



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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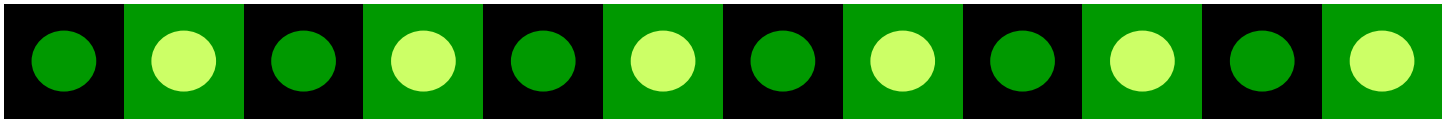
Welcome to the January 2018 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council!!! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about their Hopes, Dreams and Fears. This topic allows members to share their thoughts about

what their Hopes, Dreams and fears are. 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 2018 edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

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





Hopes, Dreams and Fears

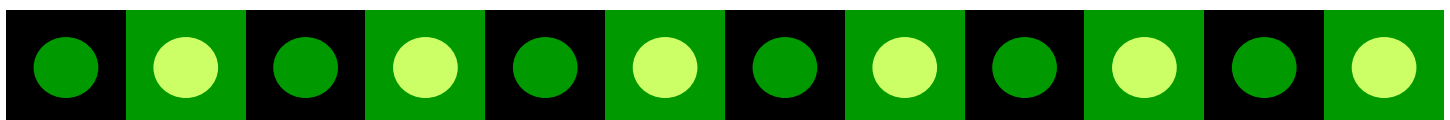
Hopes, dreams, and fears. Everyone has them at some point during their life. I had to think about this one for a minute, but then it hit me. So let's take them one at a time.

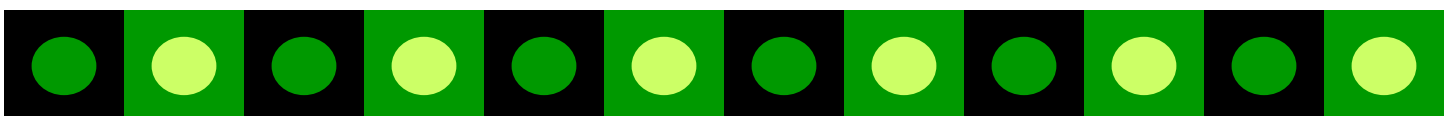
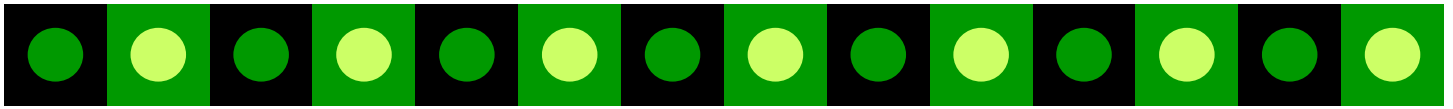
My hopes had always been that I would be able to successfully finish school and get a good education, despite the obstacles I have had to overcome. This I have managed to achieve. I finished grade school and college, all with just a little extra assistance along the way.

Now that I have got that accomplished, my dreams are that I can successfully look for and land a good job. The last year and a half or so that I was in school, I had an internship so I could gain valuable experience in the field that I wanted to go into. After that, I landed a part-time OPS job with the state. At that point, my dream was that that would give me just enough experience to be able to land a full-time job with benefits. Well, as we start this New Year, I am happy to say that this particular dream has just recently come true. I just landed a full-time career job with benefits at Florida State University. Needless to say, I'm beyond thrilled right now!

Lastly, my fears. This was difficult to pinpoint. I guess it would be something happening that would delay or prevent me from being able to achieve my hopes and dreams. I don't even think about this because I know everything is going to work out and be fine because God is in control. These are my thoughts on my hopes, dreams and fears.

By Derek Carraway





What I Hope For!!

I had a lot of hopes and dreams as I was growing up in Puerto Rico. Everyday life over there is a lot different than the one here in the U.S. I had so many dreams of becoming someone famous or athletic when we moved here. My biggest dream was to become professional wrestler. Yeah, yeah, it's funny, I know, and scary too. I used to always love to go to the events with my dad when I was younger and it was everything to me.

