University devises state payment plan

JEFF ENGELHARDT
Daily Egyptian

One day after state university presidents wrote a letter to Gov. Pat Quinn requesting a payment plan, SIUC came up with a plan of its own.

Duane Stucky, vice president for financial and administrative affairs, presented a projected payment plan from the state that could take SIUC through the fiscal year during a Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting Wednesday at the Stone Center.

Stucky said the university is more certain about its future than it was a month ago, and making it to the end of the fiscal year with a minimal deficit is a strong possibility.

“We know now what the state’s constraints are and when their income comes in. The best times are March and April because of the income taxes,” Stucky said. “We think it’s reasonable to expect that we’ll make it to (fiscal) year’s end without all the appropriations.”

Stucky’s projections would call for the state to pay about $100 million of the $180 million it owes the university. Even with the state coming up about $60 million short, the university would end the fiscal year with only a $3.9 million deficit, according to the projections.

The worst-case scenario — no state appropriations collected — would result in a deficit of $129.8 million for the university, according to the projections.

The university is currently $9 million short for March payroll, but Stucky said the university expects about $12 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

According to the projections, the university could receive $44.6 million in March, $40 million in April, $20 million in May and $10 million in June. The money is projected to come from a combination of state appropriations, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Monetary Award Program.

If the state can make all those marks, Stucky said the university should be fine until August. And it is in August when President Glenn Poshard might have to make a decision as to whether or not to use the temporary borrowing authority he is seeking from the state.

Poshard said five other universities have attached themselves to the bill, but before it can pass, some lawmakers have asked for more restrictions to be placed on it. One restriction would be the university could only borrow as much as the state owes it, Poshard said.

The university is in no rush to use the borrowing authority and views it as a last resort, Poshard said.

“We have rattled out the pressure on state government,” Poshard said. “But without that authority come August — we may need that to keep things moving.”

Poshard also said the university has saved about $12 million from the cuts in each college and carryover from last year’s budget. The university has also saved money from the soft hiring freeze. Poshard said the university has made about 30 new hires compared to 130 at this time last fiscal year.

Please see BOT | 2

Philosopher Ruse reconciles Darwinism, Christianity

JEFF ENGELHARDT
Daily Egyptian

Nick Defreitas was losing his faith.

As someone who grew up in the Christian tradition, Defreitas said he often struggled to reconcile the differences between Christianity and evolution — especially as a zoology student.

Defreitas, a sophomore from Springfield, said it was this struggle that led him to attend Michael Ruse’s presentation, “Can a Darwinian be a Christian?” Wednesday at the Student Center.

“I’ve always wondered how to reconcile being a person who had faith and a zoologist, and I hope he can help with that,” Defreitas said. “Because over the last three or four years I have lost my faith, and if I have to choose, I have to go with what I know is true — evolution.”

Ruse had 90 minutes to prove that reconciliation could exist to Defreitas and more than 200 other people during his presentation.

Ruse, a professor of philosophy at Florida State University and self-proclaimed non-Christian, focused on three points to prove Darwinism and Christianity could coexist within one person.

The first point Ruse made was that not everything in the Bible is read literally. He said the earliest Christians believed the Bible was full of stories directed to the less educated and would have been cruel if only written scientifically for the educated.

Ruse also explained how the struggle for the existence in Darwinism “offers a piece of candy” to Christianity, with both often overlapping each other.

Concepts such as free will and designed systems are central to both beliefs, he said.

Darwinism’s founder, evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin, struggled with his faith for most of his life, only committing to agnosticism during the last few years of his life, Ruse said.

The final and main point Ruse made was the concept of a god outside of time and space, where creation can happen as often and as slow as possible.

“If I were to ask when did two plus two become true, it would be a silly question because it has always been true, outside of time and space,” Ruse said. “There is a possibility God is an entity much like mathematics, a truth outside time and space.”
The Board of Trustees will have its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. to- day in the Student Center Ballroom. University spokesman Dave Gross said Poshard will give a re- port on the financial situation and what to expect in fiscal year 2011. “I think what Dr. Stucky has done is show a very possible bud- get outlook for the rest of this sem- ester, which looks great,” Gross said. “It’s about as positive as can be to end the year, but there is still a daunting task ahead.”

