Medical marijuana spreads through West

Angie Wagner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With Montana's approval of a medical marijuana initiative, nearly three-fourths of Western states now have such laws, while only two of the 37 states outside the West have adopted them.

Why is the West so much more receptive to the idea? From a procedural standpoint, it's just easier to get pot issues on Western ballots because most states in the region allow such initiatives. Nationwide, 24 states allow citizen initiative petitions to put issues on the ballot by petition, bypassing the Legislature. Eleven of those states are in the West.

Activists and political scientists also say Westerners are less than other Americans to tell their neighbors what they can and can't do. Historically, Western states tend to be in front on social trends.

"I would guess many of the people who voted for it probably don't use marijuana, but they don't want to say their neighbors can't," said Steven Stehr, political science professor at Washington State University.

"Westerners have a stronger belief in kind of individualism in the old-fashioned frontier sense," said Sven Steinmo, a University of Colorado political scientist and board member for the Center of the American West.

The population also is newer than the rest of the country and states don't have deeply ingrained traditions, said David Olson, political scientist at University of Washington.

"Our politics in the West are much less constrained ... and it gives opportunities for initiatives like the death with dignity issue in Oregon or medical marijuana. You name it," Olson said.

Montana has become the 11th state in the country, and the ninth Western state to allow medical marijuana. The approval came even as Montana voted by wide margins to ban gay marriage and to re-elect President George W. Bush, a Republican.

"We always say in Montana we're extraordinarily independent, so we'll see Marijuanna, page 2

Marketing campaign targets excessive drinking

The project was created by 14 Cal Poly students as part of a two-quarter class
Nicole Stivers
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly three-fourths of Western states have legalized medical marijuana. Only two of the 37 states, outside the West, have similar laws. Above, a cancer patient holds a roll of Medical marijuana in Portland, Ore.

Four hundred posters with the slogan "Under Four!" went up around campus this week as part of a marketing plan with a new approach to reduce binge drinking.

The campaign, called The Cal Poly Reality is unique because it is student-driven and connects perceptions about alcohol usage to behavior.

The project is funded by grants from Cal Poly and Coors Brewing Company.

"I hope over time the campaign will change students' perceptions enough so they will feel comfortable changing their behavior to match their peers," ag business senior and campaign student director Kelly Swanson said.

The project was initiated as part of a two-quarter class supervised by marketing and management instructor Mitch Wolf. The marketing campaign was created by 14 marketing students and executed by Swanson and Shannon Wolf as a senior project.

Mitch Wolf said, the goal of the program is not to "legislate morality" but to educate students in order to reduce consumption and promote responsible drinking. Since most individuals model their behavior after their peers, Mitch Wolf said he wants students to know what their peers are doing. Mitch Wolf said he wants students to know what their peers are doing.

The social norms theory was developed at Hobart and William Smith Colleges after research showed students are more responsive to peer influence than scare tactics. The theory predicts that individuals overestimate the amount their peers drink as well as negative behavior related to alcohol usage.

The marketing students found this to be true for Cal Poly. The class created a survey that asked students about their own drinking habits and behavior related to alcohol consumption and that of their peers.

"Students perceived their peers as drinking more than they actually do," Mitch Wolf said.

The class sampled more than 500 students in March and used the results to create the foundation of their marketing campaign.

A variety of marketing tactics are being used to convey the "Cal Poly reality." The class created posters which give a statistic about students' behavior related to drinking and the fact that the average student consumes fewer than four drinks in a sitting. The students have distributed magnets and memo pads to freshmen living on-campus and to fraternities and sororities.

"Our goal is to target misconceptions," Swanson said. "We want students to know what their peers are actually doing, not what they think they are doing."

A new group of students will take over the project next quarter. They will conduct follow-up surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of the current campaign and determine if their tactics need to be adjusted to reach a larger audience. The class will also use the results to gauge if perceptions are beginning to change.

 Tribune mistake upsets Measure Q supporters

A mistake by The Tribune may have affected the outcome of the election, said "yes on Q" supporters, Tuesday.

A front-page headline on Oct. 30 accused the "yes on Q" organizers of aligning with partisan mailers and deceiving voters. The article claimed that slate mailers were used to mislead voters.