I know my dream of being a wrestler is little out there, but didn't you ever want to be something a little over the top when you were younger? I can sit here and explain to you a thousand reasons why it wouldn't work for me and my disability, but given the opportunity to chase that dream, I'd take it in a heartbeat. Imaging my shy self, traveling the world, entertaining the masses, helping them to forget about their wor-

ries even for a little bit, would be an awesome dream come true.

I've always wanted to be the one who shows people that it's OK to be afraid. That it's OK to hurt, but that it's also good to dream. To push for even the most ridiculous of dreams. Come to

think of it, as a Florida Youth Council member I've gotten close to that dream. I get to make people smile and I help them see a future within themselves that they didn't really see before, because they heard my story.

Through the telling of my story I can pass the fire of the dreamer and the believer.

Isn't that what wrestling is? Just simply storytelling? To give the people a story that will change their lives? I will never stop dreaming of standing in the squared circle in front of thousands of people waiting for me to tell them my story and change their lives!

By Josh Tapia ,

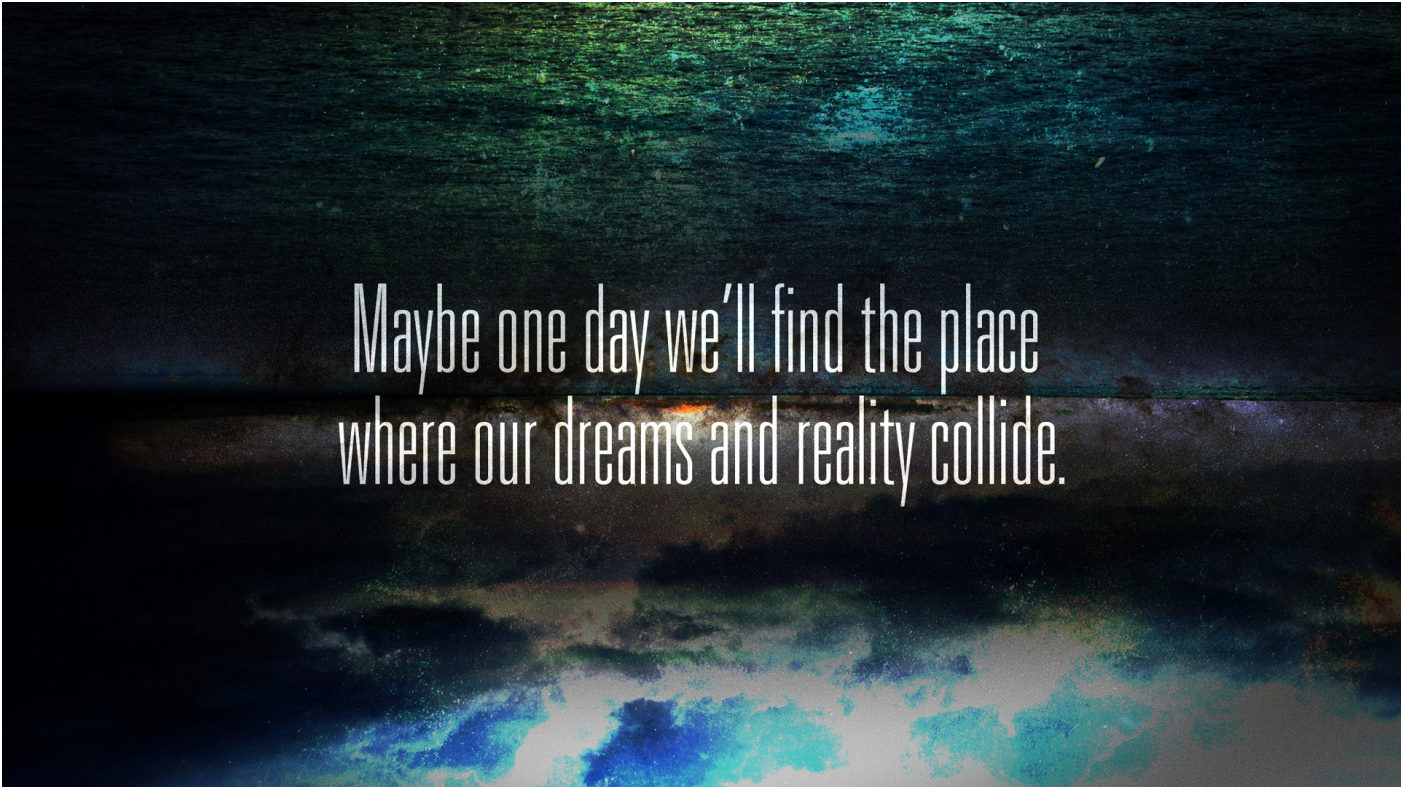




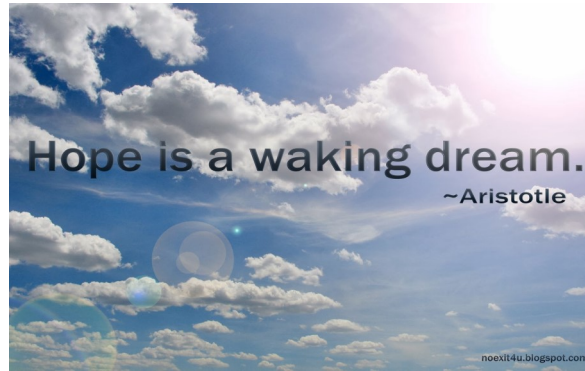
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Your
DREAMS

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DREAMS
AND THE UNIVERSE
WILL OPEN DOORS
FOR YOU
WHERE THERE WERE
ONLY WALLS



Maybe one day we'll find the place
where our dreams and reality collide.



What my Hopes and Dreams are!!

