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Trump re-election campaign to deny credentials to Bloomberg News reporters



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Trump, citing U.S. farmers, slaps metal tariffs on Brazil, Argentina



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump holds a campaign rally in Sunrise, Florida, U.S., November 26, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

WASHINGTON/RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump ambushed Brazil and Argentina on Monday, announcing he would restore tariffs on U.S. steel and aluminum imports from the two countries in apparent retaliation for currency weakness he said was hurting U.S. farmers.

"Effective immediately, I will restore the Tariffs on all Steel & Aluminum that is shipped into the U.S. from those countries," Trump wrote in an early morning tweet that sent officials from both countries scrambling for explanations from Washington. He added that Brazil and Argentina were "presiding over a massive devaluation of their currencies."

In fact, the opposite is true: Both countries have actively been trying to strengthen their respective currencies against the dollar. The real and the peso have been buffeted by weakness partially linked to Trump's trade battle with China.

U.S. farmers, who have been hit by the U.S.-China trade war, represent a key demographic for Trump ahead of the November 2020 election. They have watched in vain as the trade war has hurt the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural products, allowing their Brazilian and Argentine peers to get rich off China.

Brazil foreign minister says he is not worried by Trump's tariffs

Argentine steel industry chamber says U.S. tariffs would hit production, employment

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"For many Brazilians, this smells like revenge for their

country's soybean farmers bonanza – they have benefited enormously from the U.S.-China trade war by replacing U.S. soybeans sales into China," said Kim Catechis, head of investment strategy at Martin Currie.

Representatives for the U.S. State Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, an avowed Trump fan who has sought closer U.S. ties, said in a local radio interview that he would call his U.S. counterpart, who he was confident would listen to Brazil's concerns.

"I don't see this as retaliation," Bolsonaro told Radio Itatiaia. "I'm going to call him so that he doesn't penalize us ... Our economy basically comes from commodities, it's what we've got. I hope that he understands ... and I'm almost certain he'll listen to us."

In a statement, Brazil's government said it was already in discussions with Washington. A source familiar with Brasilia's reaction rejected the U.S. claim of currency manipulation, noting the central bank was working to lift the real.

Argentine Production Minister Dante Sica said Trump's announcement was "unexpected" and he was seeking talks with U.S. officials. Additionally, Argentina's Foreign Ministry said it will begin negotiations with the U.S. State Department.

"We are trying to get more precision (about the an-

nouncement) and what impact it could have" both commercially and administratively, Sica said. "We do not yet know the magnitude (of the measure)."

Argentina's production ministry said in a statement the country has exported around \$520 million in steel and aluminum to the United States so far this year after exporting \$700 million in 2018.

CURRENCY QUESTIONS

Trump's accusation that the Brazilian and Argentine currencies were being artificially devalued was met with widespread skepticism.

In Brazil, the recent slide in the real has caused a public outcry and led the central bank to intervene, while Argentina put in place currency controls to steady its beleaguered peso.

Trump also urged the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates so countries "no longer take advantage of our strong dollar. Lower Rates & Loosen - Fed!"

Trump has repeatedly urged the U.S. central bank to lower rates to below zero, but Fed policymakers have been reluctant. Fed policy makers hold their next meeting on Dec. 10-11.

The Instituto Aco Brasil, the country's main steel lobby, said it was "perplexed" by Trump's decision. It said in a statement that Brazil's government could not be meddling with the real as the currency is free-floating.



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Trump re-election campaign to deny credentials to Bloomberg News reporters

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump's re-election campaign said on Monday it will no longer issue press credentials to reporters working for Bloomberg News, the agency owned by Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Bloomberg.

The news agency said following Bloomberg's announcement of his presidential bid that it would no longer critically cover the Democratic presidential candidates - including Bloomberg and his rivals - but would go on covering Trump. Trump's re-election campaign made the announcement. It was not immediately clear whether the Trump White House would change how Bloomberg reporters are treated. The White House did not respond to a request for comment.



FILE PHOTO: Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg addresses a news conference after launching his presidential bid in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S., November 25, 2019. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts/File Photo

Credentials enable reporters to more easily access rallies and other campaign events leading up to the November 2020 election. Members of the public must obtain tickets from the campaign and then wait in long lines to enter events.

"Since they have declared their bias openly, the Trump campaign will no longer credential representatives of Bloomberg News for rallies or other campaign events," Trump's campaign manager Brad Parscale said in a statement.

"We will determine whether to engage with individual reporters or answer inquiries from Bloomberg News on a case-by-case basis."

Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor and billionaire media mogul who owns the eponymous news organization, announced on Nov. 24 that he would seek the Democratic nomination for president. Separately, he is spending \$100 million of his own

money on digital ads attacking Trump.

In response to the Trump campaign announcement, Bloomberg News quoted editor-in-chief John Micklethwait as saying, "The accusation of bias couldn't be further from the truth. "We have covered Donald Trump fairly and in an unbi-

ased way since he became a candidate in 2015 and will continue to do so despite the restrictions imposed by the Trump campaign."

