Governor Bob Riley’s proration announcement on December 15, 2008, effectively chopped about $4 million from Jacksonville State University’s budget for fiscal year 2009. However, the $1,374,794 proration fund established during the school’s budget process is making the necessary cuts a little easier.

“We realize this is affecting everyone,” said Dr. William Meehan, president of JSU. “We’re not going to whine about it. We’re going to do what’s necessary. In my own office, we’ve already made the decision not to fill a vacancy, which is the vice president for information technology.”

Since school officials know the current economic crisis is affecting everyone, Meehan said there is a plan in the works to allow students to pay off their tuition over the course of an entire semester, instead of having every penny due up front.

“Students have asked if they can have a payment plan, so they can pay in segments,” Meehan said. “It would be due and payable before the end of the semester and there would be a small charge for that.”

In order to address the budgetary shortfalls, the school has frozen hiring of any non-essential personnel, only hiring for positions that are necessary to maintain accreditation. Maintenance that can safely be put off is being delayed and the bus budget has been cut.

See “Tightening,” page 2

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By Jennifer Bacchus
Special to The Chanticleer

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By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

On December 22, Cathy Rose was named the Jacksonville State University 2008 Employee of the Year. Rose, secretary to the associate vice president of academic affairs, received this honor at the annual holiday luncheon at Leon Cole Auditorium.

Rose was in the running for employee of the year along with 11 other employees; each of whom was selected as employee of the month at sometime during 2008.

“I believe that any one of them [the 11 other employees in the running for the award] deserved it as much, if not more, than I did,” Rose said. “And I did not expect to win.”

Before working with Dr. Joseph Delap, associate vice president of academic affairs, Rose has been employed at the secretarial level at JSU for 16 previous years. In 1987, she started at JSU as a clerical assistant for the College of Communication and Fine Arts. One year later, Rose moved to being secretary for the Department of Communication. After 11 years in that position, she became the secretary to the dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. She stayed there until moving to her current accolade achieving position in 2003.

The advisory staff committee chooses employee of the year as well as each individual employee of the month. The selection is made from nominees whom have had letters written to the committee telling of their outstanding dedication to the workplace. The committee selects employee of the month from these nominees, and likewise for employee of the year based upon the letters received.

“Dr. Delap, Don Killingsworth, Dr. Turner and other people wrote letters on my behalf nominating me for employee of the month,” Rose said.

Other employees vying for employee of the year were: Suzi Donaldson, Joan Ingram, Martha Dingier, Brandon Stewart, Lynn Steward, Kathy Wilkinson, KaSandra Russaw, Lor Stephenson, Stephanie Warfield, Alice Wodarczyk and James Rosser.

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Cathy Rose accepts a plaque and a check for $500 from President Meehan on December 22.

Photo by Steve Latham / JSU Newswire
Osbourne named Miss JSU 2009

From JSU Newswire

Kristie Osborne, a sophomore marine biology major from Hartselle, was crowned Miss JSU 2009 on Friday, January 9, at the 27th annual Jacksonville State University Scholarship Pageant in Leon Cole Auditorium.

Nine JSU women competed for the title. The winner was crowned by Lauren Moon, Miss JSU 2008. Runners up to the new Miss JSU are Whitney Curtis, a sophomore music education major from Talladega; and Kendal Beverly, a freshman political science/pre-law major from Oxford.

Pageant contestants were judged on evening wear, swimsuit, talent and interview. For her talent, Ms. Osborne performed a jazz dance and tumble routine. Ms. Curtis’ talent was classical piano, and Ms. Beverly’s talent was contemporary ballet en pointe.

The Miss JSU Scholarship Pageant is a preliminary pageant for the Miss Alabama Scholarship Pageant, which will take place in June. The winner of Miss Alabama goes on to the Miss America pageant. The Miss America Organization provides millions of dollars in scholarships each year at the local, state and national levels, according to Mardracus Russell, director of the Miss JSU Scholarship Pageant.

Jacksonville State University has been represented well at the national level. Heather Whiteside McCallum was crowned Miss America in 1995, and Teresa Cheatham Stricklin was first runner-up to Miss America in 1979.