Jeff Englehardt can be reached at jengel@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 254.

Ruse said the reconciliation be- tween Christianity and Darwinism is possible, but not easy to find. “Reconciliation is possible, it’s not easy,” he said. “But like they say, the best things in life don’t come easy.”

By the end, Defreitas had a similar mind-set to Ruse — open to the possibility of a coexistence, but in no rush to connect the two. “I thought he definitely brought up some thoughtful points… it will definitely make me think differently about some things,” Defreitas said. “It didn’t sway me though.”

Jeff Englehardt can be reached at jengel@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 254.

The Weather Channel® 5 day weather forecast for Carbondale, Ill.

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About Us
The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer edi- tions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersec- tion edi- tions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiv- ing editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Mur- phyboro and Carterville communities. The Daily Egyp- tian online publication can be found at www.siude.com.

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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Relay 101
Today from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Lesar Law building (the big auditorium) - Rundown of what to expect for Relay For Life: Relay 101 is manda- tory for all teams - Any questions call Casey Raliff (815) 351-4865

C4 Juried art exhibition
-March 30 to April 3 at the Glove surplus gallery - Exhibition is free admission for viewers and $5 to submit up to 3 pieces - This is a juried art show with cash prizes for graduate, undergraduate, and community categories - more details and entry forms can be found at the school of art and design office, located in the Allyn building, rm 113

Lover’s Rock
-From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 11 - free admission - A social event, embellishing poetry and music from the Caribbean and America

Love at the Glove
-Fri, Feb. 12 7 to 10 p.m. at the glove surplus gallery - Admission is $5 (35 with canned good)

-This is a loved themed art show with music by Small Time London Thug

Submit calendar items to the Daily Egyptian newsroom, Communications 1247, at least two days before the event.

Upcoming Calendar Events
Juggling is second nature for Samuel Hughes.

Hughes, a senior studying physiology, founded the SIUC Juggling Club. The club meets once a week and focuses on teaching others how to juggle and alleviate stress from everyday life.

Hughes said he founded the club in 2008 along with Alex Eriksson, a senior studying physiology.

“He found out I could juggle and asked if I could help him set up a club,” Hughes said. “The idea is that we would find a set time to juggle every week. We were both very busy with college and thought it'd be a good way to be able to come together. He did it for meditation. I just did it for fun. We just wanted to spread the joy and teach people how to juggle.”

Eriksson is studying abroad this semester, so Hughes stepped in as club president, Hughes said.

Eriksson said his favorite part about being in the club is teaching people how to juggle.

“When they get it, it’s an awesome feeling,” Eriksson said. “Once they start to figure it out, their face brightens up. It’s just such a cool feeling.”

The way Eriksson teaches others to juggle is to approach them all the same, he said. They start with tennis balls and try to work their way up.

Eriksson juggles more than tennis balls.

“I’ll just go to a grocery store or something and juggle items I pick up,” Eriksson said. “It’s kind of just laying around. I’ll pick it up. It’s like second nature to me. I won’t even think about doing it and then all of a sudden I’ll be juggling.”

Eriksson’s joy for juggling has not led to a large number of members, he said. The club has five members who regularly attend meetings.

“The first thing people say to me when I tell them about the Juggling Club is ‘SIU has a juggling club?’” Eriksson said. “Usually we will get someone to come in for a meeting or two and then we will never see them again, I hope to get more members sometime.”

One of the members Eriksson recruited is the club’s vice president Michael Wakefield. Wakefield is a senior studying physiology and said he did not know how to juggle before joining the club.

“I spoke to Sam and he invited me to a meeting last year, so I decided to attend a meeting,” Wakefield said. “I was attending just for fun, maybe to learn how to juggle, but the meetings turned out to be more than I expected.”

Getting started was frustrating for Wakefield, he said. After practicing for a while, he realized how much he enjoyed juggling.

“It was kind of frustrating at first, it seems like you aren’t getting anywhere,” Wakefield said. “Once you practice at it, you get down a pattern, and it becomes more and more enjoyable.”

