



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 10, Issue 03

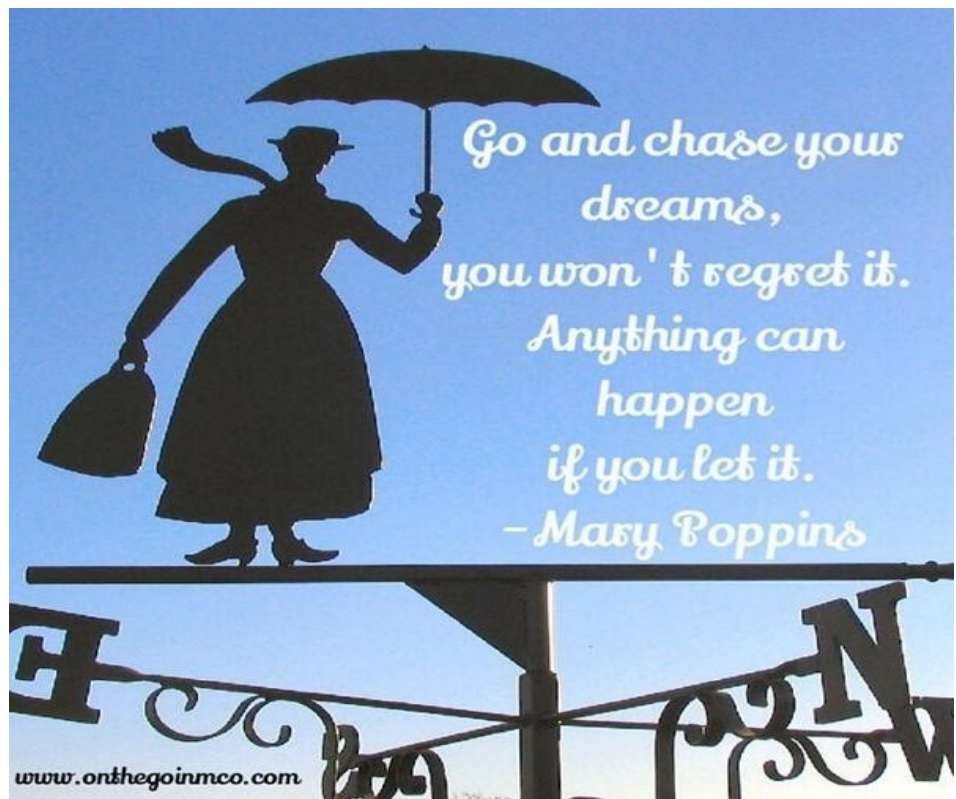
March 2017

Welcome to the March 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 anything this is our free write *Noodle*!! This topic allowed members to share their thoughts

about anything they would like to write!! 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 March 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





The Super Hero Complex

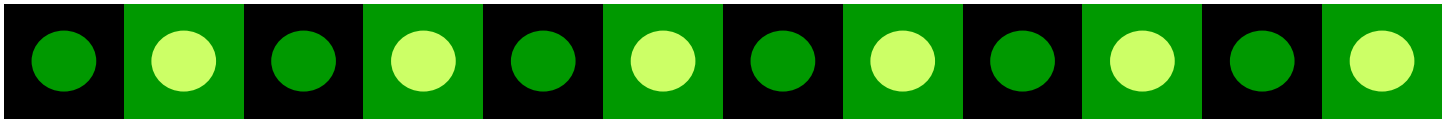
In the last few years there's been a rise of awareness towards everything Marvel and DC. Both are rival comic book universes that have existed for decades, from Batman and Superman coming from DC, to Iron Man and Spiderman coming from Marvel. For me, these days are an amazing time to be a comic book fan. From the ones you wish you could be, to the ones you understand do what they do for their own reasons.