Other Miss Alabamas who hailed from JSU include Cecil Jenkins Snow, 1971; Jane Rice Holloway, 1973; Julie Houston Elmer, 1977; Tammy Little Haynes, 1984; and Jamie Langley, 2007.

Along with the Miss JSU 2009 crown, Ms. Osborne received a one-year tuition scholarship, $1,000, and more than 25 additional prizes.

Murder and meat pies

Sweeney Todd to open in February

By Matthew Tyson
Staff Writer

This year, Jacksonville State University will take a darker turn with its main stage musical by performing the gruesome production of “Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street.” Due to the success of the Tim Burton adaptation of the musical that hit theatres just over a year ago, “Sweeney” is sure to raise interest in many.

In a recent interview, the director of the play, Eric Traynor, said that he has high hopes for the show and has a lot of faith in his cast. When asked about his cast, Traynor mentions that for this production, the players are required to have more than a just strong voice but strong acting ability as well. He feels that he has both in everyone.

“Sweeney Todd” is known notoriously for its main character murdering people and then baking them into meat pies. When asked about how far he was planning to take the blood and gore, Traynor said he’s not going to take it as far as the movie did, with tons of blood being thrown everywhere.

“The material itself should speak for itself,” Traynor said. “When you are talking about killing people and putting them into meat pies, you don’t really need to show that to make people cry.”

See “Sweeney,” page 2

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A Dog was found on campus, are you it’s owner?
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No facebook?
Stanford U. students are going without Facebook.
Page 2

Stepping forward
Lady Gamecocks struggle to meet expectations.
Page 6

QUESTION of the WEEK
What is your New Year’s resolution for 2009?

- Lose weight -11%
- None - I break my resolutions anyway - 44%
- Quit smoking - 22%
- Make better grades - 22%

Next week’s question:
What are you looking forward to this semester?


**Briefs**

Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte," translated as ("All Women Are Like That), will have its one and only performance on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. The opera has only 6 cast members which act around a plot about infidelity. Directed by Dr. Nathan Wright, the opera takes place in 18th Century Naples, Italy. Mason Hall Performance Center will hold the one and only showing.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 256-782-5876. For additional information about "Cosi Fan Tutte," please visit the website at http://music.jsu.edu/OPERA.

**Campus Crime**

**December 8**
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported in Stone Center parking lot. Items stolen include an international business book valued at $150, a consumer behavior book valued at $170 and an advertising promotions book valued at $140.
- Domestic violence was reported at Stone Center.

**December 9**
- Assault was reported at the KA house.

**December 15**
- A theft of property was reported at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Items stolen include an Aerosmith keychain with dorm and car key.

**December 16**
- Harassing communications was reported at Patterson Hall.

**December 30**
- A burglary was reported at Penn House Apartments. Items stolen include a Compaq laptop computer valued at $600, a pair of mid top Jordan shoes size 7 valued at $150, a pair of Nike shoes valued at $70, other clothes valued at $250 and a black laptop carrying bag.

**ON Campus**

**Picture of the week**

The orchestra rehearses as the set construction continues for "Cosi Fan Tutte," which opens Thursday. If you would like to see your photo as 'Photo of the week', email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com. Photo by Zach Childree/ The Chanticleer

**By Vineet Singal**

**Uwire**

Perhaps nothing exemplifies the life of a college student better than Facebook. The popular, free social networking — and usually procrastination-aiding — Web site developed by Mark Zuckerberg currently has over 140 million users worldwide.

But while Facebook's popularity at Stanford University — one of the first campuses to start using it in 2004 — is undeniable, a small but significant number of people on campus still haven't jumped on the bandwagon.

Caitlin Tharp '12, for example, does not have a Facebook, explaining that Facebook "takes up too much time." "I am just not willing to commit to it," she said. "There are other things I'd rather do with my time."

Pondering the consequences of an online profile doesn't seem to be one of them.

"At the end of the day, I think I would just think myself to death about the implications of a virtual self if I possessed Facebook," said David Keeler '10. "I would find no power in an edit function — only self-consumption from its benefits doesn't keep me up at night. It is just something that I don't desire to participate in."