The reason Wakefield stuck with juggling is because he viewed it as an escape from everyday life.

“It’s like a little bit of an escape without spending money or having to go anywhere,” Wakefield said. “As long as you have three objects that you want to toss around, it’s good. It allows you to sort of zone out while still doing something, it is very relaxing.”

The Juggling Club meets at 5 p.m. every Tuesday in the Recreation Center at the pool’s observation area. Inquiries about the club can be sent to Hughes at samh@siu.edu.

Derek Robbins can be reached at drobins@siu.edu or 536-3111 ext. 273.
It’s time to rally around Obama’s agenda

ANNETTE JOHN-HAUL
McClatchy Tribune

I can’t believe it’s been only a year since President Barack Obama took office. It seems more like decades — long, weary, tumultuous years.

Must feel like “Snowmageddon” every day to the president, which is what he called the blizzard over the weekend. But if you thought we had snow to shovel, imagine what he’s had to plow through. Snow jobs everywhere.

The banks, credit-card companies, insurance companies, his own party, the just-found-fiscal-responsibility Republicans, the death panels, birthers, black people who don’t think he’s doing enough for black people, white people who think he’s a terrorist (socialist, racist, alien, Bolshevik, the Joker) and voters who said they’d work for change but want it now, without working for it.

And then there’s the Snow Queen of all Snow Queens: Sarah “Hopey-changey” Palin.

She told the tea partyers she has issues with the president using a TelePrompTer. Well ... she uses a palm.

Seems the president’s dodging snowballs from everyone. “I feel a little upset that people want so many results in such a short amount of time,” says Solange Nelson, a Cherry Hill, N.J., Realtor who worked the phones for Obama’s campaign.

“It’s only been a year. I think people have very short memories. They don’t remember what the economy was like a year ago.”

And the name Scott Brown is making the Dems run for the hills.

Ah, yes, the former Cosmo centerfold Republican who captured Ted Kennedy’s Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts. Photogenic. News-anchor wife. “American Idol” cast-off daughter. Supernajoty buster, especially against the president’s health-care agenda. From a state where everyone has health care.

How sickening is that?

And while politicians and shortsighted voters continue to rail against health-care reform, the number of uninsured Americans continues to rise — now at almost 50 million — while 14,000 people lose their health insurance every day.

Considering we’ve got a reform bill on life support, I thought it would be a good time to check in with Joe Ferraro. If you listen to Philadelphia area talk radio, you may know Ferraro as “Joe from Philly.”

Actually, he’s Joe from Audubon in Montgomery County, Pa. A 48-year-old husband and father of three who runs a Web and tech-repair business.

Lifelong Democrat. Like the president, Ferraro believes that affordable health care should be a right, not a privilege.

“We need to care for the common good,” Ferraro said. “It’s insane that in order to get health care you have to be working for somebody. That’s borderline slavery.”

His wife had to go back to work full-time, just so the family could have medical coverage.

“We had private insurance and it was so exorbitantly expensive, and it covered absolutely nothing,” he said.

Ferraro, you may remember, shot to blogosphere fame during Michael Smerconish’s interview with Obama at the White House last August.

“It feels like your knees are buckling a little bit,” he told the president. “It’s very frustrating to watch you try and compromise with a lot of people who aren’t willing to compromise with you.”

I wondered if Ferraro thought the president’s knees were buckling now.

“I felt like he was buckling after the Massachusetts race,” Ferraro said. “But I can’t ask for more than what the president did when he walked into the lion’s den (the recent House Republican retreat in Baltimore) and beat the crap out of them. This is what I wanted to see six months ago.

“He was taking charge after charge but not throwing any elbows,” Ferraro said. “I have a lot more confidence he’s going to get stuff done now.”

I’m right there with him. Ferraro’s still making the most of his 15 minutes, blogging occasionally for the Huffington Post and writing his own progressive blog. jeothened.blogspot.com.

And he’s not giving up on health care.

“It’s still going to be a tough fight for him, but this is a man who has the ability to walk through a crowd and disarm people, not with his charm, but with the facts and with who he is.”

