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# The New York Times

Sunday, September 13, 2009 Last Update: 9:35 PM ET

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## China Weighs Tariffs on Some U.S. Exports as Tensions Rise

By KEITH BRADSHAW  
5 minutes ago

China unexpectedly took steps toward imposing tariffs on U.S. automotive products and chicken meat in retaliation for President Obama's decision to levy tariffs on Chinese tires.

## U.S. Cost-Saving Policy Forces New Kidney Transplant

By KEVIN SACK 5 minutes ago

Medicare stops paying for anti-rejection drugs after 36 months, one of several anomalies that many in Congress hope to cure with this year's health care bill.

- The Caucus: Wilson Says He Won't Apologize Again
- Week in Review: Politics and the Age Gap

## Toxic Waters

### Clean Water Laws Are Neglected, at a Cost in Suffering

By CHARLES DUHIGG

In the past five years, companies and workplaces have violated pollution laws more than 500,000 times. But most polluters have escaped punishment.

- How Safe Is Your Water?
- Video: Coal in the Water
- Find Polluters Near You
- Post a Comment | Read (344)
- Replies From Charles Duhigg, Business Reporter

ON THE BLOGS

• **Diner's Journal: In the Kitchen of Momofuku Ko With Pascal Barbot**

## U.S. OPEN



Timothy A. Clary/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

### Federer Will Face del Potro in Open Final

By LYNN ZINSER 7:32 PM ET

Roger Federer beat Novak Djokovic, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5, in a semifinal match full of great shots. He will play Juan Martín del Potro, who routed Rafael Nadal, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

- Live Analysis of Clijsters vs. Wozniacki in the Women's Final

### Serena Williams Is Fined \$10,500 for Outburst

By DAVID WALDSTEIN 7:38 PM ET

Serena Williams was fined \$10,500 Sunday for her profanity-laced tirade Saturday night, but she is expected to play in her doubles final Monday with her sister Venus.



- Slide Show | Reaction | Calling Foot Faults
- More From the Straight Sets Blog | Go to Complete Coverage »

BOOKS OF THE TIMES

### Fasten Your Seat Belts, There's More Code to Crack

By JANET MASLIN 5:50 PM ET

"The Lost Symbol," Dan Brown's overdue follow-up to "Angels & Demons" and "The Da Vinci Code," brings sexy back to a genre that had been left for dead.



- Times Topics: Dan Brown

### Prosecutors in Iraq Case See Pattern by Guards

By JAMES RISEN 5 minutes ago

Prosecutors charge Blackwater guards repeatedly shot into the streets of Baghdad without regard for civilians.

MORE NEWS

- **Jets Respond to the Voice of a New Era** 8 minutes ago
- **Police Find Body in Yale Lab Building**
- **Iran Opposition Leader's Aide Is Freed** 18 minutes ago
- **News Analysis: A Somber Warning on Afghanistan**
- **Jim Carroll, Poet and Punk Rocker, Is Dead at 60**

## OPINION »

OP-ART  
**Better Signs of Trouble**  
Graphic designers' ideas for the terror-alert system.



- Dowd: Boy, Oh, Boy  
Comments (847)
- Rich: Obama's Summer
- Friedman: Afghan Policy
- Kristof: Body Count
- Editorial: Justice Delayed
- Op-Ed: Land, then Peace

## IN SUNDAY'S TIMES »

### Magazine

What happens when the novelist Margaret Drabble looks at herself?



## BUSINESS »

### Big Spenders? They Wish

Even before the recession, many lived beyond their means because incomes have fallen as the costs of middle-class life have risen.

## Week in Review

Internet democracy is a work in progress. (Don't text-message your dissent.)

## Sunday Styles

Walking to school, an issue that distills the anxieties of modern parenting.



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## Jim Carroll, Poet and Punk Rocker, Is Dead at 60

By WILLIAM GRIMES  
Published: September 13, 2009

Jim Carroll, the poet and punk rocker in the outlaw tradition of Rimbaud and Burroughs who chronicled his wild youth in “The Basketball Diaries,” died on Friday at his home in Manhattan. He was 60.

 Enlarge This Image



Andrew Serban/Getty Images

Jim Carroll in 2002.

The cause was a heart attack, said Rosemary Carroll, his former wife.

