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Tripoli, Libya

On April 6, Libyan rebels led by militia leader Ibrahim Jathran announced their plan to gradually end an eight-month-old blockade of four eastern oil ports — a blockade that has cost the Libyan government billions in the form of lost revenue. The government told Reuters that two smaller ports will open immediately, while Ras Lanuf and Es Sider, the larger ports, will be released by the end of the month. Bloomberg reports that the OPEC member's crude oil exports could triple this month with an expected increase of 180,000 barrels per day.

Dallas, U.S.A.

Last year, the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team was deemed ineligible to compete in the NCAA "March Madness" Tournament. This year, the team suffered a 33-point loss a week before the start of the tournament and was seeded a lackluster seventh in the East. Then, on Monday, March 14, the Huskies, led by senior standout Shabazz Napier, made history by becoming the first seven-seed to win a national title. Napier and his squad cut down the nets following a 60-54 victory over the preseason No. 1 Kentucky Wildcats.

Assam and Tripura, India

814 million people are eligible to vote in what is shaping up to be the largest democratic election in world history. Indians in the northeastern states of Assam and Tripura headed to the polls on Monday, April 7, to begin a voting process that will span five weeks. The outcome of the election will award power to the nation's next prime minister, who will replace Congress Party leader Manmohan Singh. The leading contestants are: populist leader and Bharatiya Janata Party member Narendra Modi, and Congress Party member Rahul Gandhi, who is not a blood relation of Mahatma Gandhi but the son of a former prime minister.

Niiijima Island, Japan

One volcanic island — Niiijima — has "swallowed" another, CNN reports. Emerging atop the ocean's surface in November, Niiijima reportedly drifted towards its 40-year-old counterpart: Nishinoshima. The newly merged island off the east coast of Japan is one kilometer in diameter. According to The International Business Times, approximately 100 indigenous plant and 14 animal species had evolved on the islands since Nishinoshima's birth.

Mega iLL's: pizza and pot make one-stop munchie spot

BY CHASE CLAUSEN
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a restaurant where you could eat delicious pizza and smoke a bowl. No need for imagination.

Recently, a pizzeria by the name of Mega iLL's opened in Vancouver, Canada. Mark Klokeid, bone marrow cancer survivor and co-owner of the restaurant, believes that his ability to recover from a tough cancer was due in large part to medical marijuana.

Klokeid is now providing safe haven for cannabis users with a medical card to medicate at ease. His inspiration to serve marijuana in Mega iLL's pizza oil came during a trip to Cambodia, where he was fascinated by pizzas decorated in cannabis.

Mega iLL's has since sparked discussion throughout the nation regarding the United States' current marijuana policy.

The Guilford College student body is no exception.

First-year Larry Nichols referred to Klokeid's implementation of marijuana as an intelligent business strategy.

"It's a great idea on the owner's part," said Nichols. "Having a cannabis pizzeria increases the growth of the marijuana community. If it's going to grow as an industry, why not make money off of it?"

"Mega iLL's is pandering to a new demographic," said junior Chandler Zirkle. "There is high demand for such a product

with limited legal supply. I think this is a great business strategy."

As of now, 28 states have decriminalized non-medical marijuana, and two have legalized recreational use since 2012.

When asked whether marijuana should be legalized in the U.S., sophomore Jeremiah Long said, "I don't think there are any serious problems with marijuana. There could be serious issues with using it each consecutive hour in the day like eating candy."

However, according to Alvin Bronstein, director of Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, one problem associated with marijuana use involves children in middle and high school.

"The RMPDC reports a significant rise in the number of parents calling the poison control hotline to report that their kids have consumed marijuana," said Bronstein to USA Today. "While the numbers are small — about 70 cases last year — they have been rising consistently since marijuana became more available in Colorado in about 2009."

As a consequence of edibles like Mega iLL's Pizza, children are becoming more prone to both accidental and deliberate ingestion of cannabis. Many argue that this will continue to be an issue with the rise of businesses similar to Mega iLL's in the Northwest.

In this regard, Klokeid's novel business strategy could project the image of cannabis in a light direction by associating it with pizza, the face of fast-casual eating. The fundamental concern, however, remains: How to keep edibles out of the reach of children under the legal age.