Frank also believes that Facebook is a philosophically flawed concept since "it would feel like selective voyeurism to create a profile" and "degrade any scant sense of self that I claim to possess."

"I feel that it is just another layer that we use to avoid the possibility of actually connecting with somebody," he said. "Facebook is just a modern expression of the same process of alienation and self-loathing that has been the status quo for quite some time."

Indeed, the principal objection against Facebook seems to be the absence of true human interaction.

For Keeler, "Facebook cheapens the value our society gives to direct human interaction. It also enables us to have social lives without actually developing social skills, which I believe is detrimental."

Surprisingly, the fact that Facebook could be a distraction from schoolwork does not seem to be the issue.

"My academic life wouldn't suffer if I had a Facebook account that was not and an alternate method of communication: the cell phone. "Using the phone seems like a more personal means of communication, and I like that better," he said.

"I have long conversations with friends every couple of months and definitely make sure I see them when I'm in town," Frank said.

Some, however, just prefer to see old friends face to face. "When individuals communicate over the phone, for instance, all of the body language cues are lost, and even instant message-style communication, even vocal inflections are lost," Keeler said. "When my friends and I are in the same town, we'll usually arrange to meet up and hang out.

Not using Facebook can also have other advantages, such as making for an all-the-more special get-together with a friend after a long separation.

"It makes reunions much more sweet and much more for the moment since we both don't have expectations based on what we perceive the other's life to be like through their Facebook albums and such," Frank said.

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"My academic life wouldn’t suffer if I had a Facebook account," Keefer said. "And anyway, I can distract myself from work without Facebook."

Frank agreed.

"There are enough distractions on the Internet to be a placeholder for Facebook’s ability to devour time and energy," he claimed.

As such, this alleged emphasis on quantity over quality can turn off some people from Facebook. The Web site contains a counter of how many friends one has, and, until recently, listed the number of one’s wall posts — friends’ comments on a user’s profile.

And when it comes to social networking, Facebook-less individuals don’t generally use alternative sites. While that might seem to create some obstacles in terms of catching up with old friends, there are other options. Tharp admitted that while there may be some practical benefits to Facebook, she pre-

**Sweeney:** Actors must also have strong voices

it more effective. There will be some blood, but it won’t be gruesome. You have to keep an eye on your audience.”

"I guess we will have to see how they take it," Traynor said. "If I do my job well enough there will be enough laughter and tender moments to counter balance the gruesome story, and allow them to hopefully sympathize with the characters even with these awful things they are doing."

Traynor says he hopes that people who might be afraid of “Sweeney” will give it a chance.

"It’s one of those things where you hear just the story and you think ‘Oh my god, how can I enjoy this’," Traynor said. "But it’s actually very moving at times, very funny at times and even very wrenching at times."

With “Sweeney’s” music known for being difficult, it’s not surprising that at the first rehearsal, the cast struggled a bit in enjoying the entire show and appreciating the story in full.

"Sweeney Todd" opens February 19th at 7:00 p.m., and will continue to make plans and grow.

The school is also focusing on com-

**Tightening:** Turner: “We’re looking at everything”

A fence shrouded in green lines Mountain Street where the new dorm and stadium expansion project is underway. A few new blue lights can be seen glowing on campus at night from the latest emergency phones added to campus and new lights are going in near Rowe Hall.

"You’ve got to continue to have those plans. That’s why we’re continuing with the dormitory project and the stadium project, because those are going to bring in revenue," Meehan said. "You’ve got to continue to make plans and grow."
Dating/Love: Perhaps the past should stay out of the present

By Julie Skinner

By college, many people have either previously been in what they would call a serious relationship, or are currently in one. Something changes once the transition occurs from high school to college. Relationships tend to become more mature, and some even find themselves engaged before graduating. No matter how long you have been with a person or how well you think you know them, a subject will arise that often causes tension between you and your significant other depending on how you handle it. The past.

