CODY

Script Draft 13

We SEE a white on black graphic:

PARALYSIS

As we ***HEAR****:*
GLENN CLOSE, NARRATOR:
PARALYSIS: A LOSS OR IMPAIRMENT OF VOLUNTARY MOVEMENT IN A BODY PART, CAUSED BY INJURY OR DISEASE OF THE NERVES, BRAIN OR SPINAL CORD.

We now SEE Dr. Doug Kerr and cover of his lab:
Doug Kerr, MD, Johns Hopkins Medical Center:
Because up until recently /// We haven't had the.. the biology to understand how to repair the nervous system.

Graphic:

Doug Kerr, Neuroscientist
Project Restore, Johns Hopkins

As the Kerr Bite continues we BEGIN TO HEAR Cody working out, panting, sound of machine in gym.

Kerr continues:
Once you achieved a certain level of disability, you're done. But that's not really true anymore.

Dissolve to Graphic:

HOPE

GLENN CLOSE, NARRATOR:
HOPE: THE FEELING THAT WHAT IS WANTED CAN BE HAD OR THAT EVENTS WILL TURN OUT FOR THE BEST.

Kerr continues:
And so we're at the point where we can begin to say, /// if we understand the damage, we can now in a very focused specific way start to repair that damage.

CUT TO ECU slo mo of Cody's face, flush and sweating, working out. CODY is working out and we are TS on her face as sweat drips and she is slightly winded. This is a steady cam shot moving around her on the work out machine.

As we HEAR:

CODY :
becoming paralyzed and being stricken with the rare disorder has really changed my life forever. And it's really changed my life for the better I think. I think I've learned so much about who I am as a person and what I'm able to accomplish///// it's ironic that, you know, one of the greatest… one of my greatest days was when I became paralyzed and one of the greatest days is when I can walk again.

The THEME MUSIC begins in background as we DISSOLVE TO
OLD FAMILY VIDEOS of Cody with her sister and brother, playing and dancing.

We RUN OPENING CREDITS during the old images.

Slowly we TRANSITION TO CODY WORK OUT and get wider around the work out machine

Again, we CUT BACK to old family video images of Cody as a young girl as we HEAR:

CODY in gym at Redlands:
… it's weird because it's me and I know it's me, but it looks like it's a strange… some strange girl. And it's weird. It's so weird. Because I feel like a totally different person from her. But that was me. It's strange.

////// I don't remember what it's like to contract my leg muscles to take a step and all the intricate little things that have to happen. I just don't remember.

FULL NATS OF WORK OUT for a moment and we CUT TO the WS full on Cody and the machine and WE REALIZE she is in a wheel chair.
Then we HEAR:

Like I have sensation, like I feel more on my right side than I do my left, but it's like…it's not like normal sensation. It's very vague kind of like and like I can only feel like deep pressure sometimes or even like a light sheet sensation burns me. Like it's like weird. My nerves just can't handle it sometimes like the lightest touch is very sensitive. It's strange but… and I've had dreams of like walking and stuff and like… or sometimes I'm just floating from here up and the rest of my… the lower half of my body is not there but I'm walking but it's like I'm floating. It's very bizarre.

FTB

TITLE CARD:

CODY

HARD CUT TO:
We SEE media people interviewing Cody.

Cody TV interview at legislature:
Well, February 5th, 1999, I was playing basketball. I was a healthy 12-year-old girl before that. And out of nowhere I got a really, really hard time catching my breath. And then I got a really, really bad headache. And in a matter of 20 minutes I guess I was paralyzed. They took me to the locker and they laid me down and my left leg was like really, really numb. I couldn't feel it anymore and my right leg was like kind of tingling.

SHANNON, Cody's Sister:
And then you know, that's when the ambulance came /////// and grandma was there and I ended up going with my grandma I believe back home. I had no idea what was going… I thought she had, you know, maybe like poison… food poisoning or something weird. I never thought it was what it was.

AL UNSER JR, Cody's Dad
I saw Cody and, you know, talked to the doctors and it was just scared to death. I mean, for myself, I mean, to see my little girl and her saying, you know, Dad, I can't feel anything in my legs, I can't move my legs, I looked at the doctor, the doctor shrugged his shoulders going, we don't know why? And that just, you know, a broken bone you can deal with. You know, … anything that… that you know is the cause and then there's a cure, you know, you can… you can handle but when you… when you look at the professionals and there was a line of them, of doctors, that just you know, they… you say, what's wrong with my little girl? And they just give you a look of a deer caught in headlights. You know, going, we don't know. We don't know what's going on and… and so we switched hospitals to try to do more tests and still came up blank.

