



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 12, Issue 01

January, 2019

Welcome to the January, 2019 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to respond to the question “*What you did on Christmas vacation?*”

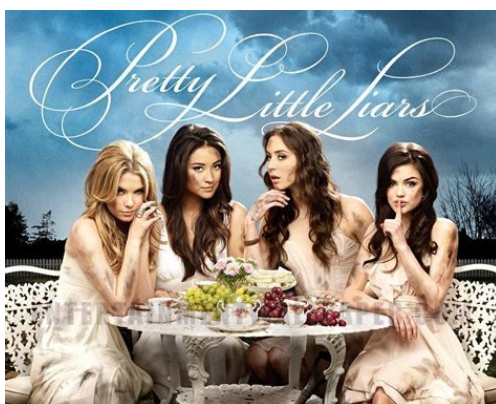
This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on what kind of things they did on the Christmas vacation. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this January, 2019 edition of *The Noodle*!



Current Members:

John Baldino
Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Alexander Gonzalez
Dakota Smoot
Josh Tapia
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore
Brandon White
Niki Germain - FYC
Youth Advisor





Netflix's and More

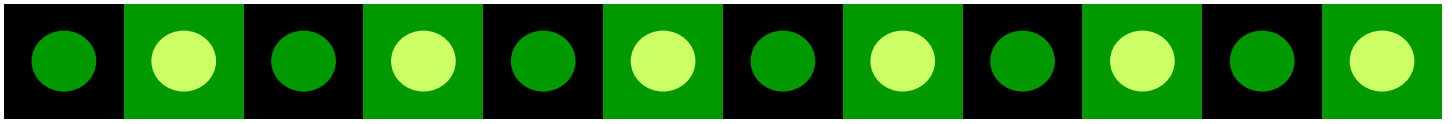
Over the break, I watched Netflix and played games with old friends, and chatted with others that are far from me. One of my many favorite Netflix shows is *Pretty Little Liars*. I also loved *Aquaman* so much I wanted to see it twice, so I did, and both times I completely enjoyed it.

Every moment I spent with my oldest nephew was golden and will be cherished forever. Unfortunately for me, he got accepted to the University of Arkansas. I will miss spending time with him in August, but I still have time before that happens, and I want to spend as much time with him as possible laughing, debating, and just being boys.

What more can I say? I really didn't do much this Christmas break, yet many things have changed the way I look at life. I never was more paranoid in my life. I couldn't enjoy myself. It should've been the happiest time of my life, but all I could think about is when our whole life is going to be turned upside down.

My Christmas was ok. I mean, at least we had one this year, or I would have lost all hope I had left. Why are people so swift to hate one another? I observed others' recklessness toward each other during the holidays. Then out of nowhere I started to become shy all over again. Where is peace on earth when you need it? In some ways, I believe it must start with our discussions with one another. So yeah, last year was ok, but I plan for this year to blow it away! Happy New Year!

By Dakota Smoot



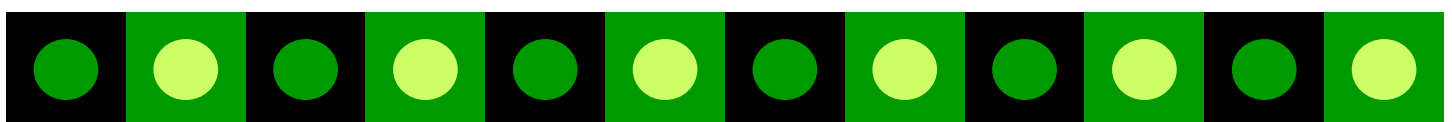
A Memorable Christmas Break

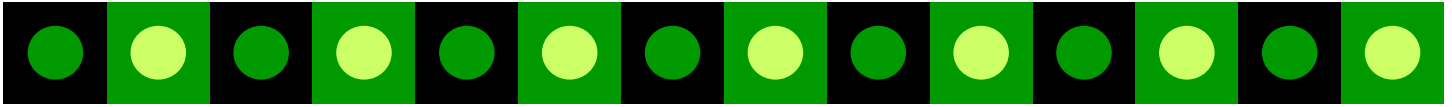
This past Christmas break wound up being very memorable for me. First, it really felt like a break. I say this because I actually got about a week and a half off work. I thought that kind of break would be over once I finished school, but a perk of my new job (at FSU) that I've been looking forward to since I started last January is that they shut down for a "winter break" in late December, and all the employees get some time off courtesy of the university. That was very nice and enjoyable.

