Lack of student response to survey delays improvements

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

Each day, countless students spend too much time driving in circles around the University Park campus parking lots and garages searching for a place to park. Some students idled their vehicles in the corners of the Red and Blue Garages in hopes of finding a parking space that doesn’t require a cross-campus odyssey to make it to class.

While many students complain about parking, few students take steps to inform the University administration of their parking difficulties. The answer may partially lie in the Continuous Quality Improvement Survey, a periodic questionnaire sent to all FIU students.

Earlier this semester, researchers at FIU’s Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness sent a link to the student body for the survey, which is conducted at least once every year and is one of the University’s tools for gauging the level of students’ satisfaction with the school.

“A lot of times, students don’t take the time to make their voices heard,” said Neelie Laforest, statistical research coordinator for OPIE. “This past semester [the survey] was sent out to an estimated 36,000 students, but as of today we have close to 1,400 responses.”

The survey’s purpose is to collect feedback from registered University students pertaining to academic issues, campus life, campus environment, campus safety, University/student communication, student services and student experiences in order to improve the FIU experience.

Laforest said that anything students suggest needs improvement is taken note of.

“The improvement survey is also used to identify departments and services that students have difficulty dealing with,” she said.

“Our main goal is to make sure the students are heard,” said HseinGPS Perez, director of institutional research for OPIE. “If we see there is a pervasive problem in a particular area, we make it known to that area so they can choose to take action.”

According to Laforest, in the past, the survey has yielded a heavy student concern for campus eateries. Students wanted to see more variety in their on-campus diets.

Soon afterward, the food court

Opie, page 2
The argument for museums and libraries to join the rest of Western civilization into the digital world was compelling. Jennifer Antonia

Survey data used for re-accreditation

Lopez also commented that she sees the results of the survey all over her. “Not everyone at FIU is actually trying to be more environmentally friendly. I see a lot of candidates recycling bins,” he said.

Marjorie Douglas, a sophomore majoring in nursing, said she was impressed by the changes.

"I think it's important that we reflect on my practice. It's been a really great opportunity to be able to participate in some of the University's 2.0 projects. It was an incredible opportunity to be able to reflect on my practice," she said.

The Wolfsonian is a museum, library and research center that houses collections comprised of approximately 120,000 pieces. Its curatorial goal is to paint the picture of the various historical and technological changes, which have occurred throughout the years, their vast and varied collections.

The Wolfsonian also co-hosted the 2014 National WebWise Conference, WebWise 2.0: The Power of Community, held April 28-30. "Apart from the prestige and honor that came with being the co-organizer, we felt this was an important way for the conference's participants about how [The Wolfsonian] can use digital technology to better serve our mission, reflected to our 38,000 students — the generation of digital natives," Leff said.
Executive Board positions open to students

Barbara Quijano
Asst. News Director

The Student Organizations Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus is looking for students to join and develop leadership skills that can be refined through the variety of opportunities it offers. "Being a part of SOC is a great way to find out what kind of leader you are," said Didier Georges, SOC president. "Everyone has leadership skills, and SOC offers a variety of opportunities at different levels to see what you can do really well."

The SOC Executive Board is renewed every semester, and its current board is currently looking for interested students to join this student organization, which finances more than 35 clubs at BCC, making sure their fun smoothly, according to Georges.

This council is the governing body of all student organizations on campus, serving those organizations through the coordination of activities to promote the academic, social and athletic interests of the students at BCC, according to its Web site.

Student clubs such as AdScene, Humanities Club: Circle of Women, On Point Poetry, Stonewall/BBC InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and Hip-Hop Alliance are governed by SOC.

"It's a great leadership training opportunity by learning skills that may not be developed in the classroom," said Jessica Senorin, SOC vice president. "It's also a great networking tool, meeting the staff and faculty of other clubs."

Applications for students interested in becoming members of the SOC Executive Board are available on the Web site, as well as in the BCC Campus Life and Orientation office located in WUC 141.

The deadline to apply for any of these positions is April 6 at noon. Positions in the SOC Executive Board include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, marketing director and events coordinator.

These positions are all paid for and the requirements to qualify for any of them include a minimum 2.2 GPA and for 50 percent of classes to be taken at BCC.