I met my boyfriend while on a summer internship in Memphis. We’ve been dating long-distance for a little over 6 months. We drive 5 hours to see each other at least once a week, often meet up halfway on weekends and spend spare time out of school together. We’re a dedicated couple. We drove that far when gas prices spiked to $3.99 per gallon and drove the 5 hours back the very next day in order to catch our classes. But this weekend, while having one of our infamous 3-hour phone conversations, I asked him about the girls he had dated in his past. Oh boy. Here’s where the turbulence started.

He instantly clammed up and his voice grew tense. We had a completely different perspective on the idea of knowing about each other’s pasts. I felt like it came with the territory of a serious relationship, going right along with being completely open and honest with each other. I was more than willing to share mine. He felt like it was in the past, so why even bring it up? “It will only cause an argument,” he said.

“You’re already causing one by making such a big deal out of this,” I said. I know tons of couples that have had this very issue. We somehow talk ourselves into believing that we should know every single detail about every single relationship in our honey’s past.

So, as I sat staring at my television on mute, with the phone pressed to my ear that might as well been on mute,

Joe The Plumber goes down the drain

By Zach Childree

The media is the reason that people die in war.

Newspapers, television and the Internet should only be able to report what the Military thinks they should.

Sound crazy?

These gems are brought to you by the ever spotlight seeking Samuel Wurzelbacher, otherwise known as “Joe the Plumber”.

Sam (or Joe, I’m still not sure which is his real name) was covering a major military action in a highly unstable region in the middle-east (Not anywhere near Middle-America, or Middle Earth)

It’s that simple! No need for a college degree or even a basic reporting class. Just follow these 4 steps, like Sam Joe Wurzelbacher, and you’ll start your career in journalism in no time.

1. Students must come up with a moniker that conveys how average and regular they are. Perhaps “Ted the Tree Topper,” or “Norma the Nurse” would be available.

2. Students will then hide the facts of their actual situation and the fact that they owe taxes.

3. Students will then join the camp of the opposing presidential candidate and travel around the country as a “spokesman”.

4. Zach Childree
Sound crazy? These gems are brought to you by the ever spotlight seeking Samuel Wurzelbacher, otherwise known as “Joe the Plumber.”

Sam (or Joe, I’m still not sure which is his real name) was hired by an Internet news site to do reporting on the current hostilities between Israel and Palestine. Sam/Joe gets to run around spouting off about how horrible the media is and telling everyone his opinion about opinions in the news, and someone pays him for it. Sam/Joe has no journalism experience and still managed to wrangle a job as a reporter.

I know tons of couples that have had this very issue. We somehow talk ourselves into believing that we should know every single detail about every single relationship in our honey’s past.

So, as I sat staring at my television on mute, with the phone pressed to my ear that might as well been on mute; I began to wonder why this was even worth the time, the energy and the uncomfortable tension brewing between us. It wasn’t.

While I, the one in school for journalism, am so eager to know the present, past and future of every interesting person I meet, my boyfriend is the opposite. He’s a “right now” kind of guy, one who looks to the future and doesn’t feel the need to relive what made him become the person he is today. He never looks back, while I periodically glance over my shoulder and nod at old memories.

We ended up having the conversation. Not because he caved, but because we compromised. He could live with telling me about his past if I could live with not pressing for details about what color shirt he wore to his 8th grade dance, (hey, I like to be thorough).

When you truly love a person, you want to know all about them. You want to hear the stories of their youth and of their adolescence. We may not always know what our significant other has lurking in their pasts, but when you agree to love someone, you’re accepting their past, their present and if you agree to it, their future. You agree to love them when they’re happy, sad, rich, poor, strong and broken. To truly love a person, you also have to realize that you can’t possibly know everything about them. If you did, there would be nothing left to discover. Besides, why does it even matter where they’ve dated? It’s the journey you are taking together now that matters.
THE STRENGTH TO HEAL
and learn lessons in courage.

The pride you'll feel in being a doctor increases dramatically when you care for our Soldiers and their Families. Courage is contagious. Our Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) helps you reach your goal by providing full tuition, money towards books and lab fees, a $20,000 sign-on bonus, plus a monthly stipend of more than $1,900.

To learn more about the U.S. Army Health Care Team, call Maj. Katherine Murdock at 877-351-6753, email katherine.murdock@usarec.army.mil, or visit healthcare.goarmy.com/info/mchpsp1.