SHELLY UNSER, Cody's Mom
I remember walking into Cody's room and there was a very nice blond nurse and they were trying to put a… catheter into Cody and I just… and she was laying there and I kept thinking, why isn't she moving? You know, and the paralysis by this time was starting to move up. And I was trying to put on a brave face which I think I did but it was only because I was in shock and you know, where I get that way I tend to act like, you know, it's no big deal, nothing's… and because I didn't… I didn't want Cody to fall apart and I mean, I was just like, what's going… I mean,. I had no idea what was going on. Doctors had no idea, nobody could tell me.

AL UNSER JR. Continued:
And it was scary. It truly is a scary feeling, you know, because at that point you don't know if it's going to keep progressing because they said that, you know, that her legs went first and then it was moving up her abdomen and you know, is it going to go into her lungs? Is it going to go further up? Is… is.. is she going to die?

SHELLY UNSER, Continued:
my parents were there, my son Al was there, everybody and we were right outside Cody's room and I could see her watching and trying to talk to doctors and trying to get some sort of… some sort of grip on everything and I remember at that moment, and Cody could see us and everyone's kind of like shuffling around and trying to smile, asking the doctor what's going… and he said, she's paralyzed. And just kind of feel apart. (*pause, Shelly crying*) Walked out the door so she wouldn't see and go and… what do you mean she's paralyzed? And mom, my mom crying, Al crying, my… oldest son Al was angry. He was already angry. And her dad and I actually, you know, had to get along but go and my little girl and… what do you do with that information? What bothered me about it was… I want to know why she's paralyzed. You know, she didn't get in a car accident, she… what do you mean she's paral… so in my mind I'm thinking, well, okay, it's temporary. She's paralyzed right now. But you know, thinking they don't know what they're talking about. AND you know… the scary part was they were talking about if it got worse we were going to have to put her on a trake, we're going to have to make a hole so she could breathe and you're just going, what in the world? Do something.

SHANNON UNSER, Continued:
And when she got home my grandpa, I was in my room and my grandpa carried her in. I was like, why is he carrying her in? And then I… she couldn't like walk and then she couldn't like go to the bathroom and I was like, why are you here then? Like I was so confused like if you can't walk and you can't go to the bathroom, why are you home right now? Like… so I was really confused and it didn't set in 'til we actually heard about like the disease.

CODY:
So basically my own immune system attacked my spinal cord. It's called transverse militias and from that point on, you know, it was… you know,

TAKE IMAGES in dorm room getting ready for school, putting shoes on sequence

CODY CONTINUED:
all about learning how to do things from the wheelchair. It completely changed my life and you don't actually think about what someone goes… goes through, unless you're actually in the situation, so I had to relearn how to dress myself, and bath myself, I mean, everything was just starting from day one basically.

SHELLY UNSER:
when she was in puberty she was forced to grow up because of the situation overnight and what you're seeing is a little bit of she was robbed of her, you know, those teenage years were pretty gone even though she was a teenager, even though she was around teenagers, her understanding of life right then and there once she became paralyzed was so different from what… and her friends were worrying about, you know, what bow am I going… or what hair piece am I going to wear to the, you know, the prom and she's worried about how am I going to get the dress on? How am I going to be able to go to the bathroom in this dress?

CODY CONTINUED:
So… and then from there it just kind of snowballed and got thrown into this whole medical political world and been fighting for being able to walk again ever since

CUT TO: Images of CODY going to class down the hill, across the street…we have three angles of this and use them all.

1 MS. CLOSE:
CODY UNSER IS 21 YEARS OLD. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF 2 TIME INDIANAPOLIS 500 RACING CHAMPION AL UNSER JR. THEY RARELY SPEAK.

Take NAT SOUND in college classroom briefly.

2 MS. CLOSE:
SHE ATTENDS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS IN SAN BERNADINO, CALIFORNIA. SHE HAS HER OWN DORM ROOM AND A VIDEO CAMERA. AND SOMETIMES, ESPECIALLY LATE AT NIGHT, THE REALITY OF LIFE CAN GET ROUGH.

