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## IN YOUR WORDS

## Iran sends covert aid to Iraq

As heartless as it sounds, the best outcome for the U.S. is to just let our enemies fight each other. That means letting the Iranians and their Shiite proxies battle al Qaeda, the former Baathists, and their Sunni proxies in a protracted stalemate. This would be a reprise of the Iran-Iraq war, which kept each side in check. Saddam Hussein was a counterbalance to Iran; now, ISIS will play that role. To the extent ISIS is actively battling Iran, the less capacity they have to threaten the U.S. The same is true of Iran.

ADAM, SEATTLE

I truly believe a better way to sort out the shifting scenarios in the Middle East is to ignore each "nation's" borders and instead look at where Shia, Sunni, Baathists and Kurds hold power. Perhaps with an overlay of underground oil fields. These indicators ought to tell us who's up, who's down, who's in control and where in this endless maelstrom America fits.

PAULB, CINCINNATI

The most hated country by far in the region is the U.S.A. ... There are only two real local powerhouses in the region and those are Iran and Saudi Arabia. The total arrogance, ignorance and blindness of the U.S. has created most of the regional problems in the first place. It is time for the U.S. to end the sanctions against Iran and accept the role of Iran as a regional power.

THOMAS, SINGAPORE

## Iraqis accuse Blackwater in U.S.

Call them what you will but Blackwater guards are mercenaries. Most likely little will come of this effort at justice. As for the gory details, it really is for the history books, because most Americans have little stomach for more Iraq foibles. Truly a sad situation rooted in a tragic situation fostered by a ridiculous war.

JIM MCGRATH, WEST PITTSBURGH, PA.

See what readers are talking about and leave your own comments at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)

## IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

## 1914 'Jack' Johnson to Fight Tonight

The most important boxing match of recent years is certainly that which will take place this evening at the Velodrome d'Hiver, Paris, under the management of the Wonderland Français, when Frank Moran, the American pugilist, will do his utmost to wrest from the negro, "Jack" Johnson, the world's heavy-weight championship. Though the Velodrome d'Hiver is one of the largest boxing arenas in the world, there seems every possibility that its seating capacity will be taxed this evening.

## 1939 Horse Entitled to a Free Bite

**LONDON** The principle that a pony, as well as a dog, is entitled to a "first bite" at a human being became firmly established in British law today. All that matters is that the animal must possess an unblemished past. If so, the victim may not recover damages and his only legal remedy would be to bite back. This latest addition to the topsy-turvy land of jurisprudence was contributed in the King's Bench Division today by Mr. Justice Humphreys in setting aside a jury's award of £300 to a London woman who sued a dairy for injuries suffered when a milkman's unattended pony lunged, knocked her to the ground, pawed her and grazed her face with its teeth.

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

## Images of Kodak's hometown



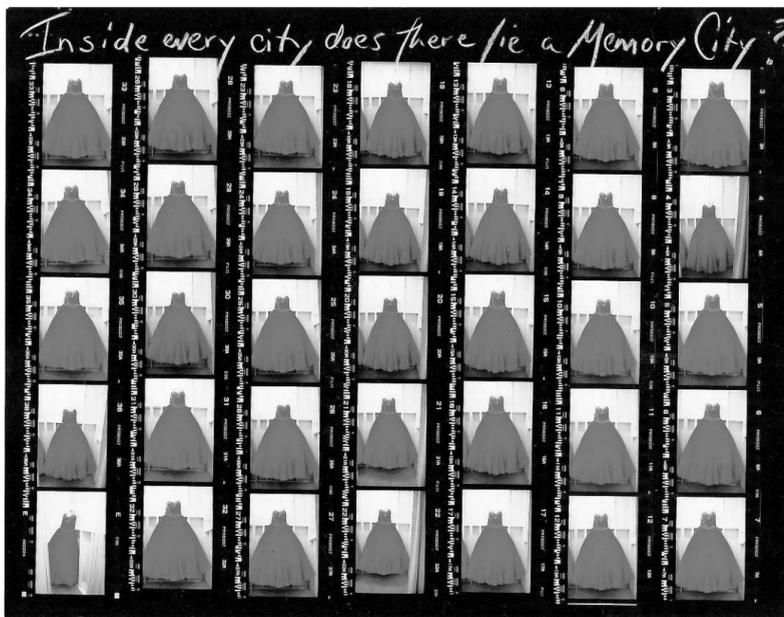
ALEX WEBB



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## ELEGY FOR AN ERA

The photographers Alex Webb and Rebecca Norris Webb decided to document the city of Rochester, N.Y., which for 125 years was home to Eastman Kodak Company, until it declared bankruptcy in 2012. Mr. Webb used his last rolls of Kodachrome, a vibrant color film that can now only be processed as black and white, to photograph