As a teenage basketball star in the 1960s at Trinity, an elite private school on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Mr. Carroll led a chaotic life that combined sports, drugs and poetry. This highly unusual combination lent a lurid appeal to “The Basketball Diaries,” the journal he kept during high school and published in 1978, by which time his poetry had already won him a cult reputation as the new [Bob Dylan](#).

“I met him in 1970, and already he was pretty much universally recognized as the best poet of his generation,”

the singer [Patti Smith](#) said in a telephone interview on Sunday. “The work was sophisticated and elegant. He had beauty.”

The diaries began, innocently: “Today was my first Bidy League game and my first day in any organized basketball league. I’m enthused about life due to this exciting event.”

By the end of the book, Mr. Carroll was a heroin addict who supported his habit by hustling in Times Square. “Totally zonked, and all the dope scraped or sniffed clean from the tiny cellophane bags,” the final entry read, continuing, “I can see the Cloisters with its million in medieval art out the bedroom window. I got to go in and puke. I just want to be pure.”

“The Basketball Diaries,” reissued in a mass-market edition in 1980, became enormously popular, especially on college campuses. In a film adaptation in 1995, [Leonardo DiCaprio](#) played the part of Mr. Carroll.

The writer’s good looks and flair for drama made him ideal raw material for rock stardom. “When I was about 9 years old, man, I realized that the real thing was not only to do what you were doing totally great, but to look totally great while you were doing it,” he told the poet Ted Berrigan in the 1960s. In the late 1970s, with the encouragement of Ms. Smith, he formed the Jim Carroll Band, whose first release, “Catholic Boy” (1980), is sometimes called the last great punk album.

James Dennis Carroll, the son of a bar owner, spent his childhood on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where he attended Roman Catholic schools. After the family moved to Inwood, at the northern end of Manhattan, he won a basketball scholarship to Trinity. There he discovered a love of writing and began spending time at the St. Mark’s Poetry Project in the East Village, falling under the spell of [Allen Ginsberg](#) and [Frank O’Hara](#).

Still in his teens, he published a limited-edition pamphlet of his poems, “Organic Trains” (1967), which, with its successor, “4 Ups and 1 Down” (1970), won him a cult following that was enhanced when The Paris Review published excerpts from his journals in 1970. “Living at the Movies” (1973), issued by a mainstream publisher, won him both acclaim and a wider audience.

His life was colorful. Hailed by Ginsberg, Berrigan and [Jack Kerouac](#) as a powerful new poetic voice, he became a fixture on the downtown scene. After briefly attending Wagner College on Staten Island and [Columbia University](#), he found his way to [Andy Warhol’s](#) Factory, contributing dialogue for Warhol’s films. Later he worked as a studio assistant for the painter Larry Rivers and lived with Ms. Smith and [Robert Mapplethorpe](#), the photographer. He chronicled this frenetic period in “Forced Entries: The Downtown Diaries, 1971-1973.”

In 1973 Mr. Carroll left New York to escape drugs. He settled in Bolinas, an artistic community north of San Francisco, where met and married Rosemary Klemfuss in 1978. The marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by a brother, Tom.

Mr. Carroll’s music career started by accident when Ms. Smith brought him onstage to declaim his poetry with her band providing background. Encouraged by the response, he formed his own band. It caught the attention of Keith Richards of the [Rolling Stones](#), who arranged a three-record deal with Atlantic Records.

The critic Stephen Holden described Mr. Carroll in The New York Times in 1982 as “not so much a singer as an incantatory rock-and-roll poet.” Like [Lou Reed](#), he had a mesmerizing power, evident on songs like “People Who Died” from “Catholic Boy,” a poetic litany of his dead friends that became a hit on college radio and part of the soundtrack for “E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial.”

The group’s next two albums, “Dry Dreams” (1982) and “I Write Your Name” (1984), caused much less stir. After writing lyrics for Blue Oyster Cult and Boz Scaggs, Mr. Carroll returned to the studio in 1998 to record “Pools of Mercury.”

Mr. Carroll published several more poetry collections — “The Book of Nods” (1986), “Fear of Dreaming” (1993) and “Void of Course: Poems 1994-1997” (1998) — as well as releasing several spoken-word albums.

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