"Being a member gives you the ability to work together with a team," Senorin said. "It's not only one person doing a specific set of things."
Banning guns not the key to fewer crimes

JONATHAN DE LA TORRE
Staff Writer

Recently there was talk in Congress of a ban on both automatic and semi-automatic assault rifles in an effort to stem the bloodshed and be the begin-

ning of a renewed effort to ban firearms in the United States.

However, will this really help reduce armed crimes? This question has been debated for many years, but as someone who uses guns recreationally, the answer is simple.

Banning assault rifles will not reduce violent crimes; however, enacting harsher gun laws and imposing tougher background checks will.

If a ban on guns is signed into law, armed robbers and assassins will not stop attacking victims. Criminals are still motivated enough to continue committing crimes and will only find more ways to work around such a ban.

Furthermore, a ban on guns would only increase the risk of having arms taken away from law-abiding citizens. A survey of inmates convicted of armed crimes by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 80 percent of the crimes were committed with a firearm that was an illegal street buy.

This indicates that a black market for guns has been in place for years and a ban would simply expand that market. Take the prohibition movement: Alcohol was banned for 13 years because it was thought that banning it would reduce crime and solve many of society's problems. Instead, bootleg alcohol was sold throughout the nation in underground illegal bars and the black market soared. Prohibition was finally abolished in 1933.

Also, a ban on guns would take away peace of mind from those who own and use firearms legally and responsibly. Many small business owners are now beginning to keep guns in their stores and offices for protection.

How many times have armed robbers gone into stores, restaurants and other shops and shot help-

less clerks and employees in order to get to a safe or cash register? Now think of how many times clerks and employees have been able to defend themselves, and fend off attackers and robbers because they had a gun under a counter or in a drawer.

This also goes for homeowners. Many home-

owners are now beginning to protect themselves. According to a Gallup poll, 38 percent of Ameri-
cans “reported having a gun in their homes.” Armed robberies at one’s home are a real threat.

Our right to own guns is granted to us in the Constitution in the second amendment of the Bill of Rights: “... the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

That should make it clear that any effort to ban any guns would be unconstitutional, though many argue that the founding fathers did not know that firearms would become as dangerous as they are now.

Guns were lethal 222 years ago. They still are today.

So what is the solution, if there is any at all? It’s simple: Congress needs to pass stricter gun laws regarding background checks and law enforcement needs to crack down on the firearm black market. Background checks for the purchase of guns and the Concealed Weapons Permit need to include mental health history and be more detailed.

If lawmakers compromise and law enforce-

ment officers can start an offensive against the black market, then we will have an effective compromise. Good people will be able to keep their guns and criminals to reduce guns will decrease. This, I believe, is the best solution to this decades-long debate.

JADE SCHUSTER
Staff Writer

The Internet has become a cauldron of security lapses, resulting in a race to reinvent it.

According to The New York Times, Stanford University has a team of scientists pondering the inevitable question of how to deal with the current Inter-

et's inability to siphon off belligerent bugs that are capable of single-handedly taking down military and governmental networks.

In efforts to squash this wave of Internet crime, Stanford University’s Clean Slate Project attempts to remedy this and is in its early stages. Its mission, according to its Web site, is “to reinvent Internet infrastructure and services by creating ‘platforms for innovations in networking, computing and storage.’” But what does this mean for us? How does this affect the global Internet community at large? And, better yet, do we need to start over and wipe it clean?

I suspect that a new Internet, while certainly an ingenious idea, is not going to be the answer to all of our hacker nightmares. How exactly would a clean slate solve the inadequacies that currently exist within this giant matrix of mass communications?

More to the point, what about the concept of losing Facebook, MySpace and other social networking Web sites? Not to mention the pure gull of these computer nerds to even suggest that erasing e-mail, blogs, photos and the myriad of personal data and information that is stored on the Web is worth it.

Surely, you have heard of the so-called “Nigeria Scams,” whereby a desktop user, identity-hidden thieves send e-mails from cyber cafes offering to give away millions of non-existent dollars to unsus-

pecting citizens in return for cold hard cash.

Additionally, The New York Times brings up a valid point as to the vulnerability of our networks by referring to an Internet crime gang named Conficker, based in Eastern Europe, that has infected Windows computers, ravaging everything from the computer system at a surgical ward in England to the computer networks of the French military.