— Joe Ferraro famous blogger

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It’s still going to be a tough fight for him, but this is a man who has the ability to walk through a crowd and disarm people, not with his charm, but with the facts and with who he is.
If the administration has its way with these two changes, let’s be honest: Our nation will be giving up on kids, especially the many poor and minority children stuck in failing schools. We will be saying, “We don’t think you can learn at grade level, and we don’t think we should ask you to achieve at an academic rate that will prepare you for a complicated world.”

That’s the hard, cold reality. So if we decide to go down that road, let’s be realistic about what we are doing.

Now, with that said, there are certainly ways and places to improve No Child Left Behind, which was passed nine years ago with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress. No law is sacred, and there are ways to improve this one. Here are a few:

• Allow states to show progress with their students, even if not all are proficient. In short, let them distinguish between the improving ones and the terrible ones.

That’s called “differentiated consequences,” and it’s a concept that Bush Education Secretary Margaret Spellings used to let states show they were making progress, just not enough. The idea allows schools to keep working with struggling students without being put on a black list.

• Make sure each state’s standards prepare kids to graduate from high school with the skills for either a good trade job or college. Duncan talks about college/career readiness being a new goal, so pursue it, as Texas did in adopting a new school accountability system in 2009.

But let’s be specific about what these terms mean and what we expect kids to do to earn that recognition. Fuzziness will not help them compete in a world where other nations are rushing to become the next global economic powers.

• Give states more money to improve low-performing campuses. This is a no-brainer, as long as the concept is more money and strong standards. If it is more money and less accountability, this reform will make no sense.

• Extend the date that states must have their students learning at grade level. The 2014 goal was good because it let states take their entering kindergarteners in 2002, when the law kicked in, and get them to grade level by the time they walked across the stage to collect high school diplomas in 2014.

If Duncan and Congress believe that’s too difficult, kick it back a few years. Just don’t give up on it.

Duncan talked about some of these changes in a recent New York Times article, but he offered few details. Evidently, he thinks that’s something he and Congress will work on over the next few months. What we need to hear are those details. This isn’t about No Child per se, but the concepts in the landmark bill. If there’s a way to build on the idea of measuring students annually and seeing whether they are being left behind, let’s do it. But if that’s not what’s going on here, let’s be honest with the students in Dallas, Los Angeles, Chicago and everywhere else.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News.
WASHINGTON — Back-to-back storms have turned snow day in the nation’s capital to snow week. Federal agencies have been closed since Friday afternoon, the House of Representatives and the Senate have canceled all votes and the endless stream of luncheons, congressional hearings, news conferences and cocktail parties — the lifeblood of political Washington — is frozen.

Forgive most Americans if they haven’t noticed.

Far from Washington’s snowiest winter in more than a century, Social Security recipients are still getting their checks. Tax returns and Medicare claims are being processed without interruption at regional centers around the country. Constituents can still contact their members of Congress through district field offices, and military commanders in Afghanistan and Iraq are going about their duties, albeit with fewer interrupting e-mails and phone calls from the Pentagon, the White House and Capitol Hill.

As Wednesday’s blizzard buried the capital under another foot of snow, almost certainly shuttering federal offices until after President’s Day next Monday, it also raised a question that Washington might not want answered.

Does anyone out there care that the seat of political power in the United States has been in hibernation for nearly a week?

For many Americans, the image of a capital helplessly encased in ice, a snow globe sealed off from its surroundings, a metaphor for Washington’s glacial pace, dysfunction and narcissism?

“/T_h e  i s a belief often in Washington, D.C., that it is the center of the universe,” said Danny Rotter, an aide to Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., in the congressman’s Kansas City office. “I don’t think most people think about Washington on a day-to-day basis.”

To some, the winter gridlock might seem appropriate for this particularly stagnant moment in national politics, with President Barack Obama struggling to win support for his economic and health care plans from Republicans — and from some members of his own party.

Senate leaders had planned this week to take up a multibillion-dollar bill to create jobs, while the House was scheduled to vote on a bill to end an antitrust exemption for health insurers, which supporters said would lead to more competitive insurance rates.

