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Daily Egyptian
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Thursday, October 14, 2010

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Illinois eyes California's marijuana proposition

LAUREN LEONE
Daily Egyptian

David Yepsen says California is known for setting political trends in the United States, and that may be the case again if the state passes Proposition 19, which would legalize marijuana. "Things that happen ten times come this way," Yepsen said Wednesday.

Yepsen, director of the Public Policy Institute, said legalizing marijuana in Illinois would be a gradual change, starting with the medicinal use of marijuana. The medicinal use of marijuana is already legal in the District of Columbia and 14 other states, including California, Montana and New Jersey.

If passed, a proposition on a ballot in California would require people 21 years old or older to transport up to one ounce of marijuana for personal use or cultivate a six-foot plot in a non-public place.

The proposition would require the state government to regulate commercial production and distribution of marijuana while prohibiting possession of marijuana in public places, using it in public, or while minors are present. According to California's Secretary of State's website,

The DAILY EGYPTIAN surveyed 125 people on campus Monday about the legalization of marijuana. People were surveyed in or around the Student Center, Northwest Annex, the College of Business, the Lesar Law Building, Morris Library, Lawson Hall, Faner Hall and the Illinois Avenue pedestrian bridge.

Sixty percent of the people in the DAILY EGYPTIAN's non-scientific survey said marijuana should be legalized,



Sixty percent of 125 people polled on campus by the DAILY EGYPTIAN on Monday said marijuana should be legalized. A bill to legalize the use of medicinal marijuana in Illinois passed

through the Senate in May 2009 and is now under House review. If passed, Illinois would join the District of Columbia and 14 other states in the legalization of medicinal marijuana.

16 percent were neutral and 24 percent were against legalizing marijuana.

According to a 2010 study by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, the national average shows 41 percent of Americans favor legalizing marijuana. Twenty years ago, only 16 percent said the use of marijuana should be legal, according to the study. Fifty-eight percent of people 30

years old or younger believe marijuana should be legal.

Nearly three quarters of Americans favor their state allowing the sale and use of marijuana for medical purposes if prescribed by a doctor, according to the study.

"(Legalizing medical marijuana) may clarify federal and state laws and how the government would regulate

it," Yepsen said. "And then, perhaps, people will find they are comfortable with it or not."

John Clemens, lecturer for the department of criminology and criminal justice, said he opposes legalizing marijuana even for medicinal purposes.

"(In California) anybody could get it if you can find someone to write you a prescription," he said. "It would

be totally abused."

A bill to legalize the use of medical marijuana in Illinois passed through the Senate in May 2009 and is now under House review, said Dan Linn, Illinois executive director of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

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'God in America' focuses on history, clash of religions

JULIE SWENSON
Daily Egyptian

In these troubling times, Vickie Devenport said she hopes the "God in America" PBS series enlightens Americans whether they're religious or not.

Devenport, WSIU Public Broadcasting's outreach coordinator, gave an introduction before a free sneak peek of the hour-long episode "A New Eden," part two of the six-part TV series hosted by WSIU and the Carbondale Interfaith Council, Monday at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

"This is a challenging time. Lots of things are happening," Devenport said. "(This series) takes a

"We see that there are people who are written out of the equation because we think that they aren't truly loyal to the United States."

— Mike Batinski
retired history professor

look at (America) from an unbiased viewpoint historically."

The episodes cover America's religious background from before the drafting of the Constitution to the present, and is sourced from historians, letters, historical texts and sermons.

"A New Eden" highlighted little-known historical facts such as colony-supported religions given priority before the drafting of the

Constitution and Thomas Jefferson's advocacy on behalf of Baptists to publicly preach their faith despite disagreeing with what he saw as the irrationality of religion itself.

After the screening, panelists Father Bob Flannery, Rev. Bill Sasso and Mike Batinski said they appreciated the coverage of religious conflict throughout history and how it created a more diverse America.

Unitarian Fellowship, said every time he watched the segment he had something new to say about it.

