



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 10, Issue 04

April 2017

Welcome to the April 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 a Poem-spring for poetry month.

This topic allowed members to share their thoughts about poem's . 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 January 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

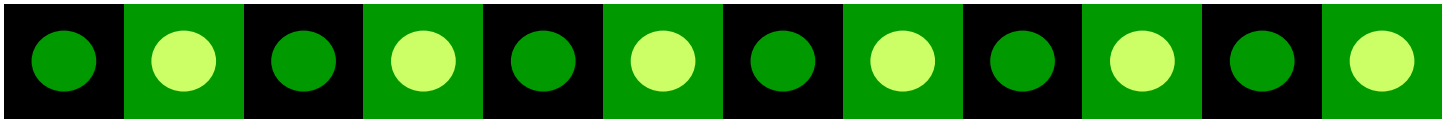


**I am me
I am not my disability or a condition
A symptom or disorder is not what I will be
I am not your assumption.**

**I am ignored, bullied and dishonoured
You will not listen or make time to see
About my needs, you are small-minded
Your misperception really upsets me**

**I see
I educate
I love
I feel
I laugh
I live
I am me**

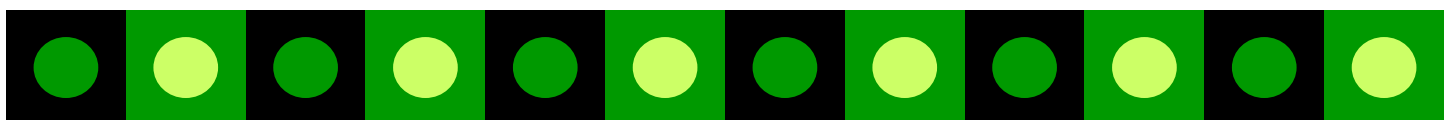


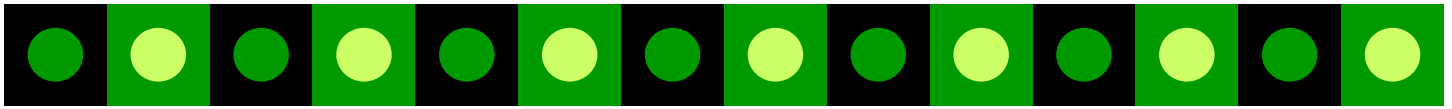


Vision

It was gone before I had a chance to be ready.
At times the world around went fast as mine maintain itself slow and steady.
I use to think that I would never enjoy the gift of sight.
In my head the world was with no color and fight.
As time when on I wondered if this was going to be the way I measured my life.
As the guy who seemingly gave up the fight.
One day I noticed through it that my world had more life and color than I could see.
From heat of summer and the smell if the fall falling leaves.
Time showed me that my eyes weren't the only way for me to appreciate what was around me.
It made me feel like this wasn't the end, it wasn't going to be what defined me.
One day I was allowed the blessing of eye sight again.
I didn't have to see the world in my head as if it was pretend.
I cherish my disability with honor and grace.
Once thinking I would never with the race.
Every moment seems like its my first.
Only to remember I was here before but with double the excitement like I was about to burst.
Never take what you have for granted because it can be taken away in an instant.
But never let it define you, life is never measured by the fine print.
This who I am now. One foot in the dark and one in the light.
Making me stronger and always ready to fight.

By Josue Tapia





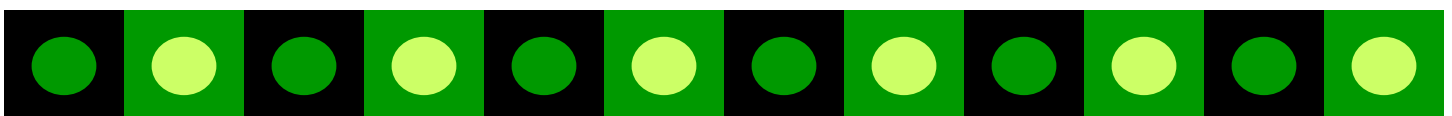
The JOJ: You Can Do It All Over Again

How can you do it all over again? There is no way to time-travel, and time only ever moves forward. Or does it? It turns out, there is one way. The JOJ. With the JOJ, not only can you do it all over again, but you can do it 15 million times over again, if you wanted to. However, only the truly worthy will be able to unlock the true potential of the JOJ. Will you be one of them?