After Bloomberg announced his White House candidacy, Micklethwait released a memo stating the news agency would "continue our tradition of not investigating Mike (and his family and foundation) and will extend the same policy to

his rivals in the Democratic primaries."

However, he said, the business-focused news organization would continue "to investigate the Trump administration, the government of the day."



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Editor's Choice



A man fishes at a swamp near the coastal area of Semarang, which has been affected by land subsidence and rising sea level, in Central Java province



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Biden speaks during a stop in Algona



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Biden casts a shadow on the podium in Algona



Members of the Mexican National Guard keep watch the bullet-riddled building of the town hall of Villa Union, days after a gun battle between police and hitmen, in the municipality of Villa Union



British Columbia Premier John Horgan and Alberta Premier Jason Kenney are seen during a news conference after a meeting with Canada's provincial premiers in Toronto, Ontario, Canada December 2, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



Actor Lily James poses as she arrives at the Fashion Awards 2019 in London, Britain December 2, 2019. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner



People kiss in the snow in the Manhattan borough of New York City



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson attends a rally event in Colchester

Rice University has unveiled a new initiative to make higher education more affordable by dramatically expanding financial aid provided to students from low-income families to those with incomes up to \$200,000.

Full tuition scholarships and grants will be offered to students from middle-income families under a new financial aid plan titled The Rice Investment. Under The Rice Investment program, full tuition scholarships will be awarded to degree-seeking undergraduates with family incomes between \$65,000 and \$130,000 who are eligible to receive need-based financial aid. In addition, students with family incomes between \$130,000 and \$200,000 will receive scholarships covering at least half of their tuition. Support for students from low-income families will also be significantly enhanced under the program, and students with family incomes below \$65,000 will receive grant aid covering not only their full tuition, but also all of their mandatory fees and room and board. "Talent deserves opportunity," Rice President David Leebron said. "We've built on our already generous financial aid to provide more support to lower-income and middle-class families and ensure that these students have access to the best in private higher education."

The Rice Investment will also reduce the



burden of student debt. Beginning in the next academic year, degree-seeking undergraduate students from families with incomes up to \$200,000 who qualify for The Rice Investment will no longer be required to take out loans as part of their need-based financial aid packages. Instead, loans will be replaced by scholarships and grants. Students will still be expected to contribute toward the cost of attendance through moderate earnings from summer and academic year jobs.

The Rice University Board of Trustees has enthusiastically endorsed the initiative, which will substantially enhance the university's already robust financial aid.

Undergraduate Students From Families With Incomes Under \$130,000 Will Pay No Tuition

Rice University Announces New Program To Dramatically Expand Scholarships For Middle Class

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



"The Rice Investment will give more students from middle-income families an extraordinary opportunity at an extraordinary university," said Bobby Tudor, the chairman of the university's board.



The plan, which takes effect in fall 2019, will impact all degree-seeking undergraduates – including continuing students –

who are eligible for aid based on need. Some families may qualify for even more aid depending on their circumstances. Families with atypically large assets or certain unusual circumstances may not qualify for this need-based aid.

This initiative is intended to address challenges faced by families with moderate incomes. The average price of attending a private research university was just under \$60,000 before financial aid, according to College Board data. The median income in the U.S. for families headed by parents of a typical age with college-age students was \$90,120, according to 2016 U.S. Census data.

"This bold step reflects our founding principles," Leebron said. "When Rice opened

its doors in 1912, we didn't charge tuition. Rice changed its charter in 1965 to begin charging tuition, but immediately began offering scholarships to eligible students. This significantly builds on that legacy and on our commitment to make a Rice education accessible and affordable for students from all backgrounds.



"We have had a spectacular year in every sense, including strong endowment returns, a record-setting number of applications and a higher yield among those we did admit. As a result of our strategic planning last year, we set a priority on assuring greater access and affordability for both lower-income and middle-class families. We believe this is the right time to take a bold step in fulfillment of that vision." Rice is frequently ranked as one of the nation's best values among private schools because of its generous aid policies and because its annual tuition, currently at \$46,600, tends to be thousands of dollars lower than peer research universities. It is one of a select number of private higher education institutions that admits students from across the United States based on academic merit without considering their financial resources. Once students are admitted, they are awarded financial aid packages that meet their needs.



"The Rice Investment is just that – an investment in the limitless promise of all students who demonstrate talent, initiative and drive regardless of their background or their ability to pay for college," Leebron said. "We are determined to continue to reflect our roots and make our education affordable for all admitted students, whatever their financial background."

Rice alumni have long expressed interest in keeping their alma mater affordable for low- and middle-income students, Leebron said, and they will play an integral part in The Rice Investment. The university is undertaking a \$150 million fundraising campaign to support the program.

Expanding access and diversity in the student body is one of the goals of Rice's strategic plan, the Vision for the Second Century, Second Decade (V2C2). Rice is also one of the 30 founding members of the American Talent Initiative, an organization devoted to broadening access to higher education among talented students from lower-income families.