CUT DIRECTLY to:

CODY in Dorm Room on her Camera, crying:

So, I had this dream last night, I had this dream last night that I that I was walking and… (Crying/sniffling)… Sorry, it's just… there is… when I think about my dreams, my dreams have really changed since I became paralyzed because I'm dreaming of walking it's so weird because it's something that most people don't even think about or you know when they do it they don't it's not something you're consciously aware of all the time so for someone to dream about it or to wish that they could walk is something that a lot of people can't really fathom or really think about and there was this there was this time that Beau and I were… were in Hawaii and we were… we were strolling along on the sidewalk but it was by the beach, it was at the, it was by the ocean and I you know kind of became really quiet which I do when I get really upset and can't really find the words to describe what I'm feeling and we were we were strolling along the back and he... he noticed that I was upset and he asked you known what what's wrong, and I just I pointed

Take COVER BEAU AND CODY ON BEACH

to the beach and I looked down at the sand I said that you know that I'm not, I'm not able to walk with you on the beach, I'm not able to give you that, that's something that I really want to give you and so ugh, and so… you know it's you look at those kind of you know cute movie moments where you see couples walking along the beach and that's something that I really just want to do with him want to, I want to be able to walk along the beach is one of my biggest dreams and instead of seeing you know wheel chair tracks I actually see footprints in the sand but um that would just be really cool. Something that I've always or something that I, you don't think you'll dream about doing I mean people have dreams of you know I you know when you're little you... you say you know I can't wait until I grow older I want to become the president or I want to become a dancer or I want to become a race car driver but you never actually think of that maybe one day you're gonna sit there and think oh one of my biggest dreams is to walk again,

NAT SOUND of a Redlands Basketball game….starting with the fast action and motion of the players. Then we SEE:

CODY and her friends at the basketball game.. Some NAT SOUND.

FRIENDS SEQUENCE

SHANNON UNSER, Cody's Sister:
I am a fulltime student at the University of Redlands with Cody and…

////// We have girl talk all the time. /// We love going for sushi a lot we go for sushi or… watch a couple of like our favorite movies.

GREG SCHUSTER, Friend:
She's always going, she's always ahead of everybody else. It's….you can't really keep up./////She'd go home on the weekends, she takes flights, she goes across the country, she's meets new people…and I'm sitting here studying on the weekends////

ALYSON, Friend:
She says what's on her mind, or she's not afraid to say anything, so, which is great….she's not scared of much

ALANNA, Friend:
She's not afraid of her disability. So…and by that she…it doesn't hold her back. She really, she can get around everywhere and she's very independent on her own.///

BRENT HANAFEE, Friend:
We all get anxious around people we don't know. I don't think she's ever has had that problem.

SHANNON UNSER:
she is the only one in a wheelchair there. ////// I mean, all the kids there look up to her pretty much because like in college they're like you live alone? You live in your own dorm? How do you… like they… everyone like, how do you take a shower? How do you go to the bathroom? You have a boyfriend? You know, like… and then they're like wow.

ALANNA:
All of us at home we want to have a prom again, like hold a dance when she can walk again and, you know, have Bo come and have her be able to dance at her senior prom. So we're going to…we all talk about it all the time and , you know how we're going to have a prom for her, so…it'll be exciting.

ALYSON:
One day I asked her how tall she was and she's my height, so I'm really excited to like look her right in the eyes, and so it's great.

MUSIC as we see ECU's of her hands, of the wheels, the POV of moving along and into the meeting with Prof. Kruger:

3 MS. CLOSE:
AT REDLANDS, SHE HAS DESIGNED HER MAJOR AROUND “BIO-POLITICS”, PERHAPS THE FIRST UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY. BIO-POLITICS…IS CODY’S EXAMINATION OF THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICS ON BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH.

PROF JAMES KRUGER
I had her in a medical ethics course I was teaching, about the possibility of her teaching a course during her senior year, during the spring of her senior year. So as part of preparation for that she’s got a lot of background reading that she needs to do and so we’re doing sort of one on one, what’s called a directed study, for Cody in particular these issues are very personal, right? I mean, so… more so than many students, these are… these issues make a real difference to her life the way she… she’s thinking through a lot of these issues on her own in the context of just her day-to-day interactions and trying to come to terms with what it means for her to be a woman in a wheelchair going to college, engaged in the kind of activism that she’s engaged in. She’s, you know, trying to sort out what that… what that means for her and so I think, you know, the topic that she’s picked for the course, the title that she’s working with, is I am not my body,

GRAPHIC:

I am Not My Body

KRUGER CONTINUES:
…is very much a topic about identity, about the relationship between her body, the wheelchair, who she is, her relationship to society, so you know, with that kind of topic it’s hard to avoid the course being in some ways also very personal.

4 MS. CLOSE:
PROFESSOR KRUGER AND CODY HAVE SPENT A SEMESTER EXPLORING ARTICLES ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE WHO ARE DISABLED. THESE READINGS HAVE HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON CODY AND HER VIEW OF HER PARALYSIS AS WELL AS HELPING HER UNDERSTAND HOW OTHERS VIEW HER.

