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John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

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Tesla short sellers pile on pressure after most profitable trade in 2022

NEW YORK, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Fresh off their most profitable year ever, short sellers targeting Tesla Inc's (TSLA.O) stock are heaping more pressure on the electric vehicle maker led by Elon Musk.

Traders who aim to profit by selling borrowed shares and hoping to buy them back later at a lower price have increased their short positions on Tesla to about 79 million, according to data from analytics firm S3 Partners. That is up almost 4%, or \$325 million worth of new short sales, over the last 30 days, the data showed.

Tesla short interest stands at \$8.76 billion, or nearly 3% of the share float, down from \$14 billion a month ago, a decline reflecting the steep drop in Tesla's stock price.

Tesla shares fell about 65% last year. The decline accelerated after Musk decided to buy social media network Twitter, a move that some investors saw as a distraction for the billionaire chief executive. Shares in Tesla tumbled as much as 7.9% on Friday to \$101.81, its lowest since Aug. 12, 2020 before rebounding to add 1.2% at \$111.69. The Canada posts hefty job gains, raising chances of another rate hike

Hedge fund fees fall to lowest level since 2008 financial crisis -HFR

Wall St rallies as jobs, services data calm rate hike worries U.S. labor market strong at end of 2022; trade gap narrows sharply

"It looks like shorts are thinking the stock has some more downside risk," said Ihor Dusaniwsky, managing director of predictive analytics at S3 Partners. "As the stock price hits a floor or expected value for short sellers, they will start trading positions to realize their profits. ... We haven't seen that in Tesla yet," he said.

In 2022, Tesla was the most profitable short trade in the U.S. market, earning \$15.85 billion in paper profits for investors, according to S3 data. That was the best year ever for Tesla short sellers, but they have recouped only about a quarter of the \$60 billion in estimated losses from 2010 to 2021.

"Some shorts are certainly cashing out their gains while new shorts may be cycling in on the hopes that the downturn continues," said Evan Niu, an analyst at Ortex, which tracks real-time short interest data.

Traders are leaning toward bearish bets in Tesla options, with pricing implying a 53% probability that the stock will fall more than 12.5% over the next three months. Options positioning signals only a 31% probability that the shares will rise by more than 12.5% over the same period, Refinitiv data showed



The logo of car manufacturer Tesla is seen at a dealership in London, Britain, May 14, 2021.

U.S. FDA approves Eisai, Biogen Alzheimer's drug

Jan 6 (Reuters) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the Alzheimer's drug lecanemab developed by Eisai Co Ltd (4523.T) and Biogen Inc (BIIB.O) for patients in the earliest stages of the mind-wasting disease.

The drug, to be sold under the brand Leqembi, belongs to a class of treatments that aims to slow advance of the neurodegenerative disease by removing sticky clumps of the toxic protein beta amyloid from the brain.

Nearly all previous experimental drugs using the same approach had failed.

"Today's news is incredibly important," said Dr. Howard Fillit, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation. "Our years of research into what is arguably the most complex disease humans face is paying off and it gives us hope that we can make Alzheimer's not just treatable, but preventable."

Eisai said the drug would launch at an annual price of \$26,500. Biogen shares, which had been halted, were up 5% at \$285.19.

CureVac says COVID vaccine produced immune response in early-stage trial
Pfizer explores options for some rare disease, cancer drugs
BioNTech signs deal with UK for personalised cancer therapies
Initial patient access will be limited by a number of

factors including reimbursement decisions from Medicare, the U.S. government insurance program for Americans aged 65 and older who represent some 90% of individuals likely to be eligible for Leqembi.

Leqembi was approved under the FDA's accelerated review process, an expedited pathway that speeds access to a drug based on its impact on underlying disease-related biomarkers believed to predict a clinical benefit.

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said on Friday that current coverage restrictions for drugs approved under the accelerated pathway could be reconsidered based on its ongoing review of available information.

If the drug receives traditional FDA approval, CMS said it would provide broader coverage. Eisai officials have said the company plans to submit data from a recent successful clinical trial in 1,800 patients as the basis for a full standard review of Leqembi.

Lecanemab is intended for patients with mild cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer's dementia, a population that doctors believe represents a small segment of the estimated 6 million Americans currently living with the memory-robbing illness.

