Lending a Hand: Wendy Bourgault, school and church development coordinator, hosts a food drive for Haiti & Poetry Read Out at the gazebo in front of the Biscayne Bay Library. For more see page 3.

FOOD FOR THE POOR

The interviewers ask themselves if you’re the type of individual they are comfortable having as their physician.

BETTY L. MONFORT, Admissions Director

College of Medicine

The forum was geared toward addressing the academic and extracurricular activities required for students to become strong medical school applicants. Besides needing a minimum 3.5 GPA in all science and math courses, the forum addressed leadership skills, community service, shadowing a practicing physician and research, which are also components in the applications.

It’s not enough to be a 4.0 student,” said Professor of Chemistry and Director of Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising and Undergraduate Research John Landrum.

Obtaining above average Medical College Admissions Test scores is also crucial, according to Landrum. The median score of accepted medical school students is 32.

LANDRUM. The median score of applicants is also crucial, according to Landrum.

Undergraduate Research John and Director of Office of President,” said Professor of Chemistry components in the applications.

The forum was informative, they have more people on campus and new people on campus that haven’t acclimated themselves to the University community and are not protecting their property,” King said.

The chief of police also said the same trend of increased larcenies at the beginning of each semester mirrors the trends for auto thefts at FIU.

“We have some people who come onto campus who have criminal intent and are looking for things left in cars, or actually taking them,” said sophomore Gilbert Flores.

King attributed the on-campus robberies to the fact that there are more people at FIU during the beginning of each semester.

“They [larceny numbers] tend to trend up typically toward the end of the semester because we have more people on campus and new people on campus that haven’t acclimated themselves to the University community and are not protecting their property,” King said.

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OLGA VELEZ  Staff Writer

When electrical engineering student Chris Rodríguez grew tired of seeing the same projects offered at FIU last fall, he decided to start a project that could result in having a satellite launched into space.

He teamed up with his friend Henric Boiardt, a public administration major, to enter the Florida University Satellite Design Competition. NASA's Florida Space Grant Consortium runs a competition that challenges Florida students to build an amateur satellite.

“I have always had an interest in tinkering and building things and when [Chris] Rodríguez came to me to join the program, the idea intrigued me,” Boiardt said.

According to Rodríguez, the satellite they designed focused on an innovative way to improve communications between amateur satellites.

“The idea was innovative and promising to amateur satellites that are limited to twice a day communications for 15 minutes because of their orbit,” Rodríguez said.

Despite the fact that the team of two students was competing against teams of six students with more experience, Rodríguez and Boiardt won second place with their design, along with $2,000 from the Florida Space Grant Consortium (FSGC) to further fund their project idea.

“It was a proud moment for us and for FIU, but no one ever found out except for a few FIU students we took to the competition as guests,” Rodríguez said.

This year, they are entering the competition again, creating a satellite that will analyze space weather, a growing concern of several organizations including NASA, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Space weather is the effect that space and solar flares in particular can have on the environment, according to the official NASA Web site.

Rodriguez said research in this area is vital because communication satellites in space are in danger, such as current GPS satellites.

The concept of the satellite will be disclosed to the public this upcoming January through a presentation at the Engineering Center. The final presentation location and time is still to be determined.

Building a satellite requires the two students will need funding from external sources to make their design come to life.

“This is cheap by satellite standards, but a burden for students to raise,” said Rodríguez. “Many institutions, like the University of Florida, are funded fully or partly by their school.”

The deadline for students to join this competition team is September and Rodríguez is looking for mechanical and physics students to join.

“You can’t get closer to what you will see in the job environment than this. This is an emerging technology that is getting popular. The people involved in these satellites are pioneers into a world of bringing costs drastically down and increasing the availability of space research,” Rodríguez said, when asked why students should join the program.

Boiardt said that with more people helping the team, FIU will be able to continue to receive awards and possibly more funding.

“Space weather and other related programs are a big concern for the government and it’s a good way to get a foot in the door,” Boiardt said.

For more information on the satellite design competition, e-mail crodr021@fiu.edu.