"They made a mistake," said Ryan Rich, a local farmer and co-coordinator of the measure. "They mixed up the word 'yes' and 'no.'"

The Tribune ran a correction Oct. 31, two days before the election.

"They satisfied the obligation to make a correction, but did not correct the error," measure supporter Tom Taylor said. "The retraction was unclear."

"It was the largest front page correction I have ever seen," Tribune city editor Rick Jackoway said. "I don't know how anyone could want more."

The Tribune said the effects were minimal.

"To think it affected the election borders on lunacy," Jackoway said.

— Karen Velte

Football faces Eastern Washington

Non-conference game comes after tough loss
IN SPORTS, page 8

Islam mixed with popular music
Feature on Muslim rapper 'Capital D'
IN ARTS and CULTURE, page 5

Weather Report

Tues: Showers 64°

Surf Forecast
Height: 5-7 ft.
Direction: NW
Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 5:05 p.m.
Marijuana

vote for contradictory things," said Jerry Calvert, political science professor at Montana State University in Bozeman.

The Montana initiative passed 62 percent to 38 percent, support that marijuana reform groups say was the highest ever for a medical marijuana ballot initiative.

Oregon voters rejected a measure that would have dramatically expanded its existing medical marijuana program. That may have been too ambitious even for the West, said Bruce Marks, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project.

Alaska, which also has an existing medical marijuana law, rejected a measure to decriminalize the drug, though marijuana groups were impressed that 43 percent of voters there supported it.

Outside the region, voters in Ann Arbor, Mich., and Columbia, Mo., approved local medical marijuana measures.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco has ruled that states are free to adopt medical marijuana laws so long as the marijuana is not sold, transported across state lines or used for non-medicinal purposes. The ruling covers only those Western states in the circuit. The Bush administration has appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Besides the favorable initiative process in the West, the region is also usually the start of progressive political movements that work their way East, said Keith Stroup, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

In addition to Montana, Western states that allow medical marijuana are Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state. Arizona has a law permitting marijuana prescriptions, but no active program.

Maine and Vermont are the only states outside the West with existing medical marijuana laws.

Tip #72: Fold this Mustang Daily into a trendy hat!
STATE NEWS

LOMITA — A small plane crashed into a home Thursday, apparently injuring the pilot as it flipped upside down after punching a hole in the home's roof, authorities said.

The Cessna 210 could be seen largely intact next to the home, though the crash sparked a fire, it was small and was quickly put out, said Battalion Chief Jerry Vandenberg of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

LOS ANGELES — With a little help from good weather, the Los Angeles area has had its cleanest air in 25 years, regulators said Thursday.

While the region's air quality remained the worst in the nation, it was cleaner this year than the air in Houston and the San Joaquin Valley under some standards, said Sam Atwood, a spokesman for the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge issued an order Thursday freezing about $600 million tied to a company that peddled allegedly fraudulent tax-avoidance schemes to doctors, federal officials said.

The Internal Revenue Service has filed a federal civil lawsuit to shut down Xelan Inc., a San Diego-based company that provided financial advice to physicians

“I earned capital in the campaign, political capital, and now I intend to spend it,” Bush said a day after he became the first president in 68 years to win re-election and gain term in both the House and Senate.

WASHINGTON — President Bush pledged Thursday for the fatal beating of President Arafat was reportedly fighting for his life Thursday at a French military hospital after losing consciousness, as anxious Palestinian officials transferred some of their 75-year-old leader's powers to Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia.

Doctors at Percy Military Training Hospital outside Paris, where Arafat was airlifted last Friday, quashed reports that he had died. But confession ruled as Palestinians issued conflicting reports about Arafat's condition.

Robert Brice Morrow, 47, was condemned for the 1996 slaying of Lisa Allison, who was taken from a car wash near her home in Liberty, Texas, east of Houston. Her body was found the next day in a river.

She declined further comment.

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The new Disney/Pixar animated film, 'The Incredibles,' features a clan of superheroes facing the everyday problems of an average family.