From the two rival companies, Marvel has the most heroes I'm a fan of. The Marvel universe tends to give you the more serious and close-to-home story. I'm visually impaired, and I was blind when I lost my dad. A super hero called Daredevil had a similar upbringing. He lost his vision as a kid saving someone in a car accident, and lost his famous boxer of a dad because he wouldn't take a fall in a match and was killed for it. Reading through that story helped me understand that everyone loses a parent, and it's not easy for anyone. And the way they described Daredevil's pain of not being able to see his dad one last time really stuck with me.

Then there are the heroes that don't have powers but make as big of a difference as the heroes who can fly. Look at Batman. In the comic world, he is by far the most dangerous man in the universe. He single-handedly fights against, Superman, Aquaman, Lex Luthor, Joker, etc. These are very powerful beings being defeated by someone with no powers, just will and a no quit attitude. Batman taught me that even with my short comings, I still could do what I wanted if I prepared for it, if I worked hard for it. Superman has said before that "Batman is the most dangerous man on Earth," and Batman is a good guy, and so is Superman.

Call me a nerd or call me a geek. Comics always got me through me tough times. I'm so happy for this boom of comic book based movies and I can't wait for the movies coming out. In life, I learned that super powers or not, you can make a difference. And to make a difference you never have to do it alone.

By Josue Tapia



I love makeup! Do you?

There are many different controversial views on cosmetics like makeup these days, and here's why. People say that women who wear makeup are insecure or they are trying to impress someone. However, more often than not those scenarios are simply not true.

The reason why it is not true for me is because I am comfortable with how I look without makeup. I wear makeup because it is fun. It is fun to wake up in the morning and, for lack of a better term, paint a picture of how I feel that day on my face. Makeup makes me feel good about myself, not because I'm not pretty, but because I like to wear it. For example, you have a favorite shirt or shoes that you wear all the time because you like them and wearing them makes you feel good. That's how I feel about makeup. Makeup is about self-expression and good self-esteem, and most of all, fun. I wake up two hours early to put on my makeup, not because I have to, but because I want to, because it's fun!

I believe that everyone should be able to make the choice to wear makeup or not. Having good self-esteem with and without makeup is key! I hope you remember that you are beautiful regardless if you choose wear makeup or not. To wrap this up, here are some fun facts about makeup.

In the olden days, people wore makeup to frighten enemies, show a social rank or make magic.

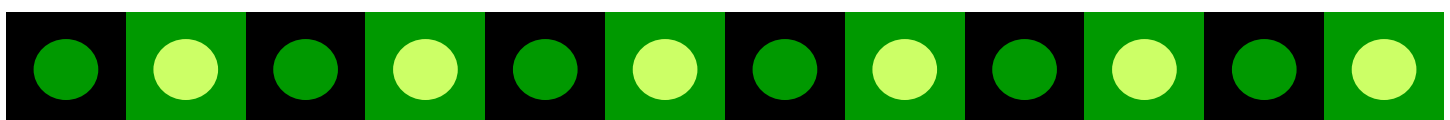
Nestle owns a quarter of the world's largest cosmetic company, L'Oreal.

In 1952, roll on deodorant was inspired by the ball-point pen.

Apparently, women spend about \$15,000 in their lifetime on cosmetics.

A woman named Hazel Bishop developed the first long-lasting lipstick in the late '40s.

By Megan Germain





Going to the Prom!!!

Getting ready for the Prom was a challenge in itself. My parents had to help me get ready for almost three hours. Before I left, of course, we had to do all the usual girl stuff. Then we had to not only make sure that the dress fit right, but had to get it arranged in the wheelchair too. And, being busy with all this, my mom forgot to put gas in the car and we almost ran out.

The dance itself, now that was a challenge. Of course, the building was constructed before the ADA was passed, so we had to park in the back lot where there was a ramp, since the front door only had steps. My mom had checked it out a few days earlier to make sure it was accessible, so she knew to use the back lot, but nobody else was there and the back door was locked. Luckily, someone did let us in.

My best friend, Nick, who escorted me, really wanted me to have fun. He knew I love to dance and so does he. We had to get up to the dance floor, which was about eight steps, but naturally had no ramp or elevator. To solve the problem, several people joined together to lift my chair, with me in it, up to the dance floor.