FIU

FIU opens new media lab

FIU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication is in the process of building a brand new media lab. The lab will be funded for the most part by the Scripps Howard Foundation, which gave the SIMC $250,000 to build the new media lab.

FIU to host unique Rabbi, renowned scholar

Chabad FIU, the Center for the Study of Spirituality and FIU’s Judaic Studies Program will be featuring Rabbi Manis Friedman as a guest lecturer to speak about the topic of existence on Oct. 2. The lecture will be held at the Green Library room 220. Friedman is a renowned Biblical scholar, known for his ability to relate Jewish mysticism and apply it to modern society. His first book “Doesn’t Anyone Blush Anymore?” has received a great deal of positive reviews from various media sources.

LOCAL

Florida looks to alleviate housing crisis with federal aid

The state of Florida will receive $541 million in federal funds to prevent home loan defaults. The funds, called community development block grants, must be used by the state and local governments to buy property and offer down payment assistance to lower middle class families. President George Bush signed the housing recovery package back in July to save the housing market at the time. Since June 30, the state of Florida had the highest percentage of foreclosures in the country.

POLICE NOTES

9/18/08 – 9/19/08

Sept. 18: A 59-year-old female parked her vehicle at Red Garage, returning to it late in the evening to discover that unknown subject(s) had taken her two side signal lights.

Sept. 18: A male FIU student reported to police that he as slept on the second floor of the Green Library at one of the cubicles, unknown suspect(s) had taken his iPhone and its carrying case.

Sept. 19: FIU student reported to police that after departing from class at the Green Library, he went to Panther Hall, only to realize that he left his Sanyo recorder on the desk of classroom 100-B. The student went back to the classroom to discover his recorder was gone. At this time, he also realized that his wallet was missing. The student told police that he last saw his wallet in his pocket when he was in the classroom.

-Compiled by David A. Barrios
New commuting options are greener, wallet-friendly

DIANA KUCAWA
Staff Writer

These days, filling up at the pump is more of a sac- rifice than a routine stop on morning commutes. Students who attend Biscayne Bay Campus are feeling their pockets get lighter as a sagging economy and extreme weather conditions continue to af- fect gas prices across the country. I drive a ‘97 Mercury Villager every day, so filling up is getting more expensive for me,” said Michelle Embon, a sophomore.

Students can use the flex- ibility and comfort of their cars, but the University of Miami offers other options aimed at relieving tight budgets and curtailing extreme weather effects. The Office of Parking and Transportation is offering a new program called GreenRide. The program, championed by its director, Bill Foster, aims to reduce greenhouse gases and re- lieve commute prices, us- ing an online database that makes student carpooling easier.

GreenRide is free, and open to all students, faculty and staff. Participants can reduce greenhouse gases, save money on gas and get priority parking spaces on campus, according to www. fiu.greenride.com.

GreenRiders begin the program by inputting basic personal information such as name, student ID, a de- tailed schedule and desired destinations into a Web site database. Then, they can choose from a list of available drivers that match their criteria, all while remaining anonymous to those driv- ers until contacting them directly.

“GreenRide is great because it can be very con- venient if you find a good carpool friend,” said David Fonseca, Environmental Affairs chair of BBC Student Government Council.

Charles Scurr, chairman of the President’s Climate Commitment Task Force, said in a press release that the program was proposed to “reduce traffic and relieve parking congestion, while at the same time improving air quality and helping to con- serve energy.”

Another program is the Golden Panther Express Shuttle. Buses on the shuttle line travel from University Park to BBC on an average of one every 40 minutes, ac- cording to the Parking and Transportation’s Web site. For $2 each way, riders can travel in the comfort of an air-conditioned shuttle, while studying, sleeping or working.

Tickets can be purchased at the information desk ei- ther at UP’s Graham Center, or at the Wolfe University Center at BBC.

Another option is to ride a bicycle to school. “Students should defi- nitely take advantage of [the] bicycle racks that we have both at UP and BBC,” Fonseca said. “It alleviates time, congestion of people and lessens CO2 emissions.”

Students can opt to take Metro buses to save on gas. Metro bus numbers 83 and 183 both go to BBC.