"We have a history of an experiment in religious freedom, and our challenge is to recognize that it's not always an easy thing to do," Sasso said. "This is something that has been a challenge throughout our society."

Flannery, a pastor at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and president of the Interfaith Council in Carbondale, said Christians have to be tolerant of other religions and the resulting diversity is one of America's strengths.

"We can't consider ourselves the only religion, and we have to allow equal participation," Flannery said. "We need to be welcoming and real-

ize that our nation was founded so that all people would have the freedom to worship, or not to worship, but at least they were free to do that."

Mike Batinski, a retired history professor, also emphasized the message of not only religious tolerance, but cultural acceptance.

"We see that there are people who are written out of the equation because we think that they aren't truly loyal to the United States," Batinski said.

Gaia Maurine Pyle said she hopes the series brings light to religious issues faced in the past and the present.

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AMERICA
CONTINUED FROM 1

"(The series) shows a lot of the tensions and conflict that underlie our culture, and I think the more we study history the more we can begin to understand why we behave the way we do today," Pyle said. "There has been a lot of progress, but there's still a lot to do."

Catherine Fedus, an American religious teacher at the University of Chicago Divinity School who was interviewed for "A New Eden," said in the episode

constitutionally-guaranteed religious freedom is a large part of American culture, but at the same time bothers Americans.

"Freedom can be quite dangerous. I think Americans are wedded to the idea of freedom and nervous about where it can lead," he said.

Sasso said religion should bring members of the community together despite how it guides individuals socially and politically.

"As this points out, we struggle and we learn, and we are still learning," Sasso

said. "We've been here for 225 years or something, and it's not finished yet by any means. (There is) a lot more for us to work out."

Sasso echoes the hope panelists said they want the episodes to accomplish.

"I would hope that it causes people to reflect on where they are situated and how their religion influences their lives and informs the values they try to make present in their lives," Sasso said. "I hope it would lead all of us to examine that."

The episodes can be viewed at www.pbs.org/godinamerica.

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About Us

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Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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'Spring Awakening' to bring 100-year-old controversies to SIU

CHEYENNE ADAMS
Daily Egyptian

Jonathan Hughes, a senior from Carbondale studying theater, said Spring Awakening, a controversial Broadway musical, blends a play with modern rock music, and demonstrates how little life has changed for adolescents in the past century.

The show, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. today in Shryock Auditorium, was written in 1891 by the German playwright Frank Wedekind and features the trials of puberty through the eyes of teenagers in a society where sex is taboo. Hughes said the characters endure traumatic experiences ranging from

incest to suicide.

Bryan Rives, director of SIU event services, said the show is considered to contain mature subject matters.

"The show itself has been controversial ever since the play was first written," he said. "It was banned for a while."

Hughes said the show amps up controversies to increase the drama of situations and make them translate better to a modern audience such as the inclusion of nudity, he said.

"I think, or I should maybe say hope, that (SIU) will react pretty favorably to it," Hughes said. "I feel like SIU is a really good environ-

ment for stuff like this ... I feel that people do really appreciate the honesty and the reality that something like this presents."

Carbondale is the first stop on the national tour, Rives said. Although the cast usually arrives the day of the performance, Rives said they arrived early to account for any unexpected situations.

"We're always happy when we can bring these national Broadway touring productions in," Rives said.

Although Rives and Hughes said they are excited for the performance, Seth Kohlhaas said he remains apprehensive.

Kohlhaas, production manager and technical director of SIU event

services, said he faced challenges to bringing Awakening to Shryock, including the smaller stage size and it being the first stop on the Awakening tour.

The stage is significantly smaller than some, and Awakening has to account for stage size in the performance, Kohlhaas said. He said he also encountered problems getting information about production layout from Awakening's producers.

Hughes said he is most excited about sitting on stage during the performance. Spring Awakening will have 20 to 30 audience members on stage to create a feeling of community. He said tickets for these seats were available on a first-

come, first-served basis.

