real change at FIFA.

IBIVI, TORONTO

We are constantly told that playing sports builds the character of our youth. But you can't help but notice that as you go higher and higher in the sports world, individuals seem to have less and less character — both the players, on average, and the owners, almost always. Perhaps we would be better off encouraging our kids to spend their spare time doing some kind of community service work instead.

PETER ZENGER, NEW YORK

When the organization sits on millions, and local associations are given or ask for money based on what they are prepared to vote for, any hope of a fair and democratic process flies out the window. It seems almost designed to permit corruption.

OPPOSEBADTHINGS, UNITED KINGDOM

Sunnis fleeing ISIS find little help
This is exactly why the U.S. can never make a dent in the problems in the Middle East. It is time to recognize that the hate the various sects of Islam have for each other is not quenchable by outsiders. It must be controlled by a strongman, or it must be resolved by the people who decide that these age-old differences are worthless when compared to the loss of human life and the loss of a future for their children.

JUSTICE HOLMES, CHARLESTON

This is the Americans' doing from 2003 when we needlessly began a shock-and-awe campaign that began to ruin Iraq, then when the government was deposed we accentuated sectarian divisions. I feel only despair at what we have wrought.

NANCY, GREAT NECK

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1940 King Leopold Capitulates
King Leopold III of the Belgians yesterday [May 28] capitulated. Premier Hubert Pierlot branded the act illegal under Belgium's 100-year-old Constitution and announced his countrymen will serve with the Allies at the front and behind it. Immediate consequences of the capitulation were: The Belgian government in Paris prepared to fulfill formalities removing Leopold from the throne. He had treated with the Germans without obtaining the counter-signature of at least one Minister as the Constitution stipulated. The Belgian Army in the North laid down its arms at 4 a.m.

1965 Hussein: Jordan Will Retaliate
AMMAN King Hussein of Jordan declared today [May 28] that Israeli border attacks endanger "regional security and world peace." He warned that Jordan "will retaliate the next time Israel violates truce provision." The king summoned the ambassadors of Britain, France and the United States and cited the "provocative" attacks by Israeli forces on three border villages last night. A government spokesman charged that Israel prepared for the action by distributing a memorandum at the UN Security Council accusing Jordan of blowing up two houses at Affula in Israel.

Find a retrospective of news from 1887 to 2013 at [iht-retrospective.blogs.nytimes.com](#)

Walter Byers, who led N.C.A.A., then vilified it, dies at 93

BY BRUCE WEBER

Walter Byers, who as executive director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association for more than three decades forged a moneymaking colossus from the concept of the student-athlete only to denounce, finally, the college sports

