



# The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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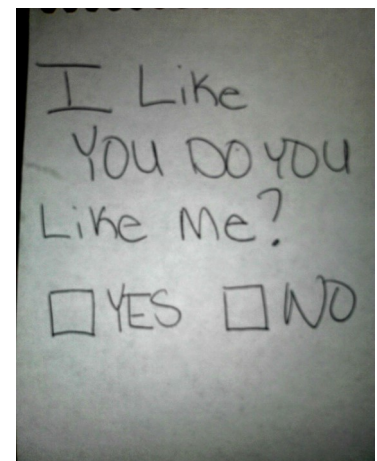
February 2017

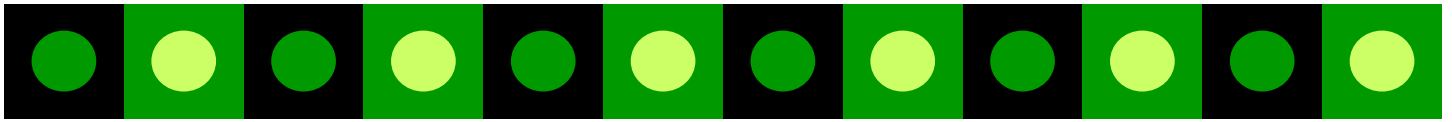
**W**elcome to the February 2017 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council!!! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about their First Crush. This topic allowed members to

share their thoughts about their First Crush and how they handled it. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this February 2017 edition of *The Noodle*!

## Current Members:

Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway  
Rocky Castro  
Megan Germain  
Ian Horowitz  
Josh Tapia  
Christopher Regan  
Dakota Smoot  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore

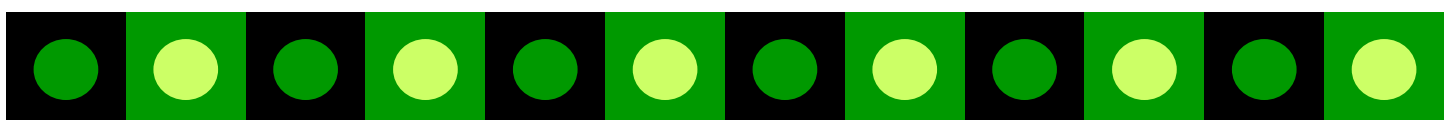




## Second Grade Crush

My first crush was a boy in my second grade class. We liked each other from the time we first met. We talked during school and he would come to my house to hang out. He would come to the house after school and we would toss a ball around and play board games, tag, and hide and seek. We would talk about what we wanted to do in the future. One day we were talking about later on in life and he kissed me. What a surprise! After that we spent more and more time together. When we entered third grade we both became interested in other people, but still remained friends. By the time we reached Middle School, we were enrolled in different schools, we saw less of each other, but still have feelings for each other. We remained friends.

*By Christina Waldron*





## My First Crush

My first crush was on a girl named Kim when I was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. It was love at first sight. That means it happened suddenly. She had black hair. She liked Star Trek like me. She had a good smile too. And she liked me. She became my girlfriend. When she was my girlfriend we planned to get married and move to California way in the future after high school. My parents were in shock at first, but they were supportive.

Kim and I had big plans to have a mansion and then decorate with Star Trek and Star Wars posters. We would have lunch together at school and talk about the plans. It was hard though, because she was always with her friends. The problem was that I was being teased about Kim and I couldn't handle it. Eventually I broke up with her. I have another girlfriend now. I hope it works out better this time.

*By Ian Horowitz*





## Starstruck: My First Crush

This is going to sound a little bit weird, because my first crush wasn't even a real person.

My first crush was Rupert Grint, also known as Ron Weasley, in *Harry Potter*. I don't know why I fell for this character. Maybe because of his quirky personality. Maybe because of his fiery red hair. Or maybe because he had so much difficulty expressing himself to Hermione. When I was younger, it was very difficult to get boys interested in me, due to my cerebral palsy. I had always pictured myself going to Hogwarts with Ron, and we would start dating (I'd like to think I would have had a better chance with Ron than Hermione did, as it was, after all, MY imagination!). Then I would imagine going to meet Ron's family, the Weasley's, in the second book.