Hughes said some cast members, called plants, will sit with the on-stage audience. This develops the idea that the situations portrayed in the musical could apply to anyone, Hughes said.

Hughes said he thinks this helps the audience realize how realistic the show is and how the situation applies to adolescents.

"We can't neglect kids the way that these people do and the way that we do today even," Hughes said. "I like that."

Cheyenne Adams can be reached at cadams@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 281.

MARIJUANA

CONTINUED FROM 1

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act would legalize the use of medicinal marijuana in Illinois, Linn said. He said the bill is stricter than laws in other states, including California, which legalized medicinal marijuana in 1996.

Chris Fralich, coordinator of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program at the SIUC Wellness Center, said as a drug counselor, he would like to see multiple changes in federal and state policies relating to the war on drugs. He said incarcerating individuals for marijuana use without treatment is not effective.

He said he believes every individual has different reasons, some more valid than others, for being for or against the legalization marijuana.

"There has to be a balance looking at the issue," he said. "It has to be seen through multiple lenses to answer the question of whether or not we legalize it."

He said it is his job as a substance abuse counselor to be aware of the risk for substance abuse in each individual.

"Each person has a different threshold for addiction," Fralich said. "But we'll probably see an increase in addiction because of the increase of access (if it becomes legalized)."

He said he has seen patients with marijuana withdrawal, though it is not as intense as controlled substance abuse withdrawal such as cocaine or methamphetamine. There is a difference between a psychological dependency and physical addiction to a drug, and both can happen with long-term marijuana use, Fralich said.

He said treating someone with an

addiction would be more difficult if it were legalized without wide-spread treatment facilities in place.

Linn said cannabis prohibition is a failed policy that has not successfully deterred use of marijuana. He said there is a large segment of the population who should not be considered criminals for growing, cultivating or distributing marijuana.

"It makes criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens," he said. "There is no record of someone dying from a marijuana overdose, yet it's still seen as a dangerous substance."

The U.S. federal government spent more than \$19 billion dollars in 2003 on the War on Drugs, at a rate of about \$600 per second, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The War on Drugs initiative, including a set of drug-related policies, began with the

Controlled Substance Act of 1970.

There were 48,861 cannabis arrests in Illinois in 2004, compared to the 48,754 arrests for all other controlled substances, according to the policy.

Linn said money is wasted on the arrest and the possible incarceration of people who use marijuana. He said it costs \$20,000 to \$35,000 per year to incarcerate one person for one year depending on the severity of the crime.

He said the criminal justice system would save money by not enforcing the policy and exhausting their resources by arresting nearly the same amount of people for marijuana as other controlled substances.

Clemons said he disagrees with the argument that legalizing marijuana would lift Illinois out of its financial crisis.

"It's ridiculous. Why don't we sell as-

sault rifles on the street?" he said. "You don't do bad things to generate funds for the federal government."

He said he believes Illinois should reduce penalties for possessing marijuana and not use incarceration as the solution but he said he is against the decriminalization or legalization of marijuana in Illinois.

Clemons said the government should not legalize marijuana as a means to cut costs within the criminal justice system.

Linn said with California voting on Proposition 19 Nov. 2, he believes Illinois will soon follow suit.

"At this point, we're in such a financial crisis. The state would be making money from some type of tax for the legal distribution of it," he said. "So it's a win-win economically for the state and local governments of Illinois."

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WEEKENDHOTSPOTS

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Pinch Penny Pub: 10:30 p.m.
Trippin Billies (Dave Matthews Tribute)

Key West: 9 p.m. King Juba

Tres Hombres: 10 p.m. The
Black 40's, Belle Hooks & Nasty Nate

PK's: 9:30 p.m. Raw Flesh Eaters

SATURDAY

Pinch Penny Pub: 10:30 p.m. Funky
Monks (Red Hot Chili Peppers Tribute)