The House gave up Tuesday, saying that it wouldn’t hold any votes this week. Hours later, with snow and sleet pelting the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said there probably wouldn’t be any action in the Senate this week, either. Next week, both chambers are in recess for the President’s Day holiday.

The jokes about Washington inaction practically write themselves.

“No activity. No signs of life. Absolutely nothing going on,” David Letterman said in his late night monologue Monday. “Well, how can you tell the difference?”

“Where every day is a snow day,” quipped cartoonist Tom Toles in Tuesday’s Washington Post.

“Thankfully, a blizzard isn’t like a hurricane or an earthquake; it’s an awesome display of nature’s might that usually doesn’t do permanent damage. So it’s understandable that some Americans were unmoved, if not gleeful, to see their capital ground to a halt.

For military commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan, Washington is the turning point of what some call “the 8,000-mile long slowdown,” the source of endless e-mails and videoconference calls from the halls of political power with ideas on how to conduct the wars — almost all of them unsolicited.

At the headquarters of the U.S.-led international force in Kabul, commanders and their aides said the snow has done what distance couldn’t do. It has shielded them, if temporarily, from an avalanche of advice.

Peter Dorrian, 14, of Arlington, Va., gets some air Wednesday as he snowboards down Chesterbrook Road in North Arlington, Va.

Blizzard freezes Washington, but does anyone outside capitol really care?
BioWare has set the standard for not only sequels, but for the Western Role Playing genre as a whole with “Mass Effect 2.” “Mass Effect 2” starts in the year 2183, shortly after the events of the original game take place. The player takes control of Commander John Shepard, the protagonist from the first game. BioWare throws a twist at the player right away as the protagonist is killed right at the start of the game.

Shepard is then resurrected by an organization known as Cerberus. Around the universe, beings known as Collectors are abducting whole human colonies and are trying to exterminate the human race. Cerberus sends Shepard on a mission to hunt down the Collectors and save the human race.

The game play of “Mass Effect 2” is very similar to the original, but with a few tweaks. The player still goes through combat in third-person shooter style with a group of AI controlled comrades. The differences are in the game’s usage of actual ammunition. In the original “Mass Effect,” the player had infinite ammunition, but had to deal with the weapon occasionally overheating. In this game, there is no fear of overheating, but ammunition is now limited. The player’s survival in combat has also been made easier. No longer does the protagonist need to use healing items known as medi-gel to recover health, instead health automatically regenerates. This health regeneration is similar to what can be seen in most first-person shooters. Medi-gel is now used to revive AI teammates who have died.

The AI in “Mass Effect 2” is much better than it was in the original. It seemed like all your partners could do in the first game was die, but in this title they seem to be more sophisticated. It is easier to command the crew of AI players and it makes “Mass Effect 2” feel like a more accessible experience.

The AI in “Mass Effect 2” is an absolutely beautiful game. The character models not only look better, but they are also more expressive. In the original “Mass Effect,” Shepard had 20 different animations for covering behind an object to fire at an enemy. In “Mass Effect 2,” Shepard has over 200.

What makes “Mass Effect 2” an impressive sequel is its ability to tie into the original title. When starting a new game, “Mass Effect 2” will access your save file from the original. The choices you made in that save file will impact various scenarios in “Mass Effect 2.” This includes whether certain characters are alive, how various alien races view you and your relationships with other cast members.

The ability to bring over “Mass Effect’s” save file creates a wide-open atmosphere for the game. There are a lot of possible endings that can occur that are impacted by the choices you make throughout “Mass Effect 2.” It feels like playing a “create your own adventure” game.

Most games of this style offer the player the illusion that they are creating their own story. In those games, the ending is predetermined. In “Mass Effect 2,” almost everything the player does has an impact on their avatar and everyone around them. It is a truly unique experience and sets the standard for other Western RPGs.

BioWare has created one of the deepest games of all time with “Mass Effect 2.” The world the player gets absorbed into is rich and intricate. It is hard to put the controller down. This could very well be one of the best games released on this generation of consoles.
Zach Abuomar, left, a junior from Arlington Heights studying automotive technology, stuffs a koala bear for his girlfriend Kelsey Just while talking to her on the phone Wednesday in the Roman Room of the Student Center. Abuomar was one of many students who attended the Student Programming Council’s Build-A-Bear event for Valentine’s Day, where students could either pay for a shout-out to a loved one on WIDB radio, buy a duct tape rose or stuff their own teddy bear for free. The event started at 11 a.m. and lasted until supplies ran out.