Rochester's inner city, top and above right. Ms. Norris Webb, who still uses film for all her work, responded to the medium's uncertain future by creating color still lifes and portraits. She punctuated the resulting book, "Memory City," with contact sheets of some of the dresses, bottom and above left, worn by Rochester women over the years. See more at [lens.blogs.nytimes.com](http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com)

## Eli Wallach, prolific actor who loved the stage best, dies at 98

BY ROBERT BERKVIST

Eli Wallach, who was one of his generation's most prominent and prolific character actors in film, onstage and on television for more than 60 years, died on Tuesday at his home in New York. He was 98.

## OBITUARY

His death was confirmed by his daughter Katherine.

A professed journeyman actor, the versatile Mr. Wallach appeared in scores of roles, often with his wife, Anne Jackson. No matter the part, he always seemed at ease and in control, whether playing a Mexican bandit in the 1960 western "The Magnificent Seven," a bumbling clerk in Eugène Ionesco's allegorical play "Rhinoceros," a henpecked French general in Jean Anouilh's "The Waltz of the Toreadors," Clark Gable's sidekick in "The Misfits" or a Mafia don in "The Godfather: Part III."

Despite his many years of film work, some of it critically acclaimed, Mr. Wallach was never nominated for an Academy Award. But in November 2010, less than a month before his 95th birth-

day, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him an honorary Oscar, saluting him as "the quintessential chameleon, effortlessly inhabiting a wide range of characters, while putting his inimitable stamp on every role."

His first love was the stage. Mr. Wallach and Ms. Jackson became one of the best-known acting couples in the American theater. But films, even less-stellar ones, helped pay the bills. "For actors, movies are a means to an end," Mr. Wallach said in an interview with The New York Times in 1973. "I go and get on a horse in Spain for 10 weeks, and I have enough cushion to come back and do a play."

Mr. Wallach, who as a boy was one of the few Jewish children in his mostly Italian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn, made both his stage and screen breakthroughs playing Italians. In 1951, six years after his first appearance on Broadway, he was cast opposite Maureen Stapleton in Tennessee Williams's "The Rose Tattoo," playing Alvaro Mangiacavallo, a truck driver who woos and wins Serafina Delle Rose, a Sicilian widow living on the Gulf Coast. Both Ms. Stapleton and Mr. Wallach won Tony Awards for their work in the play.

The first movie in which Mr. Wallach acted was also written by Williams: "Baby Doll" (1956), the playwright's screen adaptation of his "27 Wagons Full of Cotton." Mr. Wallach played Silva Vaccaro, a Sicilian émigré and the owner of a cotton gin that he believes has been burned by an arsonist. Karl Malden and Carroll Baker also starred.

Mr. Wallach never stayed away from the theater for long. After "The Rose Tattoo" he appeared in another Williams play, "Camino Real" (1953), wandering a fantasy world as a young man named Kilroy. He also played opposite Julie Harris in Anouilh's "Mademoiselle Colombe" (1954), about a young woman who chooses a life in the theater over life with her dour husband, and in 1958 he appeared with Joan Plowright in "The Chairs," Ionesco's farcical portrait of an elderly couple's garrulous farewell to life.

Eli Wallach was born in Red Hook, Brooklyn, on Dec. 7, 1915, the son of Abraham Wallach, who owned a candy store in the neighborhood, and the former Bertha Schorr. He graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn and attended the University of Texas at Austin. There he also learned



Eli Wallach in 2010, the year he was awarded an honorary Oscar for his work.

to ride horses, a skill he would put to good use in westerns.

In between appearances with Ms. Jackson, Mr. Wallach played, among other roles, an aging gay barber in Charles Dyer's "The Staircase" (1968), a political dissident consigned to an asylum in Tom Stoppard's "Every Good Boy Deserves Favour" (1979), an aged but mentally spry furniture dealer in a 1992 revival of Arthur Miller's play "The Price" and a Jewish widower in Jeff Baron's "Visiting Mr. Green" (1997).

