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 this year's health care bill.

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

Federer Will Face del Potro in Open Final

By LYNN ZINZER

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 Martin 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 WALTERSTEIN

7:34 PM ET

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

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

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)

Prosecutors in Iraq Case See Pattern by Guards

By JAMES RISER

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

BOOKS OF THE TIMES

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

By JAY LENO

"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

MORE NEWS

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

THE SEARCH

Subtle Cues Can Tell an Interviewee 'Pick Me'
Jim Carroll, Poet and Punk Rocker, Is Dead at 60

By WILLIAM J. BURNS

Published November 19, 1999

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

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

As a teenager basketball star in the 1960s at Trinity, an elite private school on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Mr. Carroll led a bohemian life that combined sports, drugs and poetry. This highly unusual combination last a brief 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 "Rock Dylan.

"I met him in 1970, and already he was pretty much universally recognized as the last poet of his generation," the singer Paul Simon said in a telephone interview on Sunday. "He was sophisticated and elegant. He had beauty."

The decade began, innocently: "Today was my first Biddy League game and my first day in any organized basketball league. I am amazed 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 cooked, and all the dune scrubbed or crumpled dress, the tiny celluloid bags, the final entry read, continuing, "I can see the Counters with its mountain in medieval art out the window. I got to go to police. I just want to be pure."


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 what you were doing totally great, but to look totally great while you were doing it," he said the poet Ted Berrigan in the 1960s. In the late 1970s, with the encouragement of Mr. Smith, he formed the Jim Carroll Band, whose first release, "Cathedral 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 was a devoted basketball scholar to Trinity. There he discovered a love of writing and began spending time at the St. Mark's Poetry Project, East Village, which was filled with the patrons 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 success, "4 Ups and a Down" (1970), won him a cult following. It was enhanced when the Parlovr Review published excerpts from his journals in 1970. "Living at the Movies" (1973), issued by a mainstream publisher, was both acclaim and a wider audience.

His life was colorful. Hailed by Ginsberg, Berrigan and Jack Kerouac, becoming a poetic favorite, 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 flavorful period in "Forehead Enters 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 he met and married Rosemary Klenkens in 1974. The marriage ended in divorce. Is survived by his brother, Tom.

Mr. Carroll's music career started by accident. When Ms. Smith brought him outage to decry his poetry with his band providing background. Encouraged by the response, he formed his own band to capture Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones, who arranged a three-record deal with Atlantic Records.

The Steve Hopkins described Mr. Carroll in The New York Times in 1982 as "not so much a singer as an anachronistic rock-and-roll poet." Like Lou Reed, he had a mesmerizing presence, evident on songs like "People Who Died." A "Cathedral Boy," a "poet lyric 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, "Dream Years" (1982) and "I Write Your Name" (1984), caused much less stir. After writing lyrics for Blue Oyster Cult and Boy Scavenger, Mr. Carroll returned to the studio in 1990 to record "Pools of Mercury."