Tres Hombres: 9 p.m. Backyard Tire Fire

Key West: 9 p.m. King Juba

PK's: 9:30 p.m. Elsinore

SUNDAY

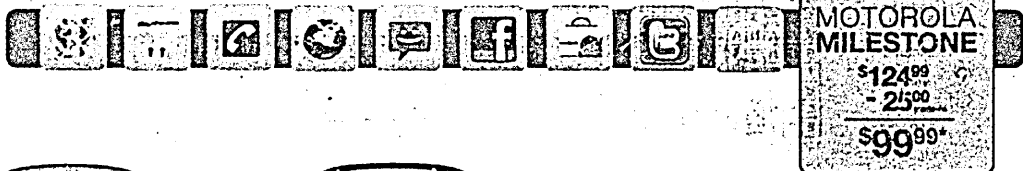
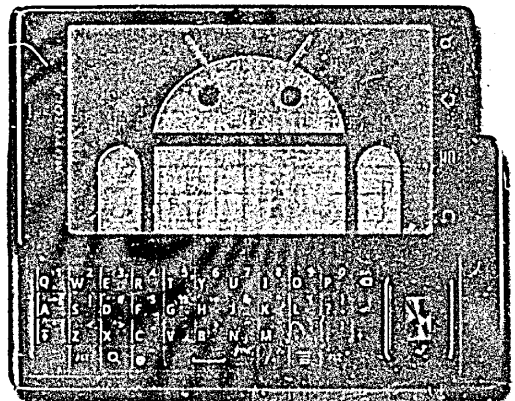
Pinch Penny Pub:
8 p.m. Cornmeal
w/ Spare Parts

Key West:
9 p.m. Craig Roberts
Blues Band

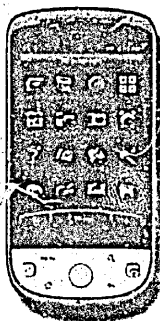
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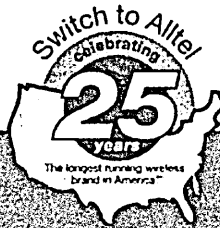


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- Sturdy fabric
- Doily wrap
- Movie apologist
- Like sandalwood leaves
- Green Zone site
- Gelts into
- Browsers' káns
- Things you saw while out?
- Old stories (English)
- "Paris, je t'..." 2006 film
- Charged particle
- Nashville awards gp.
- Informed cosmic substance (Russian)
- Mythological ride
- Derisive cry
- Pivotal part
- Bug, perhaps
- Hoito
- Eastonmost stato
- "Don't touch that ___"
- Body art, in slang
- High-speed rotor
- Sáance device (French)
- Former World No. 1 tennis player Ivanovic
- With 6-Down, one in fear of an audit
- "Dagnabit"
- Fatal problem in Genesis (Spanish)
- Columbia neighbor
- Funnel-shaped
- Architect Mies van der
- Animal shelter
- Gather
- Intuitd
- About
- Great respectuily
- Parliamentary votes, or what appears at the starts of the answers to starred clues

DOWN

- Kids' author Blume
- Succulent plant
- Dieters may fight them
- Keobler cracker
- Pushover
- See 48-Across
- Org. with rovers
- ...bitty
- Handed bars?
- 20s White House nickname
- ... ducks in — Genesis
- Poverty, in metaphor
- Brightness nos.
- Down source
- "Kidding!"
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- Pianist Claudio
- Honshu city
- Top limit
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- Bad sentence
- Former Kremlin policymaker