But is it really necessary to reinvent the wheel? After all, most of us value our anonymity on the Web, and not all for the sake of criminal or ill-advised activity.

There are cyber stalkers who could visit our children posing as other young peers, and of course there will always be hackers, con-artists and eccentrics galore, but unless we can put a complete end to crime in general, no matter what we try to do to protect the Internet, there will always be someone out there who is smarter, more cunning and willing to manipulate the Web in order to satiate their appetite for tumult and wickedness.

Maybe our efforts are better spent on designing and implementing fail-safe mechanisms to catch us when we fall. For there will certainly be more inci-

dents in which exotic types will infiltrate the Internet’s forbidden networks.

What choice do we have? Yes, we could start a clean slate, but at the end of the day, who really wants to start adding Facebook friends from scratch?

Not I, for one.

IRIS A. FEBRES
Opinion Editor

In March 2009, Lisa Guernsey of The New York Times wrote of the conundrum facing parents and other social networking Web sites? I would be
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IRIS A. FEBRES
Opinion Editor


I don’t mean when students purchase term papers online for unduly amounts of money; I mean when students get paid to achieve high marks on assign-
ments and exams.

Getting paid for your grades is nothing new. I’ve been getting cash for A’s since middle school. When report cards came out, it was a ritual for me and my parents and me – for every “A” I got, I’d receive $5; for every “B,” $2. And whenever they couldn’t pay me for my hard work, they’d instead make a trip to Chuck E. Cheese; I’d relish in their promotions for free tokens when kids show up with their report cards, hungry for coupons to exchange for cheap moldy food and plastic Slinkies.

The fear critics have of such mone-

tary arrangements between students, parents and even schools stems from the possible undermining of “the joy of learning for its own sake,” as Guernsey wrote. By making studying and acing classes into a business, the essence of learning is lost. The aim of doing course-

work is no longer to gain an education – it’s the hope that I’ll find a career that will make me happy after I snag my workers.

The reward of an “A,” for older students, means a better chance at getting into a good college – a much more tangible and meaningful reward to all of our hacker nightmares.

Gaining knowledge alone is a reward
The gang is all here as the original cast from the 2001 hit movie *The Fast and the Furious* reunites to deliver fast and furious thrills. The Fast and Furious franchise is back, with the action-packed instalment *Fast & Furious*. The film opens with an amazing car chase sequence that involves heists, big explosions, and oil tankers. It will make moviegoers breathless with so many close calls.

The man responsible for the heist is Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel), who is still on the run from the FBI with his girlfriend, Letty (Michelle Rodriguez). A tragedy in Dom’s life leads him to return to the United States, where he meets Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham), a former interrogator for the FBI.

They came to worship those gods of action and fast cars in the U.S. as bigger. Everything is bigger in the U.S.—the people, the food, and this is definitely true with Ultra.

The festival has received worldwide recognition. It was the winner of the best music event category at the 24th annual International Dance Music Awards, held during the WMC. It was also named best dance festival at the 2008 Ibiza DJ Awards, known as the “Grammy’s for DJs,” and held annually in Ibiza, Spain. Margaret Coleman, who lives in Miami, has gone to the festival for three years in a row.

“David Guetta and Tiesto were my favorite last year,” Coleman said. “I’m excited about Cut/Copy and Moby this year.”

Coleman was riding downtown Miami’s Metromover on March 28, the second day of the festival. Earlier in the day and on Friday, there was a problem with a “switch” and the system’s outer loop—the one going to Ultra—was out of commission.

“Can you believe this s**t?” shouted one angry man, dressed in a bumblebee outfit. He stormed off the train and began the six-block trek to Bicentennial Park.

Once inside the festival grounds, all was forgiven and forgotten as thebounding bass that visitors had been hearing all along finally materialized into tangible options. Vendors swarmed the grounds with wheelbarrows laden with ice and selling $5 water bottles and $7 beer.

The sprawling festival occupied nearly every square foot of Bicentennial Park’s 30 acres, with more than six stages and two huge tents, each with its own style of music and line-up of artists. The main stage, with a back drop of the purple-lit McArthur causeway, boasted a capacity of 20,000.