I hope one day everyone will understand each other. Everyone needs to learn that just because you're different, doesn't mean that you don't have the same hopes and dreams as everyone else. Just because one person is different doesn't mean we have to crush the other person's dreams.

For me, I want to be able to play professional level sports, but I also know I have a lot of work to get there. I have a lot of training to do. Just because someone may look different, people have different ideas about someone else. That does not mean that they have any less value to bring. Plus, you may learn something new about that. I guess in the end, what I'm saying is, once you find out what the person's hopes and dreams are, they may be similar to yours, and you can work together to achieve them.

By Dakota Smoot

"MAY
YOUR CHOICES
REFLECT YOUR
HOPES,
NOT YOUR
FEARS"

- *Nelson Mandela*

Don't be pushed
around by the
fears in your mind.
Be led by the dreams
in your heart.

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**Do the thing
you fear, and
continue to do
so. This is the
quickest and
surest way of
all victory
over fear.**

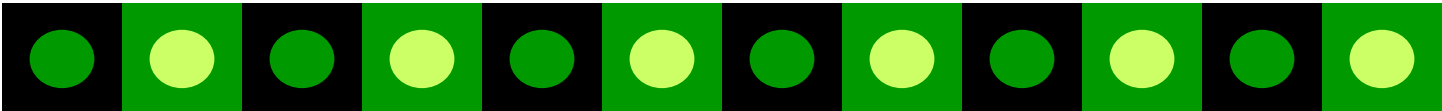
- Dale Carnegie

Entrepreneur

DON'T LET YOUR
FEARS OVERCOME THE
BEST OF YOU. LIVE
LIKE TODAY IS YOUR
LAST DAY. sToLiveBy
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**WAKE UP
EVERYDAY
STRONGER
THAN
YESTERDAY,
FACE YOUR
FEARS AND WIPE
YOUR TEARS.**

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Hopes, Dreams, and Fears

Hopes, dreams, and fears. As a high school senior, I could write a whole book on this topic. From college, academics, and relationships, to the youth council and my whole future, there are a lot of things on my plate.