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A long December

"A long December and there's reason to believe maybe this year will be better than the last" — Counting Crows

A strong month of play by JSU's men's basketball team has given fans hope that the James Green era will be something special.

Road success

The two words in this subheadline haven't been included in the same sentence in regards to JSU basketball the last few years.

It took just short of five years, and it took two overtime periods, but the Gamecocks finally won a non-conference road game on November 22. The win came 80-73 at Georgia State, not the most impressive team in the world, but still, it was enough to give James Green's new team some confidence.

Two days later, the Gamecocks had to make a 1,100 mile trip to Amherst, Massachusetts to play one of the four strong non-conference teams on its schedule this season. UMass was installed as a 17.5-point favorite, and there was no rational reason to think JSU could compete.

Somehow, some way, JSU competed, kept it close throughout, and gave itself a chance to win at the end. Still, with under 30 seconds to play, the Minutemen led.
Um, this is a home game, right?

Due to a bizarre scheduling decision, virtually nobody saw JSU's thrilling victory over VMI. It's not often that a home game is considered a home game.

For reasons that will have to remain unclear, the Gamecocks' most important and interesting non-conference game was played during the Iron Bowl. The Aniston Star's Al Muskievicz, a Philadelphia native, and I weren't interested in watching the Iron Bowl. That put us in an exclusive group to which maybe two percent of the state belongs.

Al joked before the game that the only drama was to see which total would be higher, VMI's points or the number of people in attendance.

Unfortunately, all the people who stayed home and watched a horrible football game missed out on an impressive display on both ends of the court from JSU. "Man, this was like a road game," Brandon Crawford said.

"There were more VMI fans here than JSU fans," Crawford added.

Actually the 147 fans in attendance were split pretty evenly, but there is no disputing that VMI fans made more noise. Kind of sad regardless, but especially considering the Keydets were getting blown out for most of the game.

Crawford did thrill the fans with several highlight reel dunks as JSU started to open the lead.

The freshman said he was treated like just another road player. After a few recent losses, JSU fans have been among the conference's elite.

That's why the BCS works

The BCS isn't supposed to give us the best two teams. Obviously SC would be in the national title game every season. Three of the past four years the Trojans have had the number one recruiting class in the nation, they have more draft picks than anyone and there is no denying the ability of Pete Carrol to mold a team.

So why did Oklahoma and Florida play for the national title? They were more deserving than the Trojans.

They went 12-1, won the two premier conferences in college football and their only losses came to the second best team in those conferences in games they led for most of the game.

See "Staubs," page 6

Above: Nick Murphy shoots a jumper earlier this year. The sophomore struggled with injuries early in the season, but is currently one of five Gamecocks averaging over 10 points per game.

All photos courtesy of James Hanks / JSUFan.com

All stories by Sports Editor Jered Staubs

RPI rising ... but early OVC struggles

No one in their right mind would say JSU is capable of defeating the defending national champion Kansas Jayhawks. But the Gamecocks won at UMass on November 24, and 19 days later, the Minutemen defeated Kansas in Kansas City.

That's probably one of those things that sounds a lot cooler than it is. Fun to think about, terminating where JSU finishes in conference play, the next two games will go a long way to determining where JSU finishes in the Ohio Valley Conference.

And they don't figure to be easy.

Murray State visits Pete Mathews Coliseum tonight. The Racers also sit at 2-3 in conference play, a departure from recent years in which they have been among the conference elite.

Equally important, and perhaps more interesting, is the Saturday afternoon game, in which preseason All-American and conference Player of the Year Lester Hudson will lead his UT-Martin Skyhawks to Jacksonville.

**JSU's best athlete, true freshman Brandon Crawford, dunks over VMI's Michael Sparks while Allen Gilbert looks on by himself. Gilbert evidently was not interested in the Iron Bowl either.**
One step forward, but two steps back

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

After squeaking into the Ohio Valley Conference tournament with one of the youngest teams in the country last year, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team opened the 2008-09 season with high hopes of competing for an OVC championship.