For more information on specific routes, students can visit www.miamidade. gov/transit.

The state also offers the bicycle pedestrian program, in which thousands of paved roads, specifically for safe walking and riding, ensure cheap and healthy ways to commute. BBC students may use the FIU/Oleta State Park trails in North Miami that run parallel to 163 St., and throughout the park it- self, on their way to school.

“We have some of the largest cars in America. I can’t believe that Americans haven’t learned to share those extra seats in those Hummers or Escalades. I think it’s time we do that and give a ride to people who really need it,” Fonseca said.

With more options avail- able during the current eco- nomic crisis, students can commute while being envi- ronmentally friendly.

Poetry fundraiser brings relief to Haiti

MIKALIA C. TENNIE
Staff Writer

This year’s hurri- cane season left people homeless and starving in Haiti, and Biscayne Bay Campus students decided to do something about it. Sept. 25 at a food drive and poetry recital

Donna Weir-Soley, English professor, came up with the idea to com- bine poetry with a fund- raiser. She partnered with Steve Switzer, BBC ac- cess services librarian, to host the Food Drive for Haiti and Poetry Reading.

Out in the ga- zebo from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Switzer has participated in other events at the library that involved poetry, such as Banned Books Week and Poetry Week.

“[Weir-Soley] adopted the model the library has used in the past to pro- vide [poetry events] on the BBC lawn. I’m very pleased with how she’s do- ing,” Switzer said.

Weir-Soley encour- aged her students to bring canned goods and other non-perishables in an ef- fort to relieve some of the immediate hunger that is rampant in Haiti.

She al- so asked them to prepare poetry to read during the event.

“I am a poet, so nat- ural, I wanted to do something on campus for students to be involved in [helping hurricane victims]. There are lots of Hispanic-American students on this campus, so there’s a vested interest,” Weir-Soley said. “Poetry should be put to work. It shouldn’t just sit in the book and look cute.”

And put it to work, she did. Students read poems by various authors, ranging from Langston Hughes to Tupac Shakur and Margaret Walker.

Weir-Soley worked with the organization Food for the Poor in order to transport the goods to Haiti.

According to its Web site, Food for the Poor is the sec- ond-largest international re- lief organization in the United States, and serves the 16 poor- est countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Food for the Poor’s headquarters is located in Coconut Creek, Florida.

“I trust Food for the Poor because I’ve worked with them in the past. You don’t have to worry about people running off with your mon- ey,” Weir-Soley said.

Based on Food for the Poor’s annual financial report, 32 emergency relief tractor-trailers were sent to Haiti after Tropical Storm Noel in 2007. Wendy Bourgault, a re- presentative from Food for the Poor, came to the event to speak to students and raise more awareness about the sit- uation in Haiti.

“Imagine four days of rain and no place to put your head because you sleep on the dirt floor that’s being washed away,” Bourgault said.

She was referring to a riv- er that overflowed, washing away sleeping women and children in the night, and people that had to wait four days for help to come because bridges were washed out.

“We took helicopters and dropped food to people on roofs,” Bourgault said.

Some students around campus gathered closer as Bourgault shared how aid could be pro- vided in the situation.

“When you bring what you can, it may seem like a drop in the bucket, but it’s a drop that wasn’t there before.”

Weird Bourgault Food for the Poor Representative

Tickets can be purchased at the bookstore in Big Pine. Plans on having future fund- raising events in the coming months. The next event will be Oct. 17 at a bookstore in Little Haiti.

ATTENTION JOURNALISM MAJORS

Student Media is currently looking for a proficient, hard-working individual to fulfill the administrative assistant director position for the BBC campus.

Interested? E-mail Daniella.Bacigalupo@fiusm.com with your resume.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE SOAPBOX:

Athletics reaches out to all football fans

A successful new chapter in the history of FIU began last Saturday with the opening of our new on-campus football stadium.

With the enthusiastic support of our students, faculty, and staff, we were able to showcase to a national audience how far FIU has come. Our team played extremely hard against No. 12-ranked USF. To be able to compete for four quarters speaks volumes about the heart and character of our team.

