Two Journalism students demonstrate different writing styles on the same topic about Brian Culver, a local man who has overcome great obstacles.

Never Say CAN'T

Local Man Proves Doctors Wrong

Ava Drillock
Guest Writer

"You'll be lucky to make it out of here alive," said one of Brian Culver's doctors.

Culver had been in a car accident and hit a semi truck and broke some of his upper spinal cord. He woke up in a hospital and doctors told him he was lucky to be alive and would spend the rest of his life on a breathing machine.

Now Culver is working out and can move his neck and shoulders. He overcame what many doctors said nobody could do. Doctors said he wouldn't even make it off the breathing machine and a few months later he was breathing and tasting food again. Culver was very active and played sports before the accident. This is one reason why he had the drive to recover like he did.

"I'm going to do it [recover] just to prove him wrong," said Culver.

Culver wanted to go to Denver, Colorado, to start his rehab after he was out of the hospital. His insurance company wanted him to go to a rehab center closer to home. So Culver had to pay for his own ride to Denver in a medical plane. He got off the breathing machine there in just three weeks. His mother quit her job and came to stay with Culver.

"I just tasted food for the first time, go away doc," said Culver while breathing on his own. He would sing songs to get his lungs stronger because the doctors said his lungs were not strong enough at first to stay off the breathing machine.

Now Culver works as a marketing consultant and actually works for the company that sends aides to his house and has also worked for the same company that gave him air to breathe.

Culver is very committed to recovering all the way and being able to walk, he works out a few hours everyday and eats healthy and takes vitamins to keep his body in top shape. He says he does not have any heros but he does read the Bible for inspiration because in the Bible people overcome "impossible' tasks all the time just like he has done.

He doesn't use the word 'can't" because if you don't believe in yourself how can you have the willpower to overcome a big task like a fixing your spinal cord and making it relearn to send signals through your body so you can move. Culver currently has one biofeedback which helps his spine learn what channels to send signals from his brain to his body.

TISHA PANKOP / GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian Culver visited Ms. Pankop's Journalism class and held a press conference for the purpose of generating writing from new Loy Norrix reporters.

He Did What Superman Couldn't Do

Kalamazoo's Unsung Hero

Quintiene Campbell
Staff Writer

It's the ninth inning; you're down by two runs, you have two players on base. The pitcher is the best closer in the league and he has had your number all day. It's three balls, two strikes with two outs. You are tired, weak and you feel you have nothing left. But you dig deep for a little more strength and you find it. The pitcher winds up, throws woah, what a pitch! It's a fastball, you swing, knock. What a hit! It's going, going, gone! You have won the game and for your team, you're their hero.

But the biggest game of all is life, and winning in life is easier said than done. Brian Culver knows all about that. He was going to college, excelling in sports and had a loving girlfriend and family that supported him. Everything was going good. Life was fun and he was winning, but life took an unexpected turn.

Brian was going back home to visit his family for the holidays when the accident happened. Brian was driving and when he was preparing to turn the corner, his car spun and hit a parked semi truck. That was the beginning of his long fought battle for life. Two weeks later Brian woke up in the hospital with tubes down his throat and a machine breathing for him and he realized that he couldn't talk or move his body. He was paralyzed from the neck down.

Next Brian got the news that would motivate him for the rest of his life. A doctor told him that he that he was paralyzed from the neck down and a machine would breathe for him for the rest of his life. Brian couldn't talk, but the doctor could read lips. Brian looked him in the face and asked him who he was to tell someone else what they are capable of. And this statement left the doctor speechless. That was just the first of many times that Brian would leave a doctor speechless.

> A doctor told him that he that he was paralyzed from the neck down and a machine would breathe for him for the rest of his life.

Brian chose to be winner, not a loser. He began rehabilitation and started defying the odds. They told him he would never be able to breathe on his own; he did it in three weeks. They told him he would never be able to talk again; he's speaking loud and proud.

After 13 years Brian Culver is moving his arms, stomach, and chest. It's a true miracle story, he has overcome all the doubters statistics and failures from other people that have come before him, including our beloved Superman, Christopher Reeves.

Today Brian is an inspirational speaker going to schools and hospitals telling people to never give up.

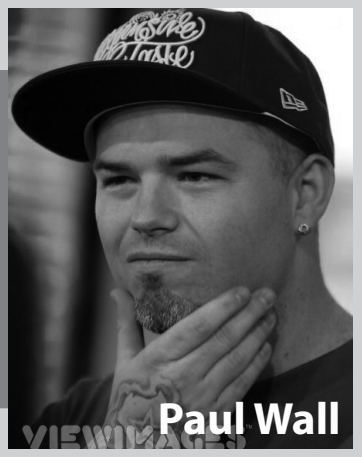
"Whenever you're down and you feel like giving up, you've got to think to yourself. Do you want to be a winner or loser. Me, I want to be a winner," said Brian

That's the message he sent to my class. If you weren't inspired you probably weren't listening well enough. Brian Culver is a true hero.