All in all, I had a great time, but it wouldn't have been possible without my friends. I know a lot of you reading this have disabilities and I want you to know that you can still have fun. You just have to think a little creatively.

By Serena Wetmore



March is Here!

Well, it's that time of the year again. The calendar flips to March and since this edition of *The Noodle* was a free write, I decided I'd share a few things I like when we get to this time of year. First thing is the beautiful weather. The winter and cold is practically gone, it's starting to warm up, the flowers are blooming and there is just a nice feeling in the air. Thankfully the side effect of all the pollen that comes along with all of that doesn't bother me like it does a lot of people that live where I do. I also like this time of year for an annual event that takes place each year: March Madness! As a sports fan (specifically in this case basketball), you've got to love it. First come the conference tournaments, and then after Selection Sunday, the Big Dance (the national NCAA Tournament) begins! After praying that your favorite team had a good enough season and was deemed worthy enough by the selection committee standards to get in, the madness and quest to capture a national title can begin! It's always exciting (especially the years my favorite team makes it in) and every year there always seems to be a "Cinderella" team that makes a deep run when no one expected them to. In some ways, I like March Madness better than the regular season. I could probably think of more things but these are just a couple of reasons why I look forward to the month of March!

By Derek Carraway



The Great, Spontaneous Plunge

I am a very timid person. I do not like it when I have to do something that I have never done before. I also do not like taking risks and doing different things that are outside of my established comfort zone. The only time that I remember where I actually took a risk of my own free will was in middle school, when I decided to ask a special group of people if I could sit with them at lunch. However, I have somehow managed to gather the courage to once again do something completely out of the ordinary for me.

I am a big fan of Chris Stuckmann, a YouTube movie and video game reviewer who is deeply passionate about the art of filmmaking. What really stood out to me was the fact that he carefully examined every single aspect of a movie, including the story, the technical and production quality, the acting, the editing, and the originality and uniqueness. He also regularly reviewed movies that were underrated, overlooked, or otherwise misunderstood by the general populace. I was so motivated by the fact that we basically shared the exact same interests that I decided, out of the blue, to write a letter to him up in Ohio. In the middle of the letter, I stated that I was interested in working on a story/screenplay that could potentially be turned into a movie someday in the future, and if he would be interested in possibly collaborating with me on it.

I have never felt more empowered in my entire life. It was like I had reached the summit of Mount Everest. I felt that it was a worthy choice to make, and it actually might be the first step that could lead to something significant further on down the road. Everything seemed comfortable and secure, and I really had nothing to lose.

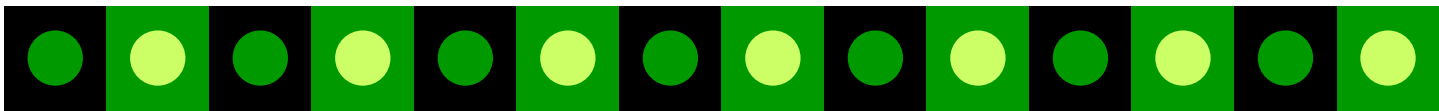
By Chris Regan



WONDER MOM

I am proud to say that I'm a momma's boy, because mom is my everything. My mom is the very definition of a 24/7 mom, always supporting and caring for my younger brother and me. Having a disability, my mom was always by my side through the thick and thin. She has been my strength through the 20+ surgeries, the painful sleepless nights, and numerous hospital appointments. My mom has selflessly given up her time and dreams to make sure I have a full and successful life. She constantly fights for my independence and my rights as a disabled individual, and I can never thank her enough. So this shout out goes out to you MOM! MY WONDER MOM!!! I am so thankful for all that you do and I truly appreciate MY WONDER MOM. So thank you, mom, for being my strength, my shoulder to cry on, and for being my best friend. Love you.

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. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100

Tallahassee, FL 32301