For those of you who were unable to attend opening night, we hope you will join us at our next home game on Saturday, Oct. 11 for an important Sun Belt Conference game against Middle Tennessee.

Beginning that night, and for the remainder of the season, as a way to show our appreciation, every student will now receive one free guest admission when they attend a game.

That night, we will also honor our University staff and faculty with $1 admission and a free pregame tailgate party with food and drinks for you and your family.

We also want to offer all season ticket holders a matching number of complimentary admissions for Middle Tennessee. Call our ticket office at (305) 348-4263 for more information.

The spirit and enthusiasm displayed against USF will long be remembered and appreciated. Saturday gave us a glimpse of what the FIU football program will become – a top team that will contend with the best in the nation.

We hope you will join us in this endeavor.

Pete Garcia
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

Ivanka Trump selection worth the price for students

BEN F. BADGER
Special to the Beacon

The Student Government Association exists to better the students at FIU. It provides numerous services to the student body, such as its lecture series. On Sept. 17, SGC-UP was able to bring Ivanka Trump to speak at University Park as part of that series.

While SGC-UP feels the lecture was a complete success and a fantastic start to the lecture series, the Sept. 22 editorial in The Beacon listed many downsides to the lecture.

Many of the viewpoints in this editorial were based more on misinformation, lack of information and a general misunderstanding of the lecture rather than its merits.

SGC-UP values quality over quantity. Ms. Trump is a young woman who graduated from college only a few years ago. But from the various budget cuts that have started to impact various organizations that it already funds, it would quickly deplete its resources and not be able to fulfill its purpose of bringing quality services to FIU students.

While The Beacon may disagree with the validity of Ms. Trump as a speaker, we do not lie. The Graham Center Ballrooms were filled with students who were very engaged in the lecture.

In fact, students were so interested in Ms. Trump’s input that the lecture was interrupted by students eagerly asking her questions.

Ms. Trump was definitely the highlight of this year’s lecture series. SGC-UP wanted to set a standard of excellence for the rest of the lecture series to follow. And while the names may not be as big, the substance of all future speakers of our lecture series will definitely live up to Ms. Ivanka Trump.
‘Chicago 10’ successfully recreates real-life comical trial

By NELSON HERNANDEZ

People are accustomed to purchasing textbooks every semester and struggling to find someone to sell them to when they finish with the course, but now a new site is looking to change the way people obtain their course materials.

Skoobit, the brainchild of recent University of Miami graduate Christopher Blythe, follows the Netflix style of renting, but instead of movies, it ships textbooks to students across the country.

“Always had the idea and Netflix showed me how it could be profitable,” Blythe said. A business major fresh out of college, Blythe set out to develop his idea. Through extensive focus groups with students from various universities, FIU included, Blythe came to hone the afforded potential by dealing directly with the customer. AFR Partners saw potential in the project as well and have been working with Blythe in product development.

About four months ago, Skoobit launched. The base plan is $10.99 a month per book, with other plans available as more textbooks become necessary throughout the school year.

“Designed by students, for students” is the message David Gil, an agent working with Blythe on marketing and development, has emphasized.

Students have helped Blythe build upon his base idea. If a book is unavailable, a quick e-mail to the site manager will cut out the middleman and allow for Skoobit to coordinate with the manufacturer of your choice and have the book sent to you directly.

“Going to the bookstore, the lines were a hassle and in my junior and senior years I went online. All trends have been shifting toward the Internet and with the [financial] crisis, people are turning to this line of business,” Blythe said.

Skoobit is now joining a growing community in the advent of exclusive online content and social communication. In the meantime, Blythe is keeping it simple.

“For now the focus is on text books,” he said.

Gil reiterated his faith in the Internet’s rapid nature.

“While we’re just starting, we’re beginning to develop new offers in the way of dorm supplies and, well, to be honest it’s all on [Blythe],” he said.

Blythe is keeping his eyes on the upcoming Spring semester to introduce his idea on a mass scale.