Anthony Breznican
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Superheroes are typically loners, not family guys. The powers of Superman, Spider-Man and Batman make them outcasts from the very society they protect, and drive them to hide their powers from even close confidants like Lois Lane, Aunt May and Commissioner Gordon.

But what if Wonder Woman was a soccer mom? Or the Hulk was a workaholic suburban dad who longed for the good old glory days?

This is the comic book game-changing premise of “The Incredibles,” the latest computer-animated fantasy from Pixar that follows the impulsive peddler of “Finding Nemo,” and “A Bug’s Life.”

“I just thought it was silly idea for a superhero movie,” said writer-director Brad Bird, a veteran of “The Simpsons” who also made the cult-favorite cartoon “The Iron Giant.”

“The concept is a superhero that is a little past his prime. Is he married? What if he married a superhero and who is that person?”

And what would it be like raising superpowered kids? Can you put the Flash in a corner for being hyperactive? Or ground a teenage Supergirl? Are the dynamics facing Bob and Helen Parr (also known as Mr. Incredible and Elastigirl) as they try to live with their children as a quiet, normal family following a government ban on the display of superhuman powers.

In “The Incredibles,” after a series of accidents in which the superheroes cause more problems than they resolve, all so-called “Supers” go into a sort of witness protection program to shield them from would-be villains who may seek to exploit the ban on their abilities.

“I was feeling that movies were magical things that were grounded. The stories I was invested in were things that couldn’t happen for very boring reasons,” he said. “It’s not that I saw myself as a superhero, more that I saw the mundane sort of grounding of the fantastic.”

He described “The Incredibles” as a mixture of his favorite things.

“I love superhero movies and TV movies and action movies, and I love my families, the family that I grew up with and the family that I have now with my wife and sons,” Bird said. “It’s all the stuff that I love rolled together into one crazy stew.”

While Mr. Incredible sneaks out at night to rescue people from minor disasters with his ice-blasting old friend Frozone (voiced by Samuel L. Jackson), his wife (voiced by Holly Hunter) juggles their teenage daughter Violet, their problem-making son Dash and their baby Jack-Jack.

But a villain named Syndrome (Jason Lee) is on the prowl, a one-time comic book geek who’s using a fortune earned from inventing gadgets to round up and destroy the heroes he once idolized who shunned him as a patsy. Soon the whole family is united, a la the Fantastic Four, in the fight against Syndrome’s mechanized terror, where they learn to disarm weapons of carnageous destruction while learning to cooperate with and trust one another.

If “The Incredibles” proves to be as big a hit as its Pixar predecessors, Bird said it will be for the same reasons that have made blockbusters out of movies of traditional comic-book heroes, the attention to the human part of superheroes.

“I think that people are fascinated by flawed gods,” he said. “I think the idea of powerful beings that have weaknesses of character is something that has always been fascinating, part of mythology, and it’s only natural that it would survive to this day under the guise of superheroes.”
Blasting corporate America through Muslim hip-hop

Anna Johnson

CHICAGO — When David Kelly, aka "Capital D," raps, he doesn't follow the mainstream hip-hop mantra: women, cars, and jewelry.

Instead, the Chicago rapper uses his rhymes to dish out praise for Allah, criticize the war in Iraq and blast corporate America.

Kelly is among a new group of Muslim hip-hop artists gaining popularity among Muslim-Americans looking for music that reflects both their mainstream music tastes and their religious beliefs.

“Muslims in the United States are not going away. They're part of the culture, but they're not creating their own culture,” Kelly said. “I try to show them that you can be creative, artistic, happy and still be Muslim.”

Islam is not new to hip-hop Nation of Islam and other nontraditional sects have influenced hip-hop through lyrics and images since the late 1970s, with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan repeatedly mentioned and his voice featured in raps.

But the new wave of Muslim-influenced rap music seeks to convey messages and images more in line with orthodox Islam.

“The music says I'm still an American, and I still want my culture. But I want to refine it so I can incorporate Islam into it, too,” said Mike Shapiro, 23, who created the Web site www.muslimhiphop.com earlier this year. “Muslims in America and Muslim youth really need this. They don't have anyone to relate to, so when they hear this music, it's soothing.”