For Margaret Coleman, everything always came together to create the perfect festival experience, year after year. “This is my third year, and I know it’s going to be amazing,” she said. “Every year it’s like a whole new festival. By tomorrow, after everything is over, I’ll already be waiting for next year.”
The Cinematic, page 5

Club brings islands home to students

Lucia Sastre
Staff Writer

There’s something alleviating about being part of a group that shares the same cultural views as you.

Launched in 2006, that’s exactly what the Bahamian Student Organization aims to do with its members.

“The BSO is an organization that identifies with and caters to the needs of the Bahamian students at Florida International University,” said Tia Williams, member of the organization.

“We intend to foster a culture that preserves the Bahamian presence on campus through various activities related to the Bahamian culture.”

Tia Williams, member Bahamian Student Organization

We intend to foster a culture that preserves the Bahamian presence on campus through various activities related to the Bahamian culture.

Tia Williams, member Bahamian Student Organization

come together with the desire to support, serve and socialize among themselves as well as the FIU community while showing school spirit and Bahamian pride.

“In the past, we have featured in the Orientation booklet and taken part in FIU related events such as Relay for Life. We also plan to participate in the upcoming Welcome Week during the Fall,” Williams said.

These social events include game nights, Bahamian dinners, attending sports events, occasional meetings where historical as well as current issues regarding the Bahamas are discussed and taking part in various orientations for incoming students.

“We plan social events to maintain an interaction among the Bahamian students and we support the school and show our pride as a unit by attending various social, sporting and fund-raising events,” Hanna said.

The BSO is currently planning a skating trip for club members, according to Hanna.

“It predict it will be fun and it’s a good way for those in the club to get to know each other better,” Hanna said.

Those individuals of Bahamian ancestry or any affiliation thereof

Cheesy lines, eye candy draws moviegoers in

THE CINEMATIC, page 5

reunites and teams up with friend- enemy Brian O’Connor (Paul Walker) to bring down a heroin importer by infiltrating his operation as drivers.

We can admit as moviegoers that we do not go watch a new Fast and the Furious film for the acting. We watch these films to entertain ourselves and escape reality for an hour and a half or more. This is what Fast & Furious manages to do. We are greeted with images of slick cars and beautiful women that seem to fall under the category of “Look But Don’t Touch.”

Aside from the opening sequence, the film has many car races, including an interesting race that pits Dom and Brian against each other through the streets of L.A. where a global positioning system device in their cars tracks their movements. There are many close calls and many crashing cars as the racers drift in and out of the crowded streets.

Director Justin Lin took the helm following the footsteps of Rob Cohen and John Singleton. Lin took on the franchise three years ago with The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. He does a better job with Fast & Furious as he manages not only to showcase car races and races, but also balance it out with other action sequences such as foot chases on the roofs and streets of L.A. Trying to follow the action with the camera bouncing up and down may be a little nauseating for people who have motion sickness.

Fast & Furious brings back the whole team that made the first movie popular, instead of just bringing one (Walker in 2 Fast 2 Furious) or the other (Diesel’s cameo role in The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift). While it is fun to see the cast reunite again, the performances are what you would expect from a Fair and the Furious film. There is no Oscar-caliber acting in this movie and Vin Diesel and the gang try to get by with their acting capabilities and a bad script. Vin Diesel’s dialogue in this film can inspire a book called “How to Say<br>

Cheesy lines without a click and Scowling Like A Dork.”

While the dialogue is bad, the script also has some problems when it comes to the story. The mood of this movie is much darker than the previous installments. The movie takes itself too seriously, becoming one of its weaknesses.

Though this film has a weak script and unsubstantial performances, Fast & Furious reunites the cast to bring a decent action-packed film that provides tons of eye candy and the feeling that summer is around the corner.

The Cinematic is a weekly column that dives into film and filmmaking.
Softball faces top conference team on the road

STEPHANIE GABRIEL  
Staff Writer

During a three-game series in North Texas last weekend, the Golden Panthers’ sluggers totaled 20 hits in the three-game span and lashed the Mean Green’s defense when three different FIU players sailed home runs out of the park in a single game.

The Golden Panthers will shift their focus to conference opponent, University of Louisiana, this coming weekend.