By Matt Maters 10/14/10

Horoscopes

By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

Today's birthday — Communication issues take priority in the coming months as you grapple with multiple opportunities. Seek love and you find it, possibly very close to home. Use all your talents to create lasting relationships, whether romantic or professional.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) — Today is a 6 — Power has been building for several days. Today you get a sense of how to use it for your advantage. Don't shy away from an emotional response. Be honest.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) — Today is a 7 — Think bigger than you did yesterday. Your idea may carry you into the larger workplace, with flair. Dress up your work for a larger audience.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) — Today is a 7 — Recent creative efforts now produce unusual opportunities for change. Take a practical view of multiple alternatives, and then take charge of the direction.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) — Today is a 6 — Your partner or associate has lots of ideas that you can grab on to now. Choose a task that feels comfortable. Later you'll see the bright finish line.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) — Today is a 8 — A strong leader steps onstage and directs the practical effort now. In the process, you perceive more opportunities to create the desired changes. Take action.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Use your powers of persuasion to gather everyone for a playful day. Leave serious thinking behind, and get out in nature. Discover a wonderful tree.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Gather everyone together around the kitchen table to present today's options. There's a lot to get done, but plenty of time and willing hands to help.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — Recent activities prove most effective in conveying your passion. Now you shift from your typical assertive style toward greater optimism.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) — Today is a 8 — You see a way to earn more income now. Feel your way through the process of shifting gears to make time for this new idea. Others will share your enthusiasm.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Use your considerable powers to get everything ready early. Today has the potential for a memorable social event. Delegate responsibility for the food.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Feel free to take the upper hand by planning in secret. They have great ideas. You're surprised and pleased when they play their cards. It works for everyone.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) — Today is a 6 — Group effort accomplishes far more than you expect. Get everyone together early, and promise goodies when the work is done. Manage someone's feelings privately.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	B	R	M	E	E	T	M	E	T	V	A			
W	I	L	E	A	S	T	R	O	S	W	A			
L	O	A	D	E	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N		
H	E	R	E	S	I	S	T	E	N	C	A			
T	O	B	A	G	O	E	C	A	R	D				
W	E	L	L	O	F	F	T	H	E	M	A			
I	N	A	T	U	R	A	N	U	S					
N	O	H	S	N	O	R	T		Y	E	S			
S	E	A	G	O	D		D	A	T	A				
M	A	N	A	G	I	N	G	E	D	I	T			
B	O	N	E		L	I	V	I	N	G				
I	O	T	A		A	S	I	S	E	E	I			
B	R	O	K	E	W	I	T	H	C	U	S	T	O	M
L	E	N		M	A	G	N	E	T		O	L	L	A
E	D			S							R	E	D	O

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- | | |
|--|---|
| 37 TV princess | 50 Like a biting remark, in British slang |
| 39 Terrific | 51 Burn slightly |
| 40 Former sketch comedy that used Don Martin | 52 Novelist Murdoch |
| 42 Hailed ride | 53 Pitcher Hideo |
| 43 "I wish 'twere otherwise" | 54 Chow |
| 45 Airline to 29-Down | 55 Unaccompanied |
| 46 Slap the cuffs on | 56 Flightless bird |
| | 57 Trees used to make longbows |
| | 58 Abbas' gp. |

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WOGAL

CUVOH

ABNERN

BUSUDE

Answers: " " " " " " " " " " " "

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Kurok

Ready when you are, short!

WHAT THE EXECUTIONER DID WHEN HE WASN'T WORKING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Wednesday's Answers: EXACT JUMBO FLORID BASKET
Answer: When he worked in the horse barn, it was a — "STABLE" JOB

The Duplex

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

WEDNESDAY'S ANSWERS

9	3	1	7	4	6	8	2	5
8	4	5	3	2	1	9	7	6
6	2	7	5	8	9	1	4	3
5	6	2	8	7	3	4	9	1
1	8	4	6	9	5	7	3	2
3	7	9	2	1	4	6	5	8
7	5	6	4	3	8	2	1	9
2	9	3	1	6	7	5	8	4
4	1	8	9	5	2	3	6	7

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TWINS

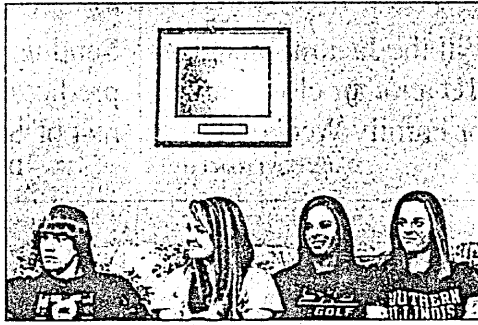
CONTINUED FROM B

All of the Rushing siblings have been involved in sports and have tried to involve each other, whether it is learning the game or cheering, Darron Rushing said.