"This treatment option is the latest therapy to target and affect the underlying disease process of Alzheimer's instead of only treating the symptoms of the disease," FDA neuroscience official Billy Dunn said in a statement.

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Mexico's migration institute suspends operations in Tapachula after 'violent' incident

(Reuters) - Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) said on Friday it has temporarily suspended operations in the city of Tapachula, in Chiapas, after some staff were injured in what it called a "violent" incident involving migrants.

Tapachula, a city on the border with Guatemala, has been the site of previous clashes between authorities and migrants who are waiting for papers to be able to freely travel through the country.

Report ad
The INM said some of its staff members were hurt in a "violent eruption" caused by "pseudo-leaders" among migrants. Some of the INM's facilities were also damaged, it said in a statement.

Operations were suspended until further notice because the safety of its property and staff could not be assured, the INM said.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of mostly Central American migrants flee violence and poverty but must wait for permits to cross Mexico and reach the United States, or responses to their asylum requests to stay in Mexico.



Russians hold some \$3 billion in financial assets in the Bahamas, central bank says

(Reuters) - Financial institutions in the Bahamas have around \$3 billion in assets whose owners are linked to Russia, the Caribbean nation's central bank said late on Friday.

The Bahamas on March 12 ordered a halt all transactions with Russian entities that have been put under sanction by Western nations. read more

The central bank found \$420 million in deposits and \$2.5 billion in custody or trust assets "with ultimate beneficial owners from or connected to Russia" in Bahamian finan-

cial institutions that are licensed to serve foreign clients. Those figures apply only to the international banking and trust sector, which serve clients outside the country, and do not include any Russian assets that could be held in Bahamian banks that serve the local population, the central bank said.

It did not say what portion of those assets were held by Russians under sanction.

The Bahamas nation has vocally condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but appears to remain conflicted over how aggressively it can participate sanctions efforts without damaging its relatively small economy.

Editor's Choice



A soldier from Carpathian Sich international battalion fires an RPG while conducting manoeuvres near the front line, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, near Kreminna, Ukraine, January 3, 2023. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY REFILE - CORRECTING LOCATION



Brazil's President elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his wife Rosângela "Janja" da Silva, wave to supporters from a Rolls Royce on the day of his swearing-in ceremony, in Brasilia, Brazil, January 1, 2023. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Cesar, 34, a pilgrim from Mexico, walks on the San Antolin beach while continuing his pilgrimage in the "Camino de Santiago del Norte", in Llanes, Spain September 24. REUTERS/Nacho Doce



A staff member walks next to bodies in body bags at a funeral home, as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreaks continue in Shanghai, China, January 4, 2023. REUTERS/Staff TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Soccer Football - Death of Brazilian soccer legend Pele - Vila Belmiro Stadium, Santos, Brazil - January 3, 2023 A mourner reacts as Brazilian soccer legend Pele is transported by the fire department, from his former club Santos' Vila Belmiro stadium REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



People watch a TV broadcasting a news report on North Korea firing a ballistic missile toward the sea off its east coast, in Seoul, South Korea, September 25. REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji

BUSINESS

2,120 Hate Incidents Against Asian Americans Reported During Coronavirus Pandemic

Coronavirus: What Do Attacks On Asians Tell About American Identity?



Attacks on East Asian people living in the US have shot up during the pandemic, revealing an uncomfortable truth about American identity. (Photo/ Getty Images)

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

More than 2,100 anti-Asian American hate incidents related to COVID-19 were reported across the country over a three-month time span between March and June, according to advocacy groups that compile the data. The incidents include physical attacks, verbal assaults, workplace discrimination and online harassment. The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action launched a hate incident reporting website on March 19 when the coronavirus was becoming widespread across the U.S. and the media began reporting violent incidents targeting Asian-Americans. The online tool is available in multiple languages and allows users to report the information with the promise that personal information will be kept confidential. On Wednesday, the advocacy groups released an analysis of the incidents reported through June 18 in California, where about 40 percent of the 2,120 hate incidents took place. The groups released the national data to CBS News after an inquiry. Of the 832 incidents reported in California, many included anti-Asian slurs and

references to China and the coronavirus. One assailant yelled about "bringing that Chinese virus over here" during an attack against an Asian-American man at a San Francisco hardware store on May 6.