Kelly recently performed before a crowd of about 80 on Chicago's South Side as part of a monthly event organized by the Chicago-based Inner-City Muslim Action Network. Audience members sipped on tea and smoothies as Kelly performed several songs from his latest album, "Insomnia." For religious reasons, Kelly performs only in venues that don’t serve alcohol when he is on stage.

“His stuff is really powerful and moving,” Sahel Khan, 22, said after Kelly's performance. “I think it's important to support music that's positive. People say they listen to music on the radio because they say they like the beat. But you can have a beat and the song can have a positive message.”

Kelly said his music hasn't always been politically charged. Before converting to Islam four years ago, Kelly, who was raised Catholic, said his music lacked a seriousness and discipline.

“Now I have a different agenda,” he said. “If I am going to put an album out, I have to say something.”

That kind of message-driven music also is at the heart of Remarkable Current, an Oakland-based record label that features several hip-hop artists. Though listeners may not realize the artists are Muslim when they first hear the music, they will notice the positive messages, said founder Anas C anon.

“I try to push an art out there that is loving and positive and a reflection of our spirit,” C anon said.

Yet Canon said he's had difficulty gaining acceptance from some in the Muslim community because of hip-hop's negative image and the debate in the Muslim world over whether music is haram, forbidden, under Islamic law.

Abraham Marcus, a history professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said theologians have been addressing the issue of Islam and music for centuries.

“The most conservative view is music is essentially an evil force. It excites passions and incites lust,” he said. “But the mainstream view is more tolerant. Mainstream authorities say music is admissible as long as it serves a good purpose.”

Some of the hip-hop artists practicing orthodox Islam who have hit the mainstream include Mos Def and Everlast. Others, such as Kelly, have a loyal following but haven't reached the masses.
Fall brings a feast of seasonal vegetables

L eaves are beginning to change color, the temperature is dropping and the promise of Thanksgiving treat is just around the corner. Ah, fall is in the air.

But despite all the tasty favorites Turkey Day brings to the table, in the produce aisle, there is a world of seasonal vegetables to explore. Here are five fall vegetables full of nutrients and flavor that will brighten your plate and spice up your season.

Broccoli

This vegetable has more than two-thirds of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) for vitamin C and 10 percent of vitamin A per half cup. It is also a good source of potassium and fiber. Vitamins C and A are both potent antioxidants that prevent cellular damage, which can reduce the risk of cancer.

Try steamed broccoli and an ounce of melted cheese to get a kick of calcium and flavor.

Kale

One of the lesser known vegetables in the produce aisle, kale is packed with various disease-fighting nutrients. Among them are vitamins A and C, which help ward off infections during flu season. This green, leafy vegetable also contains a good amount of calcium to help promote healthy bones. Squeeze a lemon over a kale and cabbage salad. Add some nuts or seeds to help fill you up.

Yams

This cold-weather squash boasts 82 percent of the RDA for vitamin A, which help ward off infections during flu season. This vegetable maintains water balance and helps regulate muscular activity. All women of child-bearing age need 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent neural tube defects in their offspring. Yams are a great source of folic acid.

Butternut Squash

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CLASSIFIED
Men's soccer wins in comeback

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Overcoming a 1-0 deficit, Cal Poly defeated UC Irvine 2-1 in a Big West Conference men's soccer match Wednesday night at Anteater Stadium.

Junior Nikki Elvebach and red-shirt freshman Matthew Robinson scored unanswered goals in the win.

After a scoreless first half, Kit Vitagliano scored an unanswered goal in the 68th minute to give UC Irvine a 1-0 lead.

Cal Poly answered with Elvebach's fifth goal of the season in the 68th minute. Robinson captured the win with his fifth goal of the year as well, scoring in the 95th minute.

Cal Poly made the most of its three shots on goal, scoring on two of them. UC Irvine attempted 20 shots, including five on goal.

Mustang goalkeeper Vincent Licciardi, a redshirt freshman making his first career start, recorded four saves for the win. Cameron Rossi had one save for UC Irvine. UC Irvine was called for 14 fouls, three more than Cal Poly. There were four yellow cards in the match — two on each team.

Cal Poly improved to 5-5-4 on the season and 2-4-1 in Big West matches while UC Irvine fell to 6-10-2.