But the Gamecocks (3-12, 0-5 OVC) spurted out of the gates and now find themselves near the bottom of the conference standings in early January.

JSU began the season in impressive fashion, dropping 102 points in an exhibition win over Miles College. Since then, the Gamecocks have struggled on the offensive side of the floor, scoring 70 points in only one contest while shooting 34.5% from the field.

JSU ranks next to last in both scoring offense and field goal percentage within the OVC.

The Gamecocks opened the season with a six-game losing streak before picking up their first win of the season against West Georgia.

JSU's biggest success of the season came in Jacksonville, Fla., where the Gamecocks went 2-0 in the Lady Osprey Holiday Classic, defeating both Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Longwood University.

Unfortunately for JSU, that success didn't help turn things around. The Gamecocks opened OVC play with a devastating 84-60 loss at Tennessee Tech and have yet to win a conference game this season.

Jolie Efezokhae has lived up to the hype of being named to the Preseason All-OVC squad, ranking in the top 10 in points per game with 13.9 and rebounds per game at 7.7. However, the junior forward from Buford, Ga., isn't receiving much help, as no other Gamecock is even averaging double figures.

JSU has been without the services of arguably its best player, Cierra Duhart, for the entirety of the 2008-09 season. As a freshman, Duhart was a huge threat in the post, leading the conference with a .578 field goal percentage and ranking sixth in rebounds with an average of 7.9 per contest. Those numbers were good enough to earn a spot on the OVC All-Newcomer team.

The Gamecocks still have a chance to turn things around with 13 conference games still remaining on the schedule, but coach Becky Geyer will likely need someone to step up and start making some shots.

JSU plays tonight against Murray State inside Pete Mathews Coliseum and again on Saturday against UT-Martin.

Men's basketball schedule

Women's basketball schedule
OVC play with a devastating 84-60 loss at Tennessee Tech and

As a freshman, Duhart was a huge threat in the post, leading the

Men's basketball schedule

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Staub: Decided to write an actual column like a real journalist would do for once

Unfortunately, the byproduct of the system is some horrible bowl games.

Most of my friends are into sports, and outside a couple Virginia Tech fans I know, none watched the Orange Bowl.

SC was always going to crush Penn State, Alabama was obviously not interested in its bowl game, etc.

But that's a small price to pay for legitimately having a reason to watch college football for three months.

I would never bother watching SC play if there was a playoff. Never. It would be pointless. The Trojans go 10-2 or 11-1, so what? They still qualify for a playoff, and no matter if they are the six seed or the one seed, they are the favorite.

The way the current system is set up, fans from around the country have reason to watch when SC plays one of the elite (I use that term very loosely) Pac-10 schools, especially on the road.

I'm in the minority, but I like that better than the NFL's system. The national champion may not always be the best team, but it is at least going to be a team that has proved its worth throughout the season. That's not always the case in the NFL.

Playoffs aren't the answer

We've seen it several years in a row. A rash of wildcard champions, an 18-0 team losing the Super Bowl to a five seed, a grand total of one win from the top six overall seeds in the playoffs this season... that's a perfect system?

No, that makes the regular season largely irrelevant (other than staying healthy) and makes for horrible matchups in the playoffs.

Speaking of which, how hard are the NFL and FOX praying for a Pittsburgh/Philadelphia Super Bowl? If the Cardinals or Ravens make it, that's a horrible rating.

If, God forbid, both those teams win this weekend... well, the nicest thing I can say is that that is unwatchable.

As great as it is to give all the small bowl games their individual day to be in primetime TV... oh wait, that's not great at all, it's pointless. Anyone wanting to watch Troy play Southern Miss is going to watch that even if Northern Illinois/UL-Lafayette is on at the same time.

Get these ridiculous games out of the way and have the national title game by January 2.

As great as everyone says the national title game was, the quality of play was mediocre at best.

Oklahoma had the best red zone offense all year (touchdowns on 69 of 76 opportunities), but failed to score at all on two of its three red zone possessions. Tebow threw two interceptions all season and then threw two in the first half against OU.

I guess you can give some credit to the defenses, but that second interception was putrid. It's a product of rust, and that was the real shame.

Well, that and Oklahoma losing.