As I grow older, I am finding that the best way to cope with your desire to find someone is to find friends before you try to find romantic relationships. I'm not always successful with following this advice, but I do try. It is so easy to fall head-over-heels for some reason, but they usually don't feel the same way about me. It can be simple for a person like me to fall for someone just because they pay attention in the way you want them to. With Ron Weasley, it was easy because he was a fictional character, but you can't control people like that in real life. So in the meantime, I'll keep my daydreams to myself, and keep looking for the right person, because I know he's out there.

*By Serena Wetmore*



## **My First Crush**

My first crush started way back in preschool. To this day I still have feelings for her, but it doesn't matter. After all, she has a boyfriend and a job, so even if I wanted to ask her out I can't after all. If you wait too long to express your feelings you will have to live with regret, however, I have no one to blame for me being shy, and worst of all, for freezing up. When I see her I wish I could turn back time to fix my regret about telling her my feelings too late. if I could change the past, I probably would, to where I would have zero regrets to this day.

If only I could've talked and told her this back then.

Would you change anything in your life?

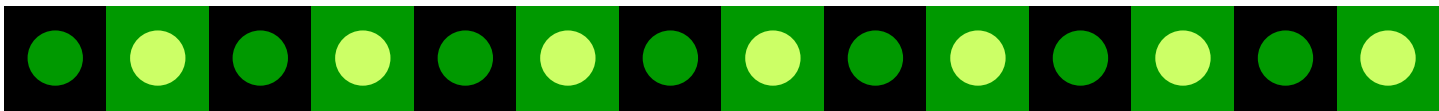
*By Dakota Smoot*



## It All Started with SpongeBob

My Valerie and I first met online, and with the help and pushing of family and friends trying to get us to meet we and eventually finally met. It all started with simple hellos and how do you do. . . . Just small talk. . . . I won't lie, I was a bit of a chicken. Then one day I was invigorated by a dose of courage and I finally asked her to go to the movies . . . and SHE ACCEPTED, but under her condition that we go see SpongeBob. (BTW it's a horrible movie but I love it now that it holds an important memory for me.) Finally the special day. . . . I was just sitting at the theatre waiting for her to arrive. Then, like out of a romance movie, she pulls up in all of her beauty and smiles at me . . . and all I can think is "Wow . . . man I cannot get enough of her beautiful smile." From there time flew by. We saw the movie, and though the movie was absolutely horrible, I could not get over how beautiful she was. Throughout the movie we laughed and complained about how stupid the movie is. Valerie constantly apologized over and over for putting me through such a torturous experience. However, I could not get over her beautiful smile, so I continued to give her a hard time and tease her so she would keep that beautiful smile on her face. The day progressed and she told me about herself . . . how she is independent and loving, caring, etc. . . . Then out of the blue she hits me with the question "Well if you're leaving, why are you pursuing anyone here?" I was struck by fear and doubt. Instantly any chance of there being an 'us' was ultimately gone . . . days became weeks, and then months. I tried over and over to her to get her attention, to get some sort of response from her, but to no avail. Eventually she removed herself from Facebook, changed her number, and disappeared. I thought I would never see her again. Life goes on, and eventually I moved to Orlando and started law school . . . life was good. Then one fated day in December I receive message from Valerie saying that she has been in seclusion for some time but that I (Rocky) was the first person she thought about and wanted to message me. All of a sudden my mind is flooded with all of the memories that we shared and how beautiful her smile was. I knew that I couldn't lose her again. So I did what I should have done in the first place and told her how much I truly loved her. Now over a year has come and gone, and I thank God for her beautiful smile that keeps me going.

*By Rocky Castro*



## How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at [www.floridayouthcouncil.com](http://www.floridayouthcouncil.com). The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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