The assailant reportedly also said "Go back to China," "F--- you, Chinaman" and "F--- you, you monkey." In another San Francisco incident on June 9, someone threw a glass bottle at a woman putting her child in a car seat and yelled, "Go home Ch---k." And in Santa Clara on June 16, a man kicked a woman's dog and then spat at her, saying, "Take your disease that's ruining our country and go home."

"These are real people just living their lives and encountering this kind of hate," said Cynthia Choi, the co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, on

Wednesday." Though she was not born in the US, nothing about Tracy Wen Liu's life in the country felt "un-American." Ms Liu went to football games, watched Sex and the City and volunteered at food banks. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the 31-year-old didn't think anything of being East Asian and living in Austin, Texas. "Honestly, I didn't really think I stood out a lot," she says.

That has changed. With the outbreak of the pandemic that has killed around 100,000 people in the US, being Asian in America can make you a target - and many, including Ms Liu, have felt it. In her case, she says a Korean friend was pushed and yelled at by several people in a grocery store, and then asked to leave, simply because she was Asian and wore a mask.



Members of the Asian American Commission gather in Massachusetts to condemn racism. (Photo/Getty Images)

In states including New York, California, and Texas, East Asians have been spat on, punched or kicked - and in one case even stabbed. Whether they have been faced with outright violence, bullying or more insidious forms of social or political abuse, a spike in anti-Asian prejudice has left many Asians - which in the US refers to people of east or southeast Asian descent - wondering where they fit in American society.

"When I first came here five years ago, my goal was to adapt to American culture as soon as possible," says Ms Liu. "Then the pandemic made me realize that because I am Asian, and because of how I look like or where I was born, I could never become one of them." 201

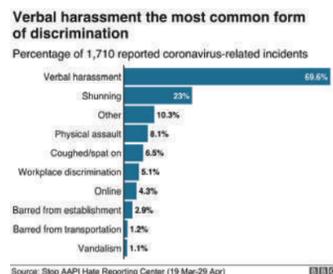
After her friend's supermarket altercation, she decided to get her first gun. Authorities in New York City and Los Angeles say that hate incidents against people of Asian descent have increased, while a reporting centre run

by advocacy groups and San Francisco State University says it received over 1,700 reports of coronavirus-related discrimination from at least 45 US states since it launched in March. Police in at least 13 states, including Texas, Washington, New Jersey, Minnesota and New Mexico, have also responded to reported hate incidents. Critics say those at the very top have made things worse - both President Donald Trump, and Democratic hopeful Joe Biden have been accused of fuelling anti-Asian sentiment to varying degrees with language they've used while talking about China's role in the outbreak.

And for many Asian Americans, it can feel as though, in addition to being targeted, their identity as Americans is being attacked.

Statistics on Anti-Asian incidents in the US:

One third of people surveyed said they had witnessed someone blaming Asian people for the pandemic; 1,710 incidents reported to STOP AAPI HATE - 15% of those cases involved physical assault or being coughed on or spat at; More than 100 individual incidents reported in the media; 133 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination recorded by the New York City Commission on Human Rights - compared to 11 in the same period last year. The commission has intervened in 91 cases; 14 Asian-bias hate crimes investigated by police in New York.



More than 100 alleged hate incidents reported to civic groups and police departments in Los Angeles
 Six reports of bias incidents reported to police in Seattle
 There has been a surge in anti-Asian hate on extremist web communities

Sources: Ipsos, STOP AAPI HATE, New

York City Commission on Human Rights, New York City Police, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Rights, Seattle Police, Network Contagion Research Institute, BBC research

Some Asians have also reported being refused service from hotel rooms, or Uber rides, as a result of their ethnicity.

Matt (not his real name), a Chinese American emergency room doctor in Connecticut, noticed that several patients asked to be admitted to hospital because they said an Asian person had coughed near them. He experienced what appeared to be anti-Asian bias more personally, when he tried to treat a patient thought to have Covid-19.

"I had my protective equipment on, walked in and introduced myself. Once they heard my surname, they were like 'don't touch me, can I see someone else - can you just not come close to me'."

Many other minorities face more "overt types of discrimination which are worse", Matt says - but he fears that incidents such as what he experienced would be demoralising for medical workers.