Cassie and Ashleigh Rushing have played golf on a competitive level since they were 8-years-old but have also played volleyball, softball and basketball, the sport Haley now plays in eighth grade. Mitchell hasn't played sports in school but skateboards and has played baseball for the Marion youth city league.

As they've gotten older, busy schedules make it difficult to attend all of the sporting events they're involved in or for the siblings to play sports together, but they do when they can, Cassie Rushing said.

Rushing said she is focused on becoming a golfer in the LPGA while Ashleigh Rushing said she is waiting to see what the future



STEVE BERGCZYNSKI / DAILY EGYPTIAN

(From left to right) Mitchell, Haley, Cassie and Ashleigh Rushing spend time with their mom, Carol Rushing, and dad, Darron Rushing, on Tuesday at their home in Marion. Cassie and Ashleigh Rushing are identical twins who play golf as freshmen at SIU, while their siblings Mitchell and Haley are also twins and are in eighth grade.

brings. Haley, who has played sports since she was in first grade, wants to continue to play throughout high school and eventually through

college, she said. Mitchell, who has skateboarded for four years, has no sporting plans for the future so far, he said.

CROSS COUNTRY

CONTINUED FROM B

Senior Dan Dunbar, the reigning MVC cross country athlete of the week, said team depth makes SIU the favorite in the event.

"If we didn't win it would be a big disappointment for us," Dunbar said.

Junior Jamie Pfister said racing against other conference runners at Bradley should help give the Salukis a better idea of who they need to work to beat at the conference championship Oct. 30.

"I don't have specific people I try to beat (but) it'll be good running against them, just to see who will be around at conference," Pfister said.

Sparks said seniors Emily Toennies and Megan Hoelscher look to finish in the top ten in Peoria to qualify for the All-Conference team, as they will compete against some of the top women in conference.

"You always have in the back of your mind (that) Bradley is going to be very similar to the conference race," Hoelscher said.

Hoelscher, who finished sixth in the 2009 Bradley Classic, said she expects herself and Toennies to excel above their conference competition because of their experience.

Pfister said she has trained to the point where she should be able to cut the time between herself and Toennies and Hoelscher.

The women's team ran mile repeats to increase their acceleration at the start of races, Pfister said.

"I usually do one less than all the other girls to save my legs," Pfister said. "This week I did four with them."

Junior Kristian Baldwin and sophomore Kelsey Kaiser will continue to compete for the fifth runner's spot on the women's team, Sparks said. Baldwin and Kaiser progressed tremendously during the

two weeks of training after the Greater Louisville Classic.

Dunbar said fellow men's captain Kyle Kirchner is in better shape to compete after not finishing as strong as expected in Louisville. Kirchner was burned out from training, he said.

"We run so much you'll have a week or two where your body is completely worn down," Dunbar said. "Now (Kyle's) body has come back out of that cycle and he should be right there with Neal and me for most of the race."

Dunbar said the Salukis will be able to relax the first two miles of their race as opposed to sprinting the first two miles like they had to do in Louisville.

"Bradley is a lot easier meet than Louisville. It's going to be a good chance for me and Neal to sit back with the leaders of the group early in the race and then try to take the lead and win toward the end of the race," Dunbar said.

COLUMN

CONTINUED FROM B

Many basketball fans who play games such as the NBA2K series, which has been around since 2000, may have missed Jordan's 15-year playing career, which spanned from 1984 to 2003 with four years of retirement in between, or may have only seen the end of it.

Now they get to witness history as they accomplish the feats themselves. As a gamer and a fan who was 10-years-old when Jordan and the Bulls won the first championship of the

second three-peat in 1996, this game is acceptable as the universal gift for all my birthdays and every Christmas for the rest of my existence. I don't need anything else, except my front room, with the television and couch, to be extremely quiet as MJ and I dominate Larry Bird, Isiah Thomas, Patrick Ewing, Gary Payton and Karl Malone.