How it works:

1. Search, Rent
   Simply type the ISBN code of the textbook needed.

2. Receive by Mail
   Textbooks will be sent out, quick shipping guaranteed.

3. Use, Benefits
   Textbooks will be rented for the whole semester or as long as you need it.

4. Return Textbooks to Skoobit
   After you finish with the textbook mail it back to Skoobit

http://www.skoobit.com

The archival footage features members David Dellinger, Abbie Hoffman, William Kunstler, Jerry Rubin, Bobby Seale, Leonard Weinglass and the protest riot itself. The Emmy-winning, 70-minute film will be shown in Graham Center 150 on Tuesday, Sept. 30 before it is shown on PBS on Oct. 22. The event, which is held in cooperation with PBS, SFC. Hands on Miami and Independent Lens, will be available to both FIU students and the local community.

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Blythe is keeping his eyes on the upcoming Spring semester to introduce his idea on a mass scale.
In the United States, breast cancer is expected to be diagnosed every three minutes and a woman dies from breast cancer every 13 minutes. Oct. 1 will kick off breast cancer awareness month. University Health Services and the Student Health Advocate for Peer Education have come together to coordinate a series of events that encourage students to examine themselves and prevent breast cancer.

To launch off the month, UHS and SHAPE have themed their first event as “Breast in the City.” “Sex and the city was huge and we wanted something catchy to make students read the title and react with a ‘huh’ or ‘what’ as they walk by a poster,” said Mariela Gabaroni, Assistant Director of UHS.

Serving non-alcoholic cocktails, the event will take place on Wednesday Oct. 1 in the Graham Center room 305 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. At the event, students will be given the opportunity to ask any questions they have, in addition to meeting survivors as well as fellow students. Those who attend this event will be given a free “I Love Boobs” shirt while supplies last. Over the past two years, students may have seen their fellow peers wearing these shirts incorporated by the Wellness Center. Some may have gotten offended without reading the back of the shirt, which states: “Breast cancer affects everyone.”

For students such as junior marketing major Robert Quintana, the month of October is a great way to help promote cancer awareness among the university. “There are female college students that have been diagnosed with breast cancer and I think that if women who are in college start getting yearly mammograms, they can stop breast cancer before it starts,” he said.

The Women’s Center will be having free screenings on Oct. 17, 24 and 28. Students who want to take advantage of this opportunity can be screened by making an appointment by calling UHS. SHAPE members will be tabling throughout GC during the month. At the tables, there will be fake breast models so students can feel the difference between a healthy breast and a breast with a tumor.

All events lead up to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure walk that will take place on Oct. 18 at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami. Running on its 25th anniversary with over 1.2 million participants around the country, Recreation Services graduate assistant Jacqueline McMillan hopes to get the FIU community more involved with the walk. “[The walk] is a great opportunity to support such a great cause that helps women who have been affected [by cancer],” McMillan said. “I personally haven’t been affected, but it has affected many other people around the country,” freshman Kathleen Izquierdo said.

Students interested in attending “Breast in the City” must reserve their seat by calling UHS at (305) 348-2401. For more information visit www.studentshealth.fiu.edu.
Students allowed one guest at remaining home games

EDITORIAL

For the remainder of the football season, students will be allowed to bring one guest with them to every home football game.

The next home game will be against Sun Belt Conference opponent Middle Tennessee on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. Student can get in free, along with their guest, by presenting their Student ID at Gate 6 before kick off.

“The students are our biggest partners and supporters and that’s why we’re doing this for the last four home games,” said Athletic Director Pete Garcia.

The game against Middle Tennessee will also be Employee Appreciation Night for all FIU faculty and staff. Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for $1 each for themselves and each member of their family.

Tickets must be purchased at FIU Arena’s ticket office or can be purchased Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Graham Center. Cash will only be accepted for the ticket purchases. Details are still being worked out to sell tickets at Biscayne Bay Campus. There is no limit for the amount of tickets faculty or staff can purchase. The first 500 faculty and staff will also receive free food and drinks at a tailgate party.

Athletics will also be matching season ticket purchases. Fans who purchased season tickets will receive matching tickets in the same price range. In order to receive a matching ticket, fans must contact the ticket office.