Hollywood Knights

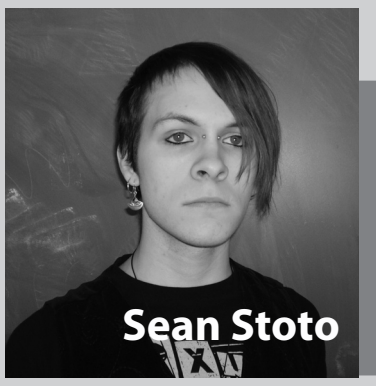
Loy Norrix Celebrity Look-A-Likes

Joshua Jarrett

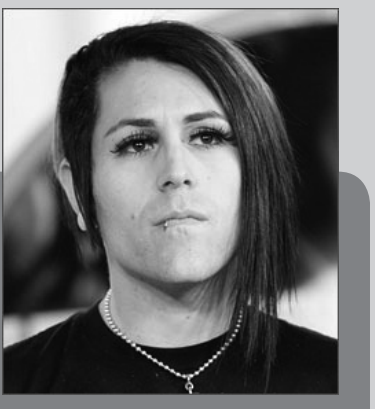


Paul Wall

"Let me see ya grill."



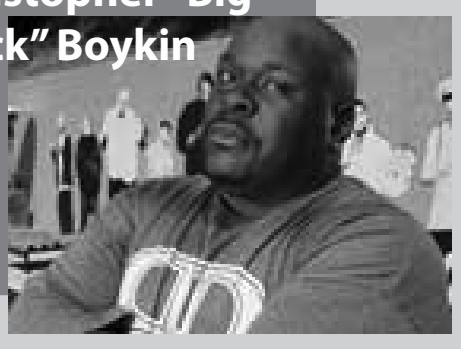
Sean Stoto



Davey Havok

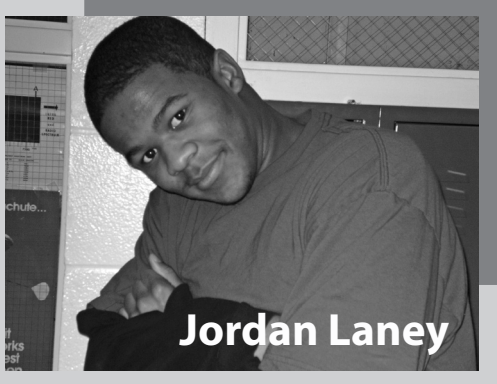
"Same birthday, November 20th, same ethnicity, Irish Italian, same taste in music, old school punk and goth rock. "

Daniel Beyene

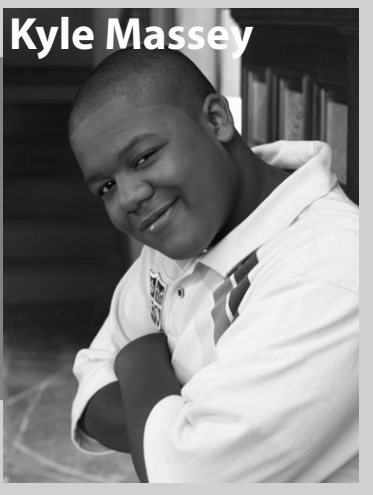


Christopher "Big Black" Boykin

"Rob and Big...Dan"

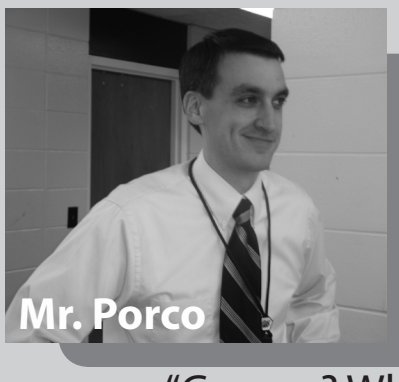


Jordan Laney

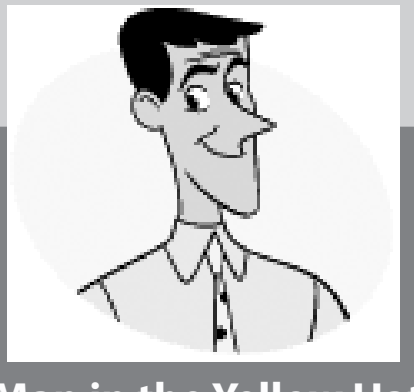


Kyle Massey

"Jordan in the house!"

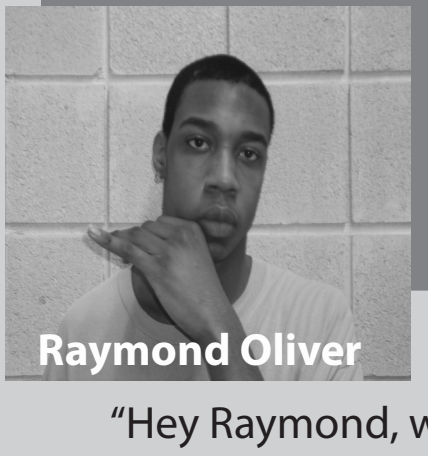


Mr. Porco



The Man in the Yellow Hat

"George? Where are you?"



Raymond Oliver

"Hey Raymond, where's Beyonce?"