Then Christmas itself was wonderful (as usual) this year. I got to spend some time with my family, went and looked at some Christmas lights, watched a few Christmas movies, and of course exchanged presents. I've always enjoyed doing all of that every Christmas break for as many years back now as I can remember.

The time after Christmas might have been even extra memorable this year though, because of something else that I did. I wound up meeting up in real life with a new friend I met online, and have been chatting with for the past few months. She drove down the day after Christmas, and we hung out every day until New Year's Eve before she had to go back home. I'm not going to say much more about that right now, but I'll just say it went better than I could've ever imagined. As we start this New Year, I can say I now have a girlfriend! So as I end this article, I just want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

By Derek Carraway





Adulting

I remember being a kid and counting down to Christmas. It seems now that I have become an adult I can't wait for the hustle and bustle of the holidays to be over. This year I planned a "Friends Christmas," but ended up just having dinner with my friend. While some may take that as a bit of an Ebenezer Scrooge moment, I really enjoyed the peace.

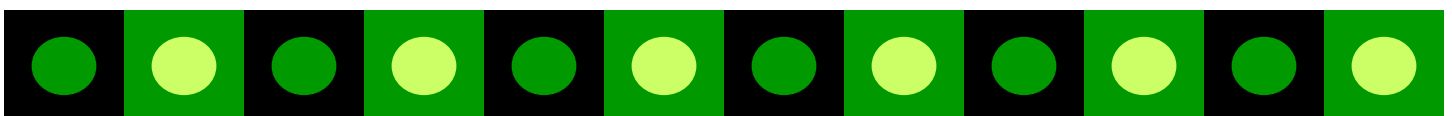
This year for the first time I did a Christmas Eve brunch, and I think that it is so cool. I may in fact be stealing the idea next year. All of us friends got together and played games, had breakfast, and of course traded gifts. This year for all of the holidays I learned one very important thing, and that is to be grateful for the family, friends, and people you hold dear.

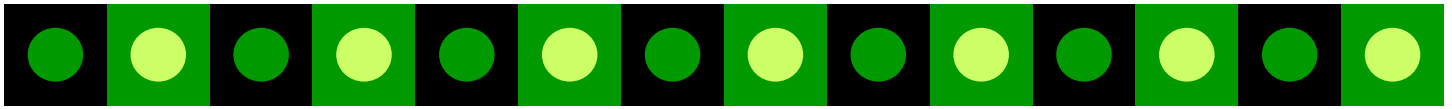
By Shevie Barnes

My Christmas Break

Christmas is a time of gathering and happiness. A time to spend with the ones you hold dear and close to you. It's a time when you're just thankful for the people you surround yourself with, that motivate you and make you feel bigger than you really are. My Christmas was busy, hectic, overwhelming, and full of joy. Let me explain.

The holiday season was extremely busy for me. I work as an animal groomer/animal behavior specialist. I groom service animals, government issued animals, and bad and very old animals. It's my job to make sure they look cute for Santa too. This year was the busiest of my career. I got to groom two horses for a local Christmas parade in the town I work in, and then got a surprise invite to the parade. This was the first parade I have ever been invited to be a part of since high school! I got to represent my job and show off my work as groomer. I've never been a part of something like that. People around the parade were screaming my name, and with my light sensitivity, I couldn't tell where the heck it was coming from. I just waved and smiled. The majority of





my clients know I'm disabled, so it's never been too bad. Hahaha! Anyway, prepping for that event took almost half the month of December, and what a satisfying ending to the event.

My second half was the celebration of my cousin's graduation/pregnancy/gender reveal. I don't know about you, but I'm not a big fan of making a big deal of the gender of my child. But hey, everyone is entitled to it. My cousin graduated from UCF and she became the 7th one of my family to graduate college, so it was a celebration. It helped that the whole family was there because it was around Christmas. It was a magical moment for all of us. And then finding out the family is bringing in another boy? Priceless.

My biggest activity on Christmas though is to celebrate my mom's birthday. She was born Christmas night at 11:58 pm, but her birth certificate says the 26th because they took their time to file it. Every year my mom gets double presents, and she says with a smile on her face "Is it from Santa? Or for the birthday girl?" Every single year!!! Hahaha!