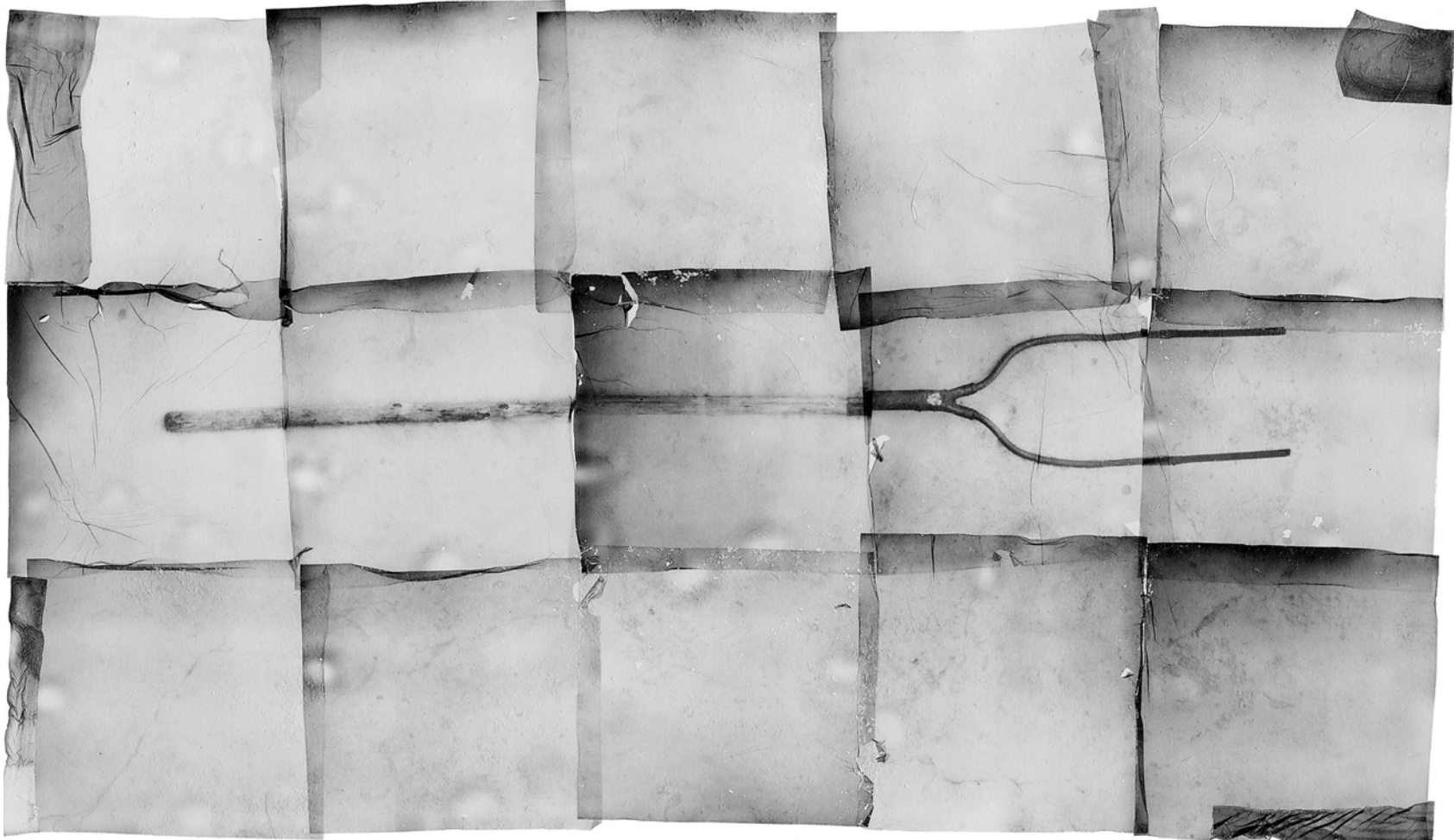
OBITUARY

world he had wrought as corrupt and unfair, died on Tuesday at his home near Emmett, Kan. He was 93.

The cause was a urinary tract infection that had entered his bloodstream, his son Fritz said.
Mr. Byers was one of the 20th century's most powerful sports figures, even if he never appeared on the playing field and was rarely in the public eye. When, in 1951, he was named the first executive director of the N.C.A.A., an organization established nearly half a century earlier at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, ostensibly to monitor and regulate college sports, it had never effected much influence or power.

And he was hardly a formidable figure; his previous job, his son said, was

The landscape of memory



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ZHANG XIAO



GOING HOME
The Chinese photographer Zhang Xiao, once a newspaper photographer and now an award-winning artist, went back to the city of his birth, Yantai in Shandong Province, to produce several series that examine memory, family and sense of place. Mr. Zhang uses a variety of techniques in his photography. In

the series "Shift," he used instant-photography chemicals on paper to create ethereal collages that suggest the changeable nature of memory. These include "Aunt's Fork," 2015, top; "A Portrait of Xi Jinping at Uncle Zhao's Home," 2015, above right; and "Eldest Sister in Her Barber Shop. 2012," at right.



REPURPOSED STYLE
In the "Relatives" series, Mr. Zhang borrowed the techniques sometimes practiced by photographers in rural parts of China, who use their laptops to create composite images by superimposing their subjects onto elaborate backdrops, like "Second Eldest Sister," 2015, far left. The Blindspot Gallery in Hong Kong is showing Mr. Zhang's work in "About My Hometown," through June 27.



ROBERT WALKER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Under Mr. Byers's tenure, the business of college sports became hugely lucrative.

N.C.A.A.'s control of television rights was undue interference in their business.

The case went to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the colleges and allowed universities and leagues to sell whatever games they could, a decision that resulted in a vast expansion of games on television and money pouring into college athletic departments and football conferences. Mr. Byers and the N.C.A.A. managed to make up a good deal of the lost revenue

by aggressively marketing basketball in general and the N.C.A.A. tournament — popularly known as March Madness — in particular, a television product that has proved almost limitlessly lucrative.