FIU graduates who are not members of the Alumni Association can receive two free tickets, while annual members can request up to four tickets and lifetime members request up to six tickets. Alumni who reserve their tickets can pick them up at the Panther Tailgate which starts at 5 p.m. the day of the game. Alumni can reserve their tickets or get more information by calling the Alumni Association at (305) 348-3334.

“This is our way of trying to get the entire FIU back on this campus at once,” Garcia said. “We’re trying to create something for our all students that live on campus and for even the students that don’t live on campus, that they have reason to hang out here and for our alumni to come back.”

For more information about tickets for the Middle Tennessee game or for anything else, call the ticket office at (305) 348-2463.

CLASSIFIEDS

ROOM FOR RENT

Studio for rent $600 monthly + $600 security deposit, utilities included; 5 minutes from FIU UP non-smoker, no pets. Please call Maria 305-225-4517

Apartment 4 Rent 1 & 2 Bdr. Completely remodeled, pool, gym,sauna, laundry on site

Women’s soccer breaks scoreless drive, falls to Middle Tennessee at home

AUDRINA BIGOS

Staff Writer

Even after out-shooting Middle Tennessee 17-8, the women’s soccer team was not able to pull out a win on Friday night in their first game in Sun Belt Conference play.

The Blue Raiders dominated the first half and were able to score twice against the Golden Panther defense. An early lead was taken in the 23rd minute, when Heather McDonnell shot off a cross from Shan Jones. The second goal followed in the 50th minute when shot a free kick from 40 yards out.

The Golden Panthers picked up the momentum in the second half.

Freshman Katrina Rose cut the lead in half in the 50th minute when shot a free kick from 40 yards outside the goal. “It was my first home game out of a knee injury all season,” said Rose. “I wasn’t expecting to score a goal, especially not on defense,” Rose said.

The goal was not enough through as FIU could not get the ball in the net, even after numerous chances in the second half.

“Each game was not enough through as FIU could not get the ball in the net, even after numerous chances in the second half,” said Rose. “We tried everything. I think we play well as a team but we need to work on finishing in the forward sections.”

With a dominating second half for FIU, the loss was disappointing after a two week break and two losses on the West Coast in early September. “Everyone was really up-beat and positive coming into the game after the bye week and I think we played really hard,” said Rose, “but it just didn’t work out for us.”

The Golden Panthers will continue Sun Belt Conference play with the return of midfielder Amy Jackson. Jackson has missed the first seven games of the season due to a back injury.

The Golden Panthers will take on Western Kentucky on Sept. 26. The Hilltoppers have a 6-0-1 record and are led by sophomore Megan Meinke.

The Golden Panthers need to defend like they did in the second half against the Blue Raiders if they are looking to win their first game of the season.

FIU will travel to Denver to face the Pioneers on October 3 and then to North Texas on October 5.
ROCKETS ROUTED
FIU takes Toledo for first win of season

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

On a cool night in Toledo, Ohio, it was the Golden Panthers (1-3) who broke through with a 35-16 victory over the Toledo Rockets (1-3) on Sept 27 to capture not only their first victory of the season, but their first road victory in the Football Bowl Subdivision as well. It was also their first non-conference victory and the true beginnings of your FIU football team established under Mario Cristobal. In the following paragraphs, I intend to describe what exactly that identity is, and I will offer pieces of evidence to reinforce my claims.

The surprising victory is likely to be remembered as one of the highlights for a developing team, but it was also an important victory in the Football Bowl Subdivision itself. As head coach Mario Cristobal, who with the victory, recorded his second win as a head coach; his overall record stands at 2-14. The surprising victory is likely to be remembered as one of the highlights for a developing team.

“You watch them on film and there as good as anyone that we’ve played so far,” Cristobal said of the Rockets, who put up 54 points respectively in their two previous contests. 

The Rockets’ high-octane offense looked as if it would put the game out of reach in the early going. On the fourth play of the game for Toledo, wide receiver Nick Moore took an end around from quarterback Aaron Opeik and found receiver Steven Williams down field for a 31-yard touchdown pass that gives the Rockets a 7-0 lead less than two minutes into the game.