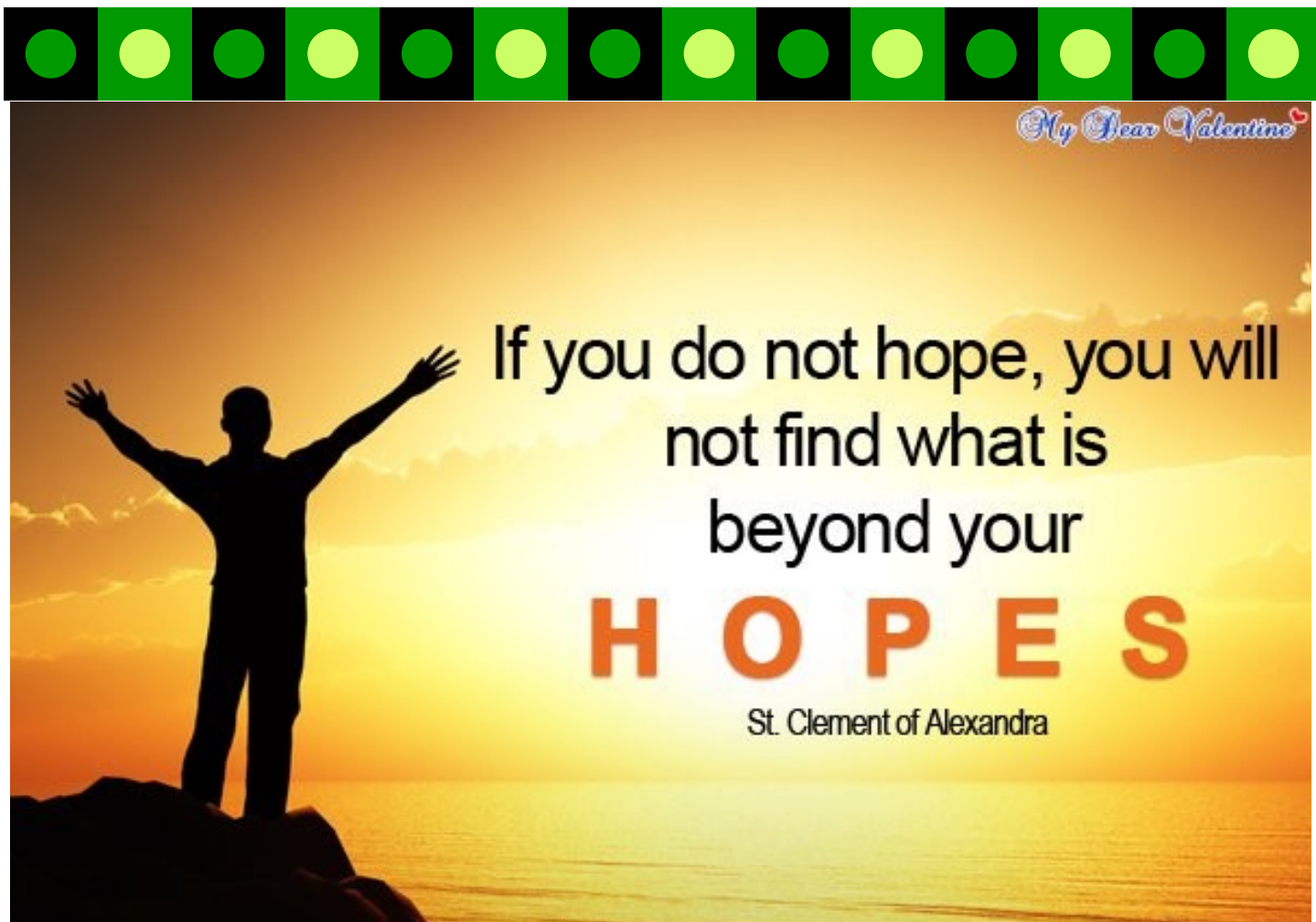
Today I'm going to talk to you about the thing that scares me the most: the social aspect of college. At first, you might think that social worries are the least of my problems, but when you consider that you are voluntarily throwing yourself into a whole new environment in college, it can be overwhelming. You are surrounded by new possibilities and new social groups, and while that can be scary, I have to try to stay optimistic. For example, one of my hopes is that I would have a romantic partner, since that hasn't really happened in high school. It's kind of difficult for people to get past the wheelchair in general, let alone having someone date you in spite of it. Another fear is that I won't make enough friends to comfort and support me when times are difficult.

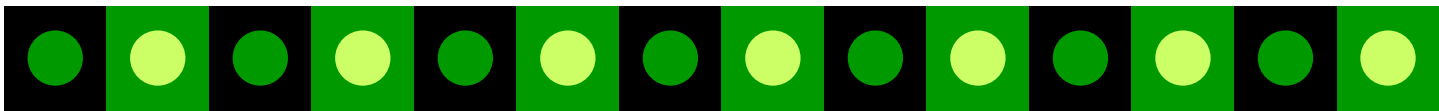
My ultimate dream so far is to go to college, graduate, and find a career that I'm happy with, and one that will make

a difference in the world. To make this dream happen, I've thought of pursuing different careers, such as psychology, being a life coach for people with autism, marketing, and a few other things. But for right now, I have to focus on the one dream which is approaching very quickly – graduating from high school and making the most of my senior year!

By Serena Wetmore







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