This game is going to be the best-selling basketball game of all-time until Jordan makes part two. The Jordan mode brings back not only the best player in NBA history, but one of the best eras as well. Besides the Jordan mode, the game play is near flawless

and each player, including Jordan, has the signature moves that have made him a star or a celebrated role player.

If this game does sell well and articles such as the one in Game Informer Magazine continue to congratulate Visual Conceptions, then NBA2K will probably continue the legend challenge mode. Who will be next: Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Charles Barkley or Scottie Pippen?

Brandon LaChance can be reached at blachance@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

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Will the Jackrabbits give SIU another close game for Family Weekend?

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Send us your predictions for the rest of Saluki football

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CROSS COUNTRY

Salukis plan to runaway with win

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

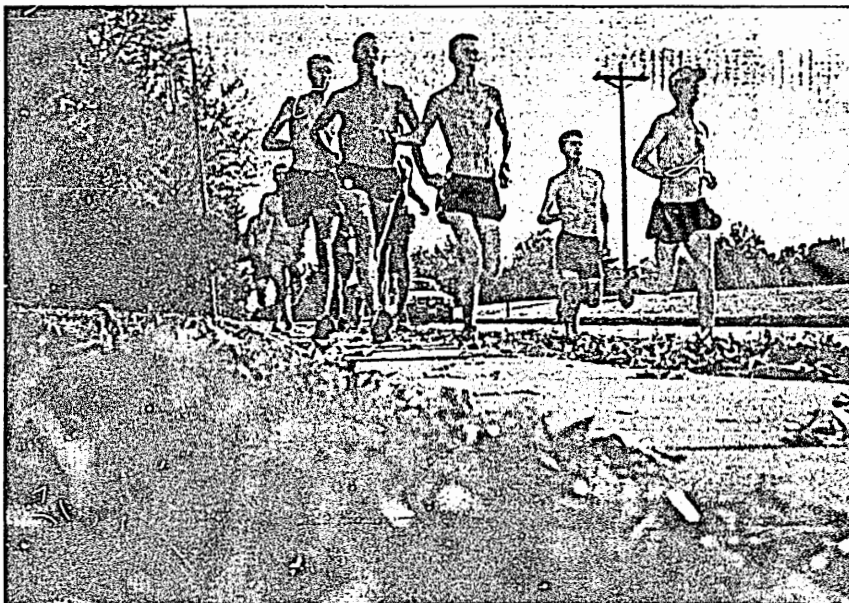
Junior Neal Anderson said none of the six other Missouri Valley Conference teams competing Friday can challenge the Salukis.

The men's side plans to rebound from a disappointing sixth place finish at the Greater Louisville Classic with a win Friday at the Bradley Classic in Peoria, Anderson said.

"As of now the only team that can challenge us is Indiana State and they're not going to be there," Anderson said.

The Salukis will finally be able to see how they stack up against conference opponents on both the men's and women's side, coach Matt Sparks said. Drake, Northern Iowa, Western Illinois, Bradley, Illinois State (men) and Indiana State (women) will compete against the Salukis on Friday, along with 20 Division I schools, including DePaul, Eastern Illinois, Northwestern, Saint Louis and Missouri.

Please see CROSS COUNTRY | 7



The men's cross country team practices Wednesday on Tower Road. The Salukis will travel Friday to Peoria for the Bradley Classic, where they will race 20 other teams, six of which are Missouri Valley Conference teams.

PAT SUTPHIN
DAILY EGYPTIAN

WOMEN'S GOLF

Sports, twins a commonality in Rushing family

BRANDON LACHANCE
Daily Egyptian

Having one set of twins is a rare occurrence. Having two sets of twins is a blessing. Darron Rushing said.