Later on in the first, Alex Steigerwald made two field goals from 41 and 47 yards for a 13-0 lead over one quarter after another.

When asked if his team went into panic mode after the early scoring by the potent Rockets offense, Cristobal replied.

“A little bit. Our defense thought we had a real good week of practice and had a real good feel of what they were doing, but they hit us on a trick play.”

When the second quarter began, FIU woke up, and began putting the pressure on the hogs. Junior Paul McCall, who was named the starter for the game on Sept 25 after another week of speculation, found fresh legs in Hilton and the speedy receiver raced to the end zone for a 37-yard touchdown. It was the first passing touchdown for a struggling offense and the second touchdown of the season for Hilton. His first score was on a 74-yard punt return against Kansas on Aug 30.

“We’ve been practicing that play all last week and this week and I was like ‘Paul you got to pull it one time’ and the one time he pulled it, he saw me,” Hilton said of the score.

The Golden Panthers proceeded to take their first lead of the season at 14-13 on a 2-yard run by senior running back Julian Reams but it was short-lived when kicker Alex Steigerwald recorded his third field goal, this from 41 yards, with a minute remaining in the first half. The kick was all the Rockets would muster for the remainder of the game.

Trailing 16-14 at the start of the second half, the FIU offense took over from there, aided by a 55-yard return off a kickoff by Hilton to start the third quarter. Just one play later, Reams sprinted for a 27-yard touchdown run and a quick 21-16 lead.

From that point it was a cake walk for the FIU offense as the group was finally able to generate points with ease. Reams recorded his third and final score on a 1-yard run seven minutes later on a play that was made possible by a Rockets’ turnover inside their own 20.

The night saw Reams not only rush for 78 yards to eclipse 1,000 for his career at FIU but become the first FIU running back to record three rushing touchdowns in a game since Ben West did so on Nov. 26, 2005 against FAU.

Several minutes later, senior A’mod Ned scored on a 6-yard run on a fourth and 2 that gave the Fighting Panthers a 35-16 advantage. The Golden Panthers still struggled to move the ball through the air, as they allowed two sacks, but they were able to carry that to the road.

I, Andrew Julian would hereby like to submit the case for FIU football the defense for the true beginnings of your FIU football team establishing an identity under Mario Cristobal. In the following paragraphs, I intend to describe what exactly that identity is, and I will offer pieces of evidence to reinforce my claims.

The FIU Golden Panthers went on the road, and out tough an opponent for the first time since?...

FIU has struggled on the road, even when FIU was 0-12, and the Golden Panther enthusiasts would say that team played very close games, very few were on the road.

Perhaps the most striking elements about the score is just how FIU scored their points, and how the Rockets just didn’t cake care of the ball.

So much of the outcome of this game had to do with Toledo mistakes. The four turnovers, three of which allowed FIU to start drives inside of the 30 yard line, were ultimately the undoing of the Rockets, and T.Y. Hilton had a long kickoff return that set up one a 2 yard drive, with a Julian Reams touchdown run.

It wasn’t all field position that made life easy for the FIU offense today. The defense has been dominant for its last eight quarters, allowing a average of just 316 yards over the past two contests.

The framework appears to have been assem led to one of the defensive linemen in the Sun Belt this season and if this type of defensive effort continues, FIU will be a force to be taken seriously with in conference play.

This is what attitude will do for you, and where identity can be defined. The positive things that FIU saw in this game are the same things that they saw at home against South Florida, and they were able to carry that to the road.

I want to also remind the public that this was no perfect game, and in fact, it was far from it. The Golden Panthers still struggled to move the ball through the air, as they allowed two sacks, and Paul McCall was just 1 of 13 passing the ball for 98 yards and a touchdown, which was turned over to T.Y. Hilton, on a 37-yard catch and run.

FIU ran the ball for a season high 141 yards, but only averaged 3.1 yards per carry. The offensive woes still exist, but there is a hope that offense can be efficient, after all, they did score 35 points.

The team is moving in the right direction, and it appears as if FIU might have a little bit better speed than the pre-season prognosticators predicted.