PAT SUTPHIN
DAILY EGYPTIAN
Yeasayer delivers on second album

TRAVIS BEAN
Daily Egyptian

Yeasayer
“Odd Blood”
Release Date: Feb. 10, 2010
Record Label: Secretly Canadian
Rating: 4 out of 5

Many bands fall into the inevitable sophomore slump after a stellar debut, but Yeasayer proves it can change up its style and still hold its own.

The band’s second album, “Odd Blood,” presents something new for fans of its first album, “All Hour Cymbals.” While the first album was surprisingly fresh with its mix of psych-rock and folk music, many songs sounded similar. Yeasayer’s latest effort steps away from the Middle Eastern feel of the first album and is more experimental and varied.

The first track, “The Children,” will come as a surprise to Yeasayer fans. Singing in a disturbingly dark robotic voice, lead singer Chris Keating’s spouts unrecognizable lyrics while various electronic sounds occur in the background.

This leads into the second track, “Ambling Alp,” which is the complete opposite of the former track. The song is most similar to Yeasayer’s first album, both in sound and message. It preaches sticking up for oneself and remaining positive in the hard times.

While the track is uplifting and impressive, it represents one of the album’s biggest flaws. Musically, the album is a mess and has no flow. One song can sound drastically different from its predecessor.

Despite the inconsistency, the songs are strong and the band shows its variety is not just for show. Yeasayer can produce an upbeat dance number as easily as a slow mysti-cal tune. Whether it is a trumpet performance on the track “Mondegreen” or Keating’s voice echoing in the song “ONE,” the band employs various methods that work and en-gage the listener.

The album is consistent from track to track with its theme of independence. The tracks “Love Me Girl” and “I Remember” represent two different, but optimistic sides of loneliness. While “Girl” captures wanting to feel something with a woman he hardly knows, “Remem-ber” is a tale of lost love and those original feelings revisited.

Like Animal Collective, one of Yeasayer’s biggest strengths is its unique way of presenting hopeful lyrics. The words are compelling if read on paper, but Keating’s voice combined with a wide array of instruments and synths in the background exemplifies something listeners can connect with.

The songs run deep with messages and feelings, so “Odd Blood” requires more than one listen. With the ability to make one’s feet tap and think about the message at hand, Yeasayer is a music lover’s dream.

Travis Bean can be reached at cardsos@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 274.
The Best Rentals in Town
Available Fall 2010

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*Available now
529-1082 • 206 W. College Suite 11 • Carbondale
Chuck Wells, a senior studying art and design, uses a blowtorch to shape the end of a decorative shepherd’s hook that will eventually hold a glass globe for a metalsmithing class. Metalsmiths use blowtorches to localize heat and make the metal they work with more flexible, which allows them to shape and mold the metal into a desired form.
Women’s Basketball

Tiber, coaches scrimmage players to boost game

RAY McGILLIS
Daily Egyptian

The SIU women’s basketball team has struggled this season to find its stride, but the coaches shook things up a bit in preparation for its game tonight at Creighton.

Instead of another monotonous practice of drills from the team’s playbook, head coach Missy Tiber — along with the rest of her coaching staff — laced up the sneakers and challenged the team to a five-on-five scrimmage.

Playing half-court to 15 points, the team beat the coaches three out of four games.

Tiber said she had pondered doing this for some time and hoped the team would comprehend the message she was trying to teach.

“I really felt that when we came out here that they would get very competitive with it ... and they did,” Tiber said. “What I’m trying to get them to understand is that’s the fire they need to have when we step on the court every single time that we have a game.”

The Salukis (4-17, 3-8 Missouri Valley Conference) could find it difficult to keep a high level of offensive intensity tonight.

Overall this season, Creighton’s defense has allowed the MVC’s lowest points per contest, surrendering an average of 59 points per game.