And then there were films, dozens of them. In addition to his parts in "Baby Doll" and "The Magnificent Seven," he played the mechanic pal of Clark Gable's aging cowboy in "The Misfits" (1961), the story of a wild-horse roundup in Nevada, written by Miller and directed by John Huston, with a cast that also included Marilyn Monroe and Montgomery Clift. Mr. Wallach was also a lawless jungle tyrant subdued by the title character (Peter O'Toole) in "Lord Jim" (1965); a rapacious Mexican pitted against Clint Eastwood and Lee Van Cleef in Sergio Leone's so-called spaghetti western "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" (1966); a psychiatrist assigned to evaluate the sanity of a call girl (Barbra Streisand) on trial for killing a client in "Nuts" (1987); and Don Altobello, a Mafia boss who succumbs to a poisoned dessert, in "The Godfather: Part III" (1990).

He continued his film work well into his 90s. Even so, the theater remained his home base, and he said that he could never imagine leaving it. "What else am I going to do?" he asked in an interview with The Times in 1997. "I love to act!"

Emma G. Fitzsimmons and Daniel E. Slotnik contributed reporting.

## Britain sees the bright side of defeat



Alan Cowell

## LETTER FROM EUROPE

**LONDON** It wasn't only the soccer. It wasn't even just about sport.

When the England squad flew home early from the World Cup without a single victory in the early stages of the tournament, they joined a glum procession of the nation's fallen sporting warriors.

Days earlier, the rugby team completed a three-game tour of New Zealand that ended with three defeats. Hours before England's soccer team played a final, drab game to a 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in Brazil on Tuesday, the cricket team fell to Sri Lanka at home, losing with the penultimate ball of a four-day match.

There was a time when sporting figures from this country seemed bent on snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, heroes in adversity who wore the second-place medal almost with pride. As the poet Sir Henry Newbolt wrote in the 1890s, sport — a metaphor for life and national identity — should be played for its own sake, not "for the sake of a ribboned coat, or the selfish hope of a season's fame."

**In Britain, it is part of the spinmeister's art to suggest that defeat yields lessons for future success.**

But then came the London Olympics of 2012, when Team GB — meaning Great Britain, not just England — harvested a golden crop of medals for its runners, rowers, cyclists, tennis players, shooters and others. The raw pursuit of victory replaced gracious acceptance of defeat.

These days, the pendulum has swung back. Defeat is an option after all.

But that idea does not sit easily with those who make a living writing about the games other people play.

Alastair Cook, the once-triumphant England cricket captain, pronounced himself the right person for the job after leading the team to a string of losses. "Past glories must count for something," the sportswriter Mike Selvey said in The Guardian. But "Cook's last eight games in two draws and six defeats," the last of them against Sri Lanka. "There is not much to celebrate in that."

Roy Hodgson, the England soccer coach, ended the World Cup debacle with the understanding that he would lead the team for the next two years. "This is the way the World Cup ends for England," Sam Wallace wrote in The Independent, "not with a bang but a whimper." Only a single point from the Costa Rica draw placed the team "one rung above total humiliation."

In Britain, it is part of the spinmeister's art to suggest that defeat yields lessons for future success — even though teams like the New Zealand rugby squad, on a 17-game winning streak, seem to believe that victory itself is the more reliable tutor. "We've learned a lot," said the England rugby coach, Stuart Lancaster, "and we'll be more experienced the next time."

And Britain's own news media sometimes seems part of the contest, setting up its heroes only to strike them down.

But was it whimsical to suggest that sport mirrors broader national fortunes?

Just this week, Prime Minister David Cameron braced for defeat after a public campaign to oppose the appointment of Jean-Claude Juncker, the former prime minister of Luxembourg, as head of the powerful European Commission.

Mr. Cameron's priorities lie in managing the euro-skeptic passions that have long torn at the soul of his Conservative Party, so by courting a setback in Europe — where a consensus has formed around German support for Mr. Juncker — he may rekindle British reverence for doomed pluck. "I will go on thinking it is wrong right up until the end," he said of Mr. Juncker's appointment.

The parallels with sport were tested anew this week with Andy Murray's defense of the Wimbledon tennis title. Last year, he became the first Briton to secure the men's championship since 1936.

Like Mr. Cameron, he had much to play for. But Mr. Murray, of course, is a Scot and, with Scotland voting in an independence referendum in September, his fortunes may offer different omens altogether.

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