Cal Poly returns home to host UC Davis for a non-conference match Saturday at 7 p.m.

The Aggies will officially join the Big West in 2007-08.

Dave defeated UC Riverside 3-2 in its only match last week as senior forward Ryan Shaw scored two goals, including the game-winner in the 85th minute. Shaw now has 41 career goals, a school record.

Shaw leads the Aggies in scoring this fall with seven goals and two assists for 16 points while Nicholas Luck has five goals and one assist for 11 points.

Davis lost its first three matches of the season to San Francisco, Santa Clara and Saint Mary's before rebounding.

Cal Poly is 5-5-3 against UC Irvine since moving to Division I in 1994. The Mustangs and Aggies are meeting for the first time since Cal Poly won 2-0 in 1994.

Next week Cal Poly will play three games to close out the regular season.

The Mustangs visit UC Riverside on Tuesday for a 2 p.m. makeup match. On Friday they will host Cal State Fullerton for a 7 p.m. match, followed by a trip to Cal State Fullerton on Sunday for a 4 p.m. makeup match.

Dodgeball: Poly's true underdog league

Dodgeball could be coming to Cal Poly in the form of an intramural league.

Erica Drummond  
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly may soon have a new dodgeball league in Intramural Sports.

The idea of having official dodgeball competitions was introduced to Intramural Sports this year. To test the popularity of the idea the Rec Center sponsored a dodgeball tournament this quarter.

"It was a huge success," said Paul Stannard, a mechanical engineering senior and an IM Sports Supervising staff member.

"Everyone remembers dodgeball from elementary school," Stannard said. "And I think they have good memories of it. It's a competitive game and people like being competitive."

Another tournament will be held March 3 to determine if the game has enough poplarity to become a league this spring or next year. Students can join for $20 per six-person team.

Both men and women can play and winners receive an Intramural champion t-shirt.

For more information, go to as.calpoly.edu/recsports/im or check the Rec Review booklet that comes out at the beginning of Winter Quarter.

Football looks for recovery against top team

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

After a loss to UC Davis, the competition isn't going to get any easier for Cal Poly football.

This weekend, the Mustangs face No. 21 Eastern Washington after falling to No. 11 in both the ESPNU/USA Today and The Sports Network polls following a 36-33 Great West Football Conference loss to Davis on Saturday.

Though it's a nonconference game, the Mustangs must continue to win to help secure a playoff spot.

The Mustangs are 7-1 overall and tied with Davis for first in the Great West at 3-1.

Cal Poly's eight-game winning streak, including last year's finale win, was the longest active streak in Division I-AA. Harvard (7-0) now has the longest streak at eight straight wins.

Eastern Washington has recovered from losing its first two games by winning six of its last seven games. The Eagles are the hottest team in the Big Sky Conference, but are second place with one loss.

Eastern Washington lost its first two games of the season to Nicholls State and Air Force, but beat Sacramento State 45-10 at home on Saturday.

The Eagles held the Mustangs to a paltry minus-34 yards rushing and amassed a 431-201 advantage in total offense.

The Eagles have combined a strong defense with 96 points on offense over their last two games, including a 51-7 win at Weber State two weekends ago.

The key to this week's game will be containing Eagle quarterback Erik Meyer who completed 20 of 33 passes for 261 yards and two touchdowns. Running back Darrius Washington rushed for 97 yards and two scores on 26 carries.

Cal Poly and Eastern Washington are practically strangers to each other. Both teams are meeting for just the third time. The Eagles won the series opener in 1994 in Cheney, 61-7, and the Mustangs returned the favor a year later, 52-35, in San Luis Obispo.

The Eagles are coached by Paul Wulff who has a 31-22 record. He was an assistant coach at Eastern Washington for six seasons prior to taking over the top job in 2000.

Wulff was an offensive lineman at Washington State from 1985-89 and played for such well-known names as Jim Walden, Dennis Erickson and Mike Price.

Eastern Washington will be the third Big Sky opponent Cal Poly has faced this season. The Mustangs — who have already beaten Idaho State and Montana State — have seven games to complete this season.

Cal Poly will also play at Sac State in the regular-season finale Nov. 20.