In their first meeting this year, the Bluejays (13-7, 8-3 MVC) won 84-62, shutting down a Saluki offense fresh off their best performance of the season against Drake just one game prior.

Senior guard Christine Presswood said because the team is young, the scrimmage helped bring the team back into focus.

“It’s still a transition for a lot of people since it’s a longer season,” Presswood said. “It’s year-round and sometimes you get to that point where you kind of lose yourself. I think the coaches were trying to bring us back to focus and it brought our competitive spirit back out — it definitely brightened things up and put things into a different perspective.”

In the Salukis’ last two games, Presswood, the lone senior, scored a combined seven points in the four games before that, she scored 20 or more points in each game.

Presswood said the difference in her offensive production comes down to her mental approach to the game, regardless of the opposing team’s defensive game plan.

“I think for every defense, there’s an offensive move to beat it. And for every offense, there’s a defensive move to beat that,” Presswood said. “It shouldn’t matter if I’m getting face guarded … you just have to be smarter than your defender.”

Although SIU is looking up at the majority of the conference, no other team in the MVC can say it has a player averaging a double-double.

Senior guard/forward Stephanie Neptune, in her first and last year competing in the MVC, is averaging 10.8 points and 10.9 rebounds per contest.

Of the team’s four wins this season, Neptune has recorded a double-double in all but one and has surpassed 10 rebounds in each of the four — including a school-record 28 to give the Salukis their first victory of the year over Murray State.

Neptune, who transferred to SIU from Tusculum College this fall to remain under the tutelage of her coach, said Tiber ran Tuesday’s practice to re-install the team’s love for playing basketball.

“Her purpose was to make us stronger, to make us go harder, play with passion for 40 (minutes) and not take any minutes off,” Neptune said. “With us not having such a talented team compared to others in our conference, us taking even one possession off can hurt us.”

Neptune said if the team works together down this home stretch of the regular season, despite what their record might suggest, the Salukis could be a very scary team come conference tournament time.

The Salukis will be in action on the road at 7:05 p.m. tonight against the Valley’s second-place Creighton Bluejays.

Ray McGillis can be reached at ray1021jr@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 269.
Men and women prepare for SIUE

TIMOTHY HEHN
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men and women’s tennis teams will look to bounce back from disappointing starts to their 2010 season when they host a battle against sister school SIU-Edwardsville Sunday.

The men go into this weekend’s matches with a 1-2 record — their only win of the season was against Georgetown in their second match. They lost to Eastern Kentucky in the first week of action and to the University of Missouri-Kansas City in last week’s competition.

Although the Salukis lost against UMKC Saturday 4-0, the match was much closer than the score reflected.

Despite the competition ending prematurely due to time constraints, both freshmen Brandon Florez and Chikara Kidera were able to finish their matches. Florez could have aced UMKC’s Patrick Smith in the second set for an SIU point, but had a controversial call overturned in favor of the UMKC senior.

“You can’t blame someone for making a bad call, you just need to put the ball inside the court and just go for it,” men’s assistant coach Hugo Valal said. “He could have shook it off, but I think he continued to think about it the whole match and got frustrated and didn’t play well in the third set.”

The Salukis look to take advantage of a struggling SIU-Edwardsville team, who, in only their second year of Division I play, has a record of 0-2, but plays Murray State the day before its match against SIU.

“Saluki Insider

With the NBA trade deadline coming up Feb. 19, the rumor mill is swirling. What big names do you see landing in new locations?

RAY MCGILLIS
rmcc@siu.edu

There are a lot of possibilities to consider, but I think Celtic forward Glen Davis is going to be a Charlotte Bobcat in return for D.J. Augustin as a backup point guard.

Glen Davis has been showing more drama than he has production for the Boston Celtics this season. They are going to be looking to get rid of him.

While I am following this whole Celtics deal with Glen Davis, I’m most interested in seeing what the Suns will do with Amar’e Stoudemire. They don’t want to pick up his $17.7 million contract, so it would be in their best interest to get something in return for him via trade, but the Steve Nash fan in me wants him to stay.