"This is a pretty stressful time - we're working a lot more, wearing very uncomfortable equipment all the time, and a lot of us are getting exposed to Covid-19." (Courtesy <https://www.bbc.com/>)



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COMMUNITY

Covid Crisis On Campus

How Colleges Are Dealing With High-COVID Case Counts On Campus

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



Cases of COVID-19 on college campuses are on the rise across the country. In the first week of spring semester, the University of Georgia reported nearly 1,000 positive cases, more than any week so far in the pandemic. At Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, the last 7 days saw 1,196 confirmed cases. At Penn State University, the positive case count hit a 12-month high.

Cases are spiking on college campuses because, despite the rapid spread of the omicron variant, most schools are beginning their spring semesters in-person. Just 14% of colleges are beginning the semester online, according to new data from the College Crisis Initiative. This time last year, before there were vaccines, about 40% of colleges started online.

"You feel the stress on campus," says Aisha Ghorashian, a senior at the University of Oregon. Despite having a student body that is more than 96% vaccinated, her university logged 960 COVID-19 cases in the first week of January as students returned to campus. Ghorashian was one of them.

"People, I think, don't feel safe," she says. "You see that double masking and you see those N95s that I've never seen people wear before." When NPR spoke with her, she was out of isolation - sporting a blue surgical mask as she sat in the law school building, students milling around behind her. Ghorashian is surprised that things seem to be, for the most part, business-as-usual. And she's not the only one.

"Across the board, the faculty, staff and students were shocked that we decided not to be online," Ghorashian says. "Even though the data showed that there is going to be a surge."



Rising case counts puts pressure on campus

resources
 In the past two years, colleges have worked non-stop to adapt to the pandemic and return to in-person classes safely. By the fall of 2021, more than 1,100 campuses required vaccines and many more instituted indoor masking policies; the collective sense among schools was they'd cracked the code of living with COVID-19. Plus, colleges are some of the most vaccinated places in the country. By September 2021, 74% of college students had received one dose of the vaccine - compared to 54% of the general population in that same month, according to a study by the COVID States Project. But still, the omicron variant has taken campuses by storm.

"It's a crisis," says Gerri Taylor, co-leader of the COVID Task Force for the American College Health Association. "I think the numbers we're hearing about are, at this point, underreported." Taylor says the biggest worry for colleges is their capacity to handle "rapidly increasing" case numbers.

"In trying to isolate [students], they need resources in terms of housing, staffing to track them," says Taylor. "They need staff to test them and to record all that ... to have a sense of how many kids on campus are sick."
You feel the stress on campus ... people, I think, don't feel safe ... you see that double masking and you see those N95s that I've never seen people wear before.

A big part of Taylor's job is to work with health directors on campus to coordinate their COVID response. One campus director recently told her: "We have never, through even this entire pandemic, been in a situation as difficult as this one right now in January of 2022."

Colleges are deploying emergency measures as they scramble to deal with the surge in cases. Some schools are using hotels to house students who test positive. At California Polytechnic State University, students who test positive are offered a \$400 gift card to the campus store if they move home to isolate.

Students are in limbo as they anxiously watch case counts go up
 For students, there's a lot of uncertainty around how this semester will pan out. Senior Sophia Kriz is back on campus at Dartmouth College. The school is requiring all students to get a booster shot by the end of this month. It also implemented weekly testing and moved most of the social activities online, although classes remain in-person.

Even with all those precautions, Kriz is worried the high numbers of positive cases on campus could shut it all down.



"It sort of feels like we're in a state of limbo," she says, "We're all on campus, but you know, we're all just sort of waiting to hear...how things are going..."

Kriz is in the middle of planning rush for her sorority. They know the first round of recruitment events will be virtual, but beyond that, it's all up in the air. So, they're planning for two alternate universes - one where their social life stays virtual, and one where omicron eases up. For Kriz, a lot of things in the near future are laced with that same uncertainty. As she dives into her final semester of college, Kriz is just glad to be on campus and getting as close to a typical senior year as possible.

"All I can do from there is just hope that, you know, things get a little more normal," she says. (Courtesy npr.org)

Related

Colleges with high vaccination rates must now decide if they'll require boosters

This week, Wesleyan University in Connecticut held its first booster vaccine clinic on campus. CJ Joseph, a first-year student still figuring out what to major in, wasted no time signing up.