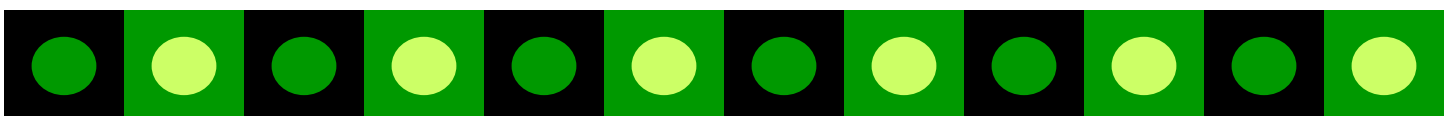
I had an awesome Christmas this year. It was hectic, but it was awesome. Hope you all enjoyed the holidays as well. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

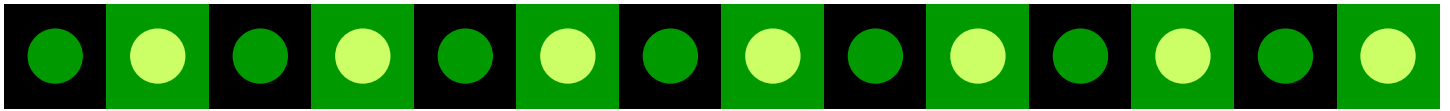
By Josue Tapia

Relax and Chill Out!

I did not travel any over the winter break, but that did not mean I was bored. In fact, I had a lot of fun, spending time with my friends, learning new hobbies, and being with my family as well.

My friends are very busy. They have jobs, school, and their own families. Over the winter break, I visited with a friend who I call my little brother. We played mobile games together like Fruit Ninja, racing, and BB-8 remote control, and talked about what was going on in our lives. It was so good to see him. I also reconnected with another friend. We laughed and talked to each other. It gave me time to reflect over the past year.





I started a new hobby this year at the beginning of college: Dungeons and Dragons. Over the break, my best friend and I were able to design our own D&D characters for my up-and-coming birthday extravaganza. This was a fun experience for both of us. While we were going through the process of developing the strengths and weaknesses of our characters, it made me think about my own personality and how much I've changed over the years.

On Christmas, my family and I gathered around the tree, occasionally opening presents throughout the day. This was one of my favorite Christmas holidays ever, as I didn't have to deal with all the commotion this time of year usually brings. At first glance, it may seem like I didn't do much, which could be right, but I know that some of our most favorite holidays come from the memories of just relaxing. So that's what I did this holiday. I relaxed.

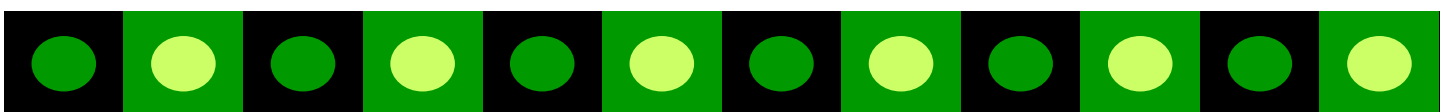
By Serena Wetmore

Home and Away for the Holidays

I had a great Christmas vacation at home and away. First, I went to Montgomery, Alabama with my parents to see my good friend, John Caddell who I call Papa 2. He is almost 90 years old and cannot walk very well. Nurses take care of him 24 hours a day. I push him around in his wheelchair when I am with him.

When I was with him, Papa 2 took us out for dinner on Saturday and Sunday night. We also hung out at his house and watched sports on television. On Saturday, my parents and I took John to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts to see the exhibits and the John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden named after John and his wife Joyce. One of the sculptures is made out of skateboards; that one was my favorite.

The next day, we went to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice where I learned about the atrocities that happened to African American slaves, prisoners, and even regular citizens who did nothing to deserve brutal treatment. I found out that there were four lynchings of African Americans in my county of Leon, and many more in other Florida counties. My parents and I

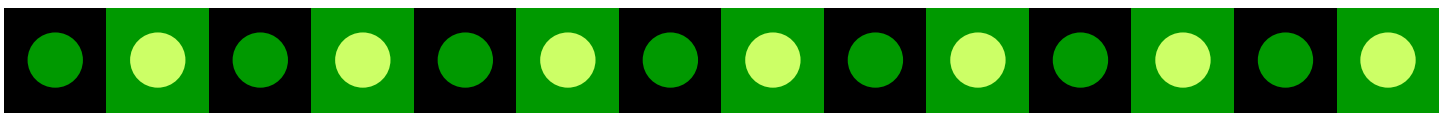


left Montgomery on Christmas Eve day and drove to Tallahassee. I spent Christmas day in Tallahassee. We had our friend Shirley and our neighbors, Ewa and Andy, over to our house for dinner. We had standing rib roast, rutabaga, potatoes, and salad. It was fun to be with people I love. After Christmas, we went to St. George Island for a couple of days, where we walked on the beach and surveyed the damage from Hurricane Michael. We came back to Tallahassee for New Year's and I went out with my friend Matthew while my parents had a dinner party at home.

It was an eventful holiday break at home and away.

By John Howard





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