Darron Rushing is the father of freshman SIUC golfers and identical twins, Haley and Ashleigh Rushing, and the older sisters to Haley and Mitchell Rushing, a set of fraternal twins. All four Rushing children play sports and have friendly competitions between each other.

Rushing and his wife Carol Rushing said having two sets of twins has been a job, but it has come with some difficulties.

When she was pregnant with her first set of twins, Rushing was put on bed rest for three months because the pregnancy was labeled high-risk. This meant a month stay at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where the twins were born Feb. 23, 1992.

The girls were a rare pregnancy called mono-zygotic, which means the egg did not split until it had already formed a fluid sack, Rushing said. The twins had to share all the food and space in the womb because it was only meant for one baby. A monozygotic birth occurs only once out of every 35,000 to 60,000 pregnancies, according to pregnancy-infant's website.

The Rushings were born at 32

weeks, two months premature, Rushing said.

"The doctor said they were miracle babies," she said.

Darron Rushing said the doctors in Carbondale recommended the hospital in St. Louis because of the high risk factor. The twins had an entanglement and their vitals were stressed, he said. Within eight hours of noticing vital fluctuation the doctors decided it was time for the twins to be born, he said.

Mitchell and Haley Rushing didn't give their parents the same problems, Carol Rushing said. When she first became pregnant, it was odd to call the baby 'him' or 'her' because they were

used to saying 'them' or 'they,' she said. It wasn't long before they found out her womb was holding babies.

"I went to the doctor and measured 11 weeks and (at) my next doctor's trip a week later I measured 17 weeks," Rushing said. "The doctors said 'OK,' we need to find out what's going on. They barely got the ultra sound paddle on my stomach and saw two heads."

The only surprising part was, because the girls were identical, it was thought the second set would also be identical, Rushing said.

On Aug. 7, 1997, Haley and Mitchell Rushing were born. Mitchell is the youngest sibling by 30 seconds.

Michelle Lazorchak, a high school

classmate to the older set of Rushing twins, said the family is understanding and easy to get along with. Lazorchak, a freshman at John A. Logan, played basketball with the Rushings in high school and has been a friend of theirs since, she said. She said it doesn't matter what they're doing, each Rushing is always invited to join the others.

"The whole family is a very good, Christian family who just likes to have a good time, whether it's having a movie night, at church or just hanging out," Lazorchak said.

Please see TWINS | 7

STAFF COLUMN

MJ makes grand return to basketball world ... virtually



Jordan is back. Not only does he grace the cover, but game developer Visual Concepts has given the legend his own play mode called the "Jordan Challenge," where

gamers can relive 10 performances that made MJ the best ever including the playoff game against the Boston Celtics where he scored 63 points and "the last shot" he hit against the Utah Jazz to win the sixth championship for the Chicago Bulls. Jordan coming back to the video game scene is huge for gamers and basketball fans.

Jordan has been in 24 video games, including two non-basketball games, Space Jam and Michael Jordan: Chaos in the Windy City. He was never in

NBA Jam, where His Airness was much needed and was not involved in most of the early NBA Live games. Instead of having Jordan in those games, the Chicago Bulls had a shooting guard named Player 23 who didn't have stats comparable to MJ. Armstrong, let alone Jordan.

Darren Rovell, CNBC sports business reporter, wrote that MJ's video game absence wasn't because of Jordan not wanting to share his talents with the virtual world, but because of

a licensing agreement between Jordan and the NBA that excluded him from the group licensing agreement between game producers and the league.

"Why bring Michael Jordan back now?" has been an ever-rising question. I thought Jordan being broke could be a possibility, after hearing the Ying Yang Twins were coming to perform on a Tuesday in Carbondale and tickets were only \$12, until I remembered my two pairs of Air

Jordans and the Hanes commercials that featured Jordan during the Bears-Packers Monday Night Football game. He has plenty of money.

In Rovell's article, vice president of marketing for 2K Sports Jason Argent said his staff thought of who could market NBA 2K11 as the best video game ever made and Jordan was the first person who came to mind.

Please see COLUMN | 7