"I was like, 'Heck, yes, I will be the first person to get it' " says Joseph, who was one of the first students to get the shot at Wednesday's clinic at Beckham Hall.

Convenience was a major selling point. "I have a lot of work to do," Joseph explains. "Being able to walk like a good four minutes just to get my COVID vaccine made it so much easier for me and I didn't have to spend money to get an Uber to go over to Walgreens or to CVS." The liberal arts campus, which serves about 3,000 students, will require COVID-19 booster shots for those on campus this spring. It is one of the first colleges to do so.



A nurse administers a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine during a City of Long Beach Public Health mobile vaccination clinic at the California State University, Long Beach campus. Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images

"There's no good reason to hesitate," says Michael

Roth, the president of Wesleyan University. "Some people don't like to be first. But in this case, being first for public health doesn't seem to be a particularly risky place to be."

More than 1,000 colleges across the country required COVID-19 vaccines for students and staff this year, according to data from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

With the CDC recommendation that all adults get booster shots, colleges now must weigh how to incorporate the additional dose into their pandemic response plans.

For now, many schools are simply encouraging students and staff to get the extra dose. Among them are Duke University, an early adopter of a campus vaccine mandate last spring. Rutgers, largely cited as the first U.S. university to require COVID-19 vaccinations, issued a statement saying "we have no impending plans to require boosters for any community member." But administrators are encouraging "everyone to take advantage of booster shots as a way of increasing their personal protection against the virus."



For one small college, a booster requirement was an easy decision

At Wesleyan, Roth says there were some colleagues who questioned making it a requirement, insisting that compliance would be high anyway among a student population that was already nearly all vaccinated. He says requiring the booster makes it a social norm rather than an individual decision.

"The majority of our people would have gotten the booster without the encouragement," he says, "but we want to get the rate up as high as possible."

He points to other vaccine requirements on the college campus, like meningitis and measles, mumps and rubella, noting that much of the ambivalence he sees comes from the politicization of the COVID-19 vaccine. "It just seemed like our obligation," he says.

Joseph, who is at high risk due to asthma, is grateful for that clear message.

"I really appreciate the fact that it is required that we get our booster shots," Joseph says, "because I feel like there are people who kind of view next step shots as a 'Oh, whatever. I don't really have to get it'."

The mandate, Joseph says, plus the ease of access, makes the campus feel safer.

About an hour after Joseph got the booster, Hallie Stemberg, a junior studying history and French, waited in line to get hers. She saw friends in line; she caught up with them to talk about Thanksgiving break and the upcoming needle they were

bracing for.



"People are excited and ready to have it over with," she said after she'd gotten the shot. "Everyone's like, 'I'm just going to manifest that I will not be sick [with side effects] because we don't have time. We have finals.' I have presentations next week and papers to do the week after that, so I'm just trying to get it out of the way."

Will more campuses require a booster shot?

One question that colleges and universities still need to answer is, will the CDC update the definition of what "fully vaccinated" means, given that boosters are now encouraged for all adults? "Fully vaccinated, that term is extremely important to determine what that means for the community," explains Gerri Taylor, co-chair of the American College Health Association's COVID-19 task force. "If, in fact, the CDC says that fully vaccinated means having a booster within six months of getting your vaccine, as an example, then the colleges may put that into their requirements."

Her organization will issue guidance to colleges once that happens, but in the meantime, she recommends that colleges set up booster clinics on campus and encourage their communities to get an extra shot.

"Colleges are well prepared to do boosters," she says. They "have a captive population, and the stakes are there: We want students to be back in school and we've heard that over and over from the American Academy of Pediatrics and from students."



She points to two complicating factors: staffing and timing. A recent survey by the American College Health Association found the top two concerns for college health centers were staffing and burnout, because of the intensity and the duration of the pandemic.

When it comes to timing, there's not much left of the fall semester before finals and winter break. "Timing is so critical and has been throughout this pandemic," says Taylor. "So, do you start a booster clinic now? Or do you do it in January or February when students return for this spring semester?" Those, she says, are decisions colleges are making right now. (courtesy npr.org)