The team will travel to Louisiana to play three games against the Ragin’ Cajuns who currently have an overall record of 20-7, 3-2 in the Sun Belt Conference.

“We’ve played really well on the road too, so I’m glad we have them at their place,” said head coach Beth McClendon. “It’s not an easy place to play but we’ve done so much better on the road.”

McClendon said focusing on the road has not been a problem for her team this season.

“Sometimes it helps the team stay focused because there’s nothing to do but go out and win the game that day,” she said.

The Golden Panthers will look for continued success from the glorified slugger, Kim Rodriguez. With a .323 batting average, the Miami native has totaled 20 RBI already this season along with 23 runs. The senior went 8-for-12, along with four RBI, over last weekend’s series and was named the SBC’s SOFT GLOVE: Infeldler Desiree Fink makes a play on a ground ball. The Golden Panthers’ offense showed its power against North Texas. Will they be able to duplicate that success against the 20-7 Ragin’ Cajuns?

Rodriguez hit her fifth home run in the 114.1 innings she has pitched at FIU with 31.

“She’s swinging better and better all of the time, and she’s capable of doing that to any team, any pitcher, at any moment,” McClendon said.

Freshman Jenny Welch and senior Jessica Landau knocked down the other two homers and FIU took the win in game three, 6-2. The teams split the two previous games one win each.

FLU’s go-to pitcher, Kasey Barrett (10-8), threw two complete games last week, picking up both wins for the Golden Panthers against North Texas.

In fact, the junior has pitched 11 complete games so far this season.

“Kasey has thrown really well; she’s had just two bad outings all season,” said McClendon. “When you have a No. 1, you throw her in games that are crucial.”

With the factors such as lack of momentum and concern about Barrett’s stamina, the team’s record seems inconsistent.

FIU is currently 19-20 overall, and 3-6 SBC, with just 17 games remaining in the regular season.

Coach McClendon will continue to focus on steadying the offense and establishing a solid pitching staff.

“We’ve tried to focus a lot on some of the strengths that UL has and how to defend them, pitch to them, and hit what they throw during the first part of the week in practice and the second part we just focus on what we do well,” McClendon said.

Louisiana’s batting line-up is stacked with four players who are hitting well over .300 on the season.

Meanwhile, the main threats on the defensive end will be Donna Bourgeois (14-4) and Ashley Brignac (5-2).

Bourgeois posts a 1.22 ERA in the 114.1 innings she has pitched this season, while Brignac has a .25 ERA in 57 innings thus far.

Freshman Jennifer Gniadek (7-8) along with the well-established Barrett, will most likely lead FIU’s pitching staff against the Ragin’ Cajuns.

Gniadek posts a 2.84 ERA in the 88.2 innings she has pitched this season.

Barrett leads the staff in innings pitched with 133.1 and a 2.15 ERA to go along with 117 strikeouts.

“We’re going the exact way we’ve gone, Kasey two out of three games and Jen the second game,” said McClendon.

“I think the others have worked hard and are ready to go at the relief role.”

Last time these teams met, in the 2008 season, the Ragin’ Cajuns were ranked No. 19 in the nation and swept the series away from the Golden Panthers.

“We’ve been working really hard to get ready for this team,” said Barrett. “They’re probably the toughest team in our conference and we really want to win. They swept us last year so we owe them three wins; I think if we bring everything or at least have two of the three of hitting, pitching or defense, we can win the game.”

They swept us last year so we owe them three wins.

— Beth McClendon, head coach

Alfonso joins group of elite freshmen getting playing time

ALFONSO, page 8

reason that Raiko is on pace to be a player of the caliber of Mollica, one of the most feared hitters in the Sun Belt Conference.

Mollica was at Central Florida Community College as a conference, Mollica was at Central Florida Community College as a sophomore last year before returning from injury.

“At any moment,” McClendon said. “I think the others have put in the work and are ready to go at the relief role.”

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Softball faces top conference team on the road

They swept us last year so we owe them three wins.

— Beth McClendon, head coach

Linebacker corps more aggressive, stronger this Spring

FOOTBALL, page 8

corps is expected to be a strong point for FIU, and it showed this Spring.

“Discipline. We got more aggressive, getting off blocks and swarming to the ball, those were our main objectives,” said linebacker Scott Bryant of this Spring.