For more information on Rice, visit www.rice.edu. For more information on The Rice Investment, see <http://rice.edu/thericeinvestment>.

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SPECIAL REPORT

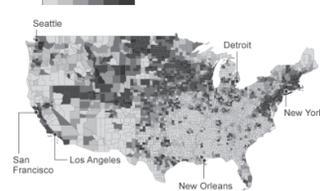
Homeless In US: A Deepening Crisis On The Streets Of America

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



They seem to be almost everywhere, in places old and new, no age spared. Sleeping on cardboard or bare ground, the homeless come together under bridges and trees, their belongings in plastic bags symbolising lives on the move. Many have arrived on the streets just recently, victims of the same prosperity that has transformed cities across the US West Coast. As officials struggle to respond to this growing crisis, some say things are likely to get worse. Vibrant Portland, Oregon's largest city, has long lured many. It is the City of Roses, of pleasant climate, rich culture and progressive thinking. It is also an innovation hub, part of what is called Silicon Forest, and new residents have moved here in these post-recession years attracted by its high-tech companies and their well-paid jobs. But the bonanza, unsurprisingly, has not come to everyone. Booming demand in an area with limited housing offers quickly drove the cost of living up, and those who were financially on the limit lost the ability they once had to afford a place.

How well US counties are doing
Vitality Index by US county



Many were rescued by family and friends, or government programmes and non-profit groups. Others, however, ended up homeless. The lucky ones have found space in public shelters. Not a few are now in tents and vehicles on the streets. "Even though the economy has never been stronger," Mayor Ted Wheeler, a Democrat, said, "inequality [is] growing at an alarming rate and the benefits from

a [growing] economy are increasingly concentrated in fewer and fewer hands... We have increasing disparity all across the United States, and that's definitely impacting people." His city is indeed not alone. Homelessness has increased in other thriving West Coast cities that are destinations for young, well-educated workers, like San Francisco and Seattle, where the blame has also largely fallen on rapidly rising costs and evictions. Exact numbers are always hard to come by but 553,742 people were homeless on a single night across the US in 2017, the Department of Housing and Urban Development said, the first rise in seven years. (The figure, however, was still 13% lower than in 2010.) Declines in 30 states were overshadowed by big surges elsewhere, with California, Oregon and Washington among the worst. Los Angeles, where the situation has been described as unprecedent-

ed, had more than 50,000 people without homes, behind only New York City, which had some 75,000.



Joseph Gordon, known as Tequila, has lived in a homeless camp called Hazelnut Grove since its creation in 2015, when Portland first declared a state of emergency over the crisis. "It's very scary. [The] people I have come across," said the 37-year-old, "are from every single walk of life. And the homeless population is getting bigger and bigger." Multnomah County reported 4,177 people homeless on a single night last year, a 10% rise from 2015 - many believed the number was even higher. Exposing

tensions, the president of Portland Police Association controversially said in July the city had become "a cesspool", a comment the mayor dismissed as "ridiculous". Tequila arrived from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2011 and said they (Tequila is a transgender man and asks to be referred by this pronoun) became homeless after losing the apartment they shared with a former violent partner. "Being out on the street you deal with all sorts of things [like] having to relax with living with rats. You also start to appreciate running water or when you can go to the bathroom anytime you want," said Tequila. (People usually thought they were Mexican because of the colour of their skin, and the nickname was in reference to Jose Cuervo, the tequila brand.)



The self-governed community of small wooden structures next to a highway had more than a dozen residents, half of them with some sort of income, Tequila said. "If there was access to actual affordable housing they would take it." In Portland, the rent of a one-bed flat is, on average, \$1,136 (£867), which is out of reach for those who rely on Social Se-

curity checks, topped at \$735 locally, or earn the minimum wage, \$12 per hour. (Officials said half of the 1,300 units to be created would be reserved to those with extremely low income.) Elderly people and minorities have been disproportionately affected, according to a study by Portland State University, which said technology could result in thousands of low-paid jobs being cut, probably making things even worse. "We have a housing market that's really unaffordable for folks at the lowest income level," said Shannon Singleton, Executive Director of Join, a charity that helps homeless people return to permanent housing. "There's a real lack of hope. Folks are struggling to see the ability to end their homelessness and get back in the [market]." While some defend Tequila's camp as a model for an alternative solution, authorities have said it will, eventually, have to go. No date has been set yet but there have been troubles with nearby neighbours recently.



Homelessness, in Portland and beyond, seems to be more visible than ever. Residents are growing frustrated with the smell of urine, human feces and abandoned objects littering public spaces and, sometimes, their own doorsteps. In certain places, there is the feeling that this is a fight being lost. But this is a crisis long in the making. Cuts by the federal government to affordable housing programs and mental health facilities in the last few decades helped send many to the streets nationwide, officials and service providers said, as local authorities were unable to fill the gaps. The current affordability problem is now adding to it. (Courtesy bbc.com)



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