The JOJ can only be found in one place: HOH SIS, or “Holy Sanctuary.” It is not a place on this planet, but rather, it is another dimension that resides on a whole other level of existence relative to the universe. The journey to HOH SIS is not an easy one in the slightest. It requires the complete shedding of one’s previous body, mind, and soul, for they have unfortunately been tainted by toxic external influences. This new vessel that you must build is one composed of actions, philosophies, and values that have been constructed by you and you alone. Nobody knows what you want better than you do, and you must look inside yourself and chart your own course to fulfill your ultimate destiny.

Only after accomplishing all this will you be able to finally learn the secrets of the JOJ. With the JOJ, you will fear nothing or no one, and your self-confidence will be unbreakable. You don’t fail; you just learn and alter your path along the way. The JOJ will make you happier, healthier, and heartier, and your ego will skyrocket, though hopefully not to the point of extreme arrogance. It is never too late to begin your quest for the JOJ; why not start right now?

By Chris Regan





Invisible

I am not invisible...
 Sometimes I feel like
 People don't notice me
 Only because of this chair
 I drag around
 People are so far above my head
 That they forget to look
 down
 It is like they are giants
 And I am a dwarf
 Sometimes they think I can't talk
 So they talk to the person with
 me
 They don't think to hold the door
 So it won't close on me
 When they run around and give hugs
 They sometimes forget about me
 It is like I am invisible...
 But if I could take off this cloak
 They could see who I really am
 I am funny, smart, creative and car-
 ing.
 So remember...
 When people seem different
 They only are on the outside

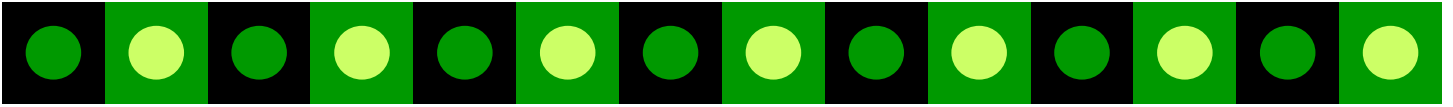
By Serena Wetmore

Disability

D is for determination
 I is for inclusion
 S is for self-advocacy
 A is for ambition
 B is for blissful
 I is for intelligent
 L is for luck
 I is for independent
 T is for tough
 Y is for youthful

By Megan Germain





Don't walk away

Problems are here to ruin a day

Solutions are not going away from the problems that we create

We have to be able to see the truth

Don't hide behind lies and a few weekend retreats

Just because you can walk away from your mistakes don't

Running through them is more sufficient for me and you

Mistakes are made to be learned from not ran away from

So as long as the earth is still spinning ask yourself what I am supposed to be

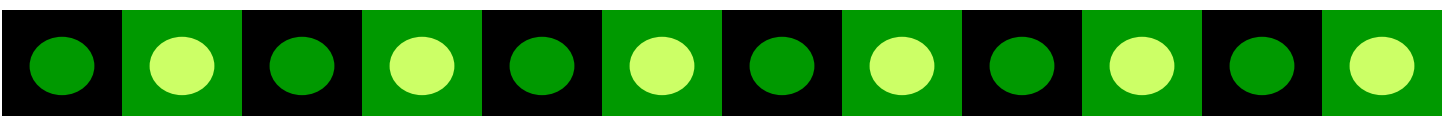
You can either learn or walk away

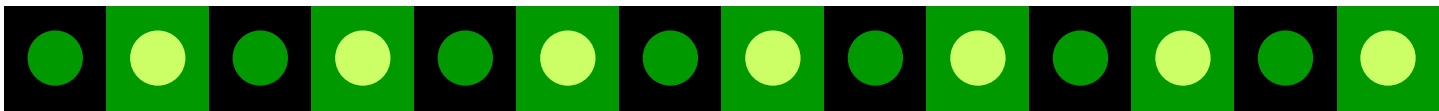
However I believe walking away from problems is a common practice for
many

But we can't even play the harmony of victory

So what do you say how about don't walk away

By Dakota Smoot





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!



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