FIU will see an improvement in depth at linebacker this season, with Aaron Davis being more seasoned, and Winston Fraser returning from injury. The FIU brass is optimistic.

“Scotty’s always been a real steady football player, and all of a sudden you’ve got Winston Fraser who had to sit out last year, a very smart football player,” coach Cristobal said.

The Spring game will take place at the FIU Football Stadium and admission is free.

“We don’t hold anything back, truly. We’re gonna play football, and we’re gonna get better; we don’t have a day to blow off. We’re gonna knock the heck out of each other,” Cristobal said.

Reason that Raiko is on pace to be a player of the caliber of Mollica, one of the most feared hitters in the Sun Belt Conference.

Mollica was at Central Florida Community College as a conference, Mollica was at Central Florida Community College as a sophomore last year before returning from injury. The Beacon – Friday, April 3, 2009www.fi usm.com

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Bullpen loses second straight game

**SERGIO BONILLA**
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers lost another lead.

For the second consecutive game, the baseball team held a lead going into the final three innings of the game and ended up losing.

A 7-5 lead in the bottom of the eighth proved to be fragile as Jorge Marban allowed four runs. Rain and thunder forced officials to end the game early, and the Golden Panthers fell 9-7 to the Jacksonville University Dolphins on March 31 on the road.

Jumping out to big leads has not been the issue for the Golden Panthers all season; they obtained a five-run lead in the top of the third.

Two Jacksonville errors coupled with a string of hits led to the five runs. But without one of the team’s three top pitchers starting, the Golden Panthers allowed three runs in the bottom half of the third. The Dolphins managed to score the three runs due to four singles and a double. Daniel DeSimone, the Golden Panthers’ starting pitcher, would cough up another run during the bottom of the fourth to cut the lead to 5-4. A sacrifice fly by Derik Grimes tied the game at five.

In the top of the eighth, the Golden Panthers would score some runs for the first time since the third inning. They recaptured the lead with a wild pitch and a bunt. Nonetheless, they led 7-5 in the bottom of the eighth.

Jorge Marban entered the game and could not retire the first four batters. The Dolphins managed to muster only two hits in the inning, but three walks and an error were enough for them to score four times in the inning. The rain fell, and the game was called off with still just one out in the inning.

DeSimone finished the night by giving up six runs in five innings of work. Marban was charged with his first loss of the season.

The second game of the series was rained out in Jacksonville.

**FOOTBALL**

Team preps for Blue & Gold game

**ANDREW JULIAN**
Sports director

FIU will complete its 2009 Spring football campaign with the annual Blue and Gold game on April 3 at 6 p.m.

This will conclude a schedule of 13 practices for the Golden Panthers this Spring, following a 5-7 season where FIU looked like a conference contender at times.

“Guys are competing. Positions that needed work are getting better,” said head coach Mario Cristobal, who is entering his third season at the helm for the Golden Panthers. “Overall, we’ve got a better understanding of what we’re trying to do, and [taking] the next step in terms of changing the culture and where we need to get,” Cristobal said.

Cristobal also addressed some of the specific players who’ve made strides, on both sides of the ball.

Wayne Younger, who started for FIU as quarterback in the 2007 season, but was unseated by Paul McCull last season, has had a good Spring, and the FIU head coach has taken note.

“Wayne Younger has really come on strong as of late. He’s done some really good things. He provides a different dynamic for us at quarterback,” Cristobal said.

Younger missed the final game of the ‘07 season, an FIU win over North Texas, and saw limited action a year ago.

When asked what he saw in Younger this Spring, coach Cristobal was quick to respond.

“Decision making. I think his attitude is a lot better; it’s more hunger, rather than accepting a role as a backup player. Everything he’s doing is extremely impressive,” Cristobal said.

Another oft mentioned offensive player this Spring has been Jason Fietsion. The sophomore receiver, also known as Ty, caught a touchdown pass in each of the final two games last season.

“Ty is just blowing things up out there and making plays,” said Paul McCull of Fietsion, who led the Golden Panthers in receptions in 2007, but saw a more limited role due to the emergence of T.Y. Hilton and Greg Ellington.

Defensively, the linebacker...