For much of his tenure, Mr. Byers was an ardent advocate of the student-athlete concept. But as his tenure grew closer to its end, he viewed the college sports landscape with increasing cynicism, recognizing, he said, that the high stakes of the sports business had led to rampant corruption and made the notion of amateurism quaint and outdated and the N.C.A.A.'s insistence on maintaining it hypocritical.

Walter Byers was born on March 13, 1922, in Kansas City, Mo., where he grew up and graduated from Westport High School, where he played center on the football team. He attended the University of Iowa but never graduated.

Mr. Byers was married and divorced three times. In addition to his son Fritz, his survivors include another son, Ward; a daughter, Ellen; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Daniel E. Slotnik and Elisa Cho contributed reporting.

Still clinging to secrecy in Britain



Alan Cowell

LETTER FROM EUROPE

LONDON What do we really know about events that mold the national narrative? In this era of digital information harvested by whistle-blowers, who draws the line in the contest between security and openness? Is it, indeed, surprising that some might suspect the maneuvers of a hidden cabal of power and privilege narrowing the limits of disclosure?

The questions intrude insistently in this country with its reflexive reverence for official secrecy, despite — or perhaps because of — years of investigations and inquiries that have sometimes offered illumination and sometimes achieved the opposite.

Most notable at the moment is the panel investigating the Iraq war in 2003, named for its head, Sir John Chilcot, a retired civil servant. Although it began its work in 2009, it has yet to produce a final report on its interviews with 129 witnesses and its scrutiny of 150,000 government documents including confidential exchanges between Prime Minister Tony Blair and President George W. Bush.

Months of dispute between Mr. Chilcot and high government officials have turned on Mr. Blair's deliberations when he took Britain to war alongside the United States on the basis of falsehoods about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction and in the face of overwhelming public opposition.

Not only have government officials sought to limit publication of these exchanges, but Mr. Blair and other senior figures have been given time to reply to their critics — a process that could last into next year.

"There is a danger that the pattern of delay looks like an establishment stitch-up," said Tim Farron, a Liberal Democrat politician.

Mr. Chilcot's is only one of a series of inquiries into issues from royal shenanigans to child abuse that have provoked charges that, rather than shed light on transgressions, the authorities use them to airbrush official errors or at least to delay embarrassment.

Even the establishment of an inquiry deflects attention, enabling government leaders to argue that comment on the issue at hand would be "inappropriate," a favored word in the lexicon of obfuscation. Others prefer a sporting analogy — kicking a problem "into the long grass," where controversy is out of sight and out of play, at least for the time being.

Nonetheless, there have been fuller accountings that inspired fiercer passions.

Lord Hutton's inquiry into the death of a British weapons expert, David Kelly, in 2003 convulsed the BBC with high-level resignations. The so-called Bloody Sunday inquiry into events in Northern Ireland finally drew a remarkable apology from Prime Minister David Cameron in 2010 for the killings by British soldiers of 14 unarmed demonstrators in 1972.

Then, there was the Leveson inquiry into the behavior of the British press in the phone hacking scandal that singled out Rupert Murdoch's newspapers here for harsh criticism and provoked calls for new and tighter press regulation. (Only now, in a separate court case, are Mr. Murdoch's tabloid rivals being brought to book for comparable transgressions.)

But the clamor for openness has just as often collided with a reflex sharpened by the undercover campaign against Islamic militancy. Last year, the terrorism trial of a 27-year-old law student, Erol Incedal, and a friend, Mounir Rarmoul-Bouhadjar, was held in such secrecy that some critics questioned whether British justice itself was in jeopardy.

"From time to time, tensions between the principle of open justice and the needs of national security will be inevitable," said Sir Peter Gross, one of Britain's most senior judges, who ordered an easing of some restrictions.

His conclusion pervades official thinking far beyond the struggle with terrorism.

Only last year did the authorities permit a public inquiry into the death of Alexander V. Litvinenko, a former K.G.B. officer poisoned with radioactive polonium in London in 2006. But there were limits. The head of the inquiry, Sir Robert Owen, made clear that some testimony concerning intelligence material would be heard in private and that "at least some of my final report will also have to remain secret."

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