S W I M

Conti nued from 16

Last year, the Salukis finished in third, falling short of Missouri State and Illinois State. Still, it was a record-breaking year for the MVC. Championships as the five participating teams combined to break seven pool records and 13 MVC meet records.

Senior swimmer Keli Kramer said the team is confident in its ability to swim fast and believes the team can do better than third place.

“We are ranked to finish third and this should be a motivation for us to step up our game,” Kramer said. “I want to end my senior year with a bang.”

Head coach Rick Walker said the team is ready and expects to do well.

“We got to go hunting,” Walker said. “We got to hunker down and get to it and see good things coming our way.”

The Salukis finished the season with a dual meet record of 6-3 and hold 10 top times on the MVC best list, led by the freestyle tandem of senior Theresa Mattison and freshman Kirsten Groome, who collectively hold the top times in their respective events.

Kirsten Groome
women’s swimming
freshman, distance

SWIM

Conti nued from 16

Season Best Times:
Groome holds the top times in the conference in the following events:

- 500 free (4:53.16)
- 1000 free (9:56.14)
- 200 free (16:24.12)

Groome has been recognized this year five times for having the Swimmer of the Week.

The Salukis will be looking for their first championship since the 2006-07 season.

Ryan Simonin can be reached at rsimmy@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 282.

T E N N I S

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Ryan Simonin can be reached at rsimmy@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 282.
SIU loses late lead, game to Bears

STILE T. SMITH
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men’s basketball team held the lead for most of the game, but a late surge by Missouri State gave the Bears a 77-72 win Wednesday in Springfield, Mo.

The loss dropped the Salukis to 2-7 on the season in Missouri Valley Conference games decided by five points or less.

In a postgame interview with Mike Reis, head coach Chris Lowery said the team’s youth can no longer be used as an excuse at this point in the season.

“It’s frustrating being close,” Lowery said. “It’s frustrating saying we’re young. We’re beyond that.”

Missouri State (17-8, 7-7 MVC) took the lead for good on a basket by junior center Will Creekmore with 2:04 left and a dunk by junior guard/forward Iermaine Mallett with 1:10 left in the game to take a 68-65 lead.

The Salukis still had a chance, though. Down 75-72, junior forward Carlton Fay got the ball, but traveled with four seconds left to give the ball back to Missouri State and secure the win for the Bears.

Junior guard Justin Bocot said the team has to learn how to close out games.

“At the end of the game we just need to put it all together,” Bocot said. “We make a couple of mistakes and that hurts us in the long run.”

The Salukis (13-11, 5-9 MVC) found themselves down by as many as 10 points early in the second half. But, trailing 45-37, they went on a 9-0 run to take a 46-45 lead, their first lead since being up 18-16 early in the first half.

SIU continued to put the pressure on the Bears, going up by as many as nine points, 55-46, with 11.09 left in the half.

But Missouri State would not go away. Trail-ing 56-51, the Bears went on an 11-2 run, with seven of those points coming from Mallett, to take a 60-58 lead with 5.35 left in the game.

Mallett led the Bears in scoring, netting 22 points, while Creekmore was just behind with 19 of his own. Sophomore forward Kyle Weems also joined the duo in double figures with 11 points.

Lowery said the team has not shown the ability to execute down the stretch in close games.

“No. 1 is the execution and toughness at the end of the game that you need to win,” Lowery said. “When we get into position to win a game, it seems that all hell breaks loose.”

Four Salukis found themselves in double figures, with Bocot leading the way with 14 points. Fay, freshman center Gots Teague and sophomore guard Kevin Dillard joined him with 12 points, 11 points and 11 points, respectively.

Bocot has now scored 42 points in his career at Missouri State after going for 28 in a win last season.

Bocot said the team does not put as much pressure on the opposing team when it gets the lead.

“I think we get to relaxing when we get the lead,” Bocot said. “We get too comfortable and start making mistakes.”

With the loss, the Salukis remain in ninth place in the conference, one game behind Indiana State and Drake, who are tied for seventh place.

The Salukis will look to stop a two-game losing streak at 2:05 p.m. Saturday against Evansville (7-17, 1-13 MVC).

Stile T. Smith can be reached at stts34@siu.edu or 536-3311 ext. 256.