We HEAR NATS of and SEE Cody going into building and we HEAR:

Kruger: So how much did you get through?

Cody: So, I got to two chapters. The last… the… actually the…

Kruger: The laying in the Hubbard?

Cody: This one was kind of like disturbing for me to read.

We now SEE FULL SYNC SOUND of the meeting with Dr. Kruger
Professor Kruger and Cody are meeting in the Commons

Kruger: Okay. Why was it disturbing

Cody: Just… just because like… how blatant it was about disabilities and I guess the whole eugenic side of it and like… yea, and one of the questions that I wanted to ask is like… how much of it was the power that they had to do this? And how much of it was like they actually truly believe in this sort of hygiene?

Kruger: They absolutely believed it so… a lot of this is inspired by Darwin, right?

Cody: Yeah right.

Kruger: Yea, I mean, it comes very quickly after the Darwinian ideas get put forward, right? I mean, you get this idea of survival of the fittest, so how do we create the fittest if

TAKE COVER video of Cody on Campus, getting lunch, going to class, etc.

we're doing things that keep people alive that wouldn't survive on their own, then somehow we're sort of diverting the natural order, we're keeping alive and keeping as part of humanity… people that shouldn't be, right? So yea… no, I they're absolutely true believers in this.

Cody: So who should inhabit the world.

Kruger: You know, and I think part of what's important about this piece and some other pieces is these ideas are part of what she's trying to… the case she's trying to make, right, is that these ideas aren't just sort of Nazis. It wasn't just the Nazis… and we very quickly…

Cody: See California and yea…

Kruger: Yea, these laws were common in California, there are very prominent figures that were very influential in American society who had these ideas…

5 MS. CLOSE:
IN VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF CODY'S LIFE, EVER SINCE SHE BECAME PARALYZED, SHE HAS BEEN EXPLORING WHAT THIS EVENT HAS CAUSED HER ……. OR HELPED HER TO BECOME. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PARALYZED.

CODY: I just basically wonder like what are they thinking of when they think disabled? When they think of me as disabled? Because I know… I'm not disabled.

*BEGIN **DRIVING SEQUENCE**: SHOWING CODY GETTING INTO HER CAR AND DRIVING TO THE YOGA CLASS. THIS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH TO THE END OF THE KRUGER MEETING AND THEN BECOME FULL SYNC SOUND*

CODY CONTINUES: I'm disabled when it comes to society's accessibility, society's inaccessibility like if I can't get into a building, that's when I'm… that's when it becomes prevalent to me. Oh, yea, I am disabled.

KRUGER: But I mean, you have your understanding of what that term means and when other people are applying it to you, you don't necessarily know… what they mean by that. Right? And that's partly about these sort of different constructions. Right? So why it might be appropriate for some people to use a term among themselves within their own group in a certain sense but others using it towards them raises different sorts of questions, right? What is the… what is the understanding that that person has of that term? Whereas if it's people you know and people you're working with, you know what they mean by that term. So… and right, so part of it gets back to this… is it… is it a social thing? A social construction of disability or viewing it as something natural or more essential to who you are, right?

KRUGER CONTINUED:
So I mean, like there's a group who are perfectly fine and in fact encourage the use of the term cripple or crip, right, in that sense using it as a sort of term of pride to describe themselves, and they know what they mean by that term.

WE CONTINUE SEEING CODY DRIVING IN THE CAR, WORKING HER HAND CONTROLS, TALKING ON HER CELL PHONE, AND DRINKING A STARBUCKS

KRUGER CONTINUES: They're not going to use it precisely to sort of highlight the… the way that society uses words to sort of label people, right? That's a community and there are others who find that, because they know the history of the term and are sort of offended by the history of the term, who find that sort of distasteful. But I mean, the same thing goes with, you know, racist language as well. Right? The way.,..

Cody: The way people…

Kruger: …formerly racist terms get adopted in some cases by a community but it's partly that exercise of power to sort of reclaim this word and sort of… or to invent a new word and sort of say, I know what you guys call us but this is… this is who we are. *(CODY ARRIVES AT THE COMPLEX, GETS OUT OF HER CAR AND GOES INSIDE WITH THE YOGA INSTRUCTOR)* This is how we describe ourselves. Sometimes that means taking a word, sometimes that means inventing a new word, right, sometimes…

Cody: Right and it just all goes back to language and…

Kruger: These ideas of construction.

Cody: And these ideas of constructions and stuff like that and… what's… what's right, what's wrong and like… and then like when it comes into context of like policymaking and like the legal standpoints of things like that's when I think it becomes more important to definitely like to define the terms and constructions.

We HEAR full SYNC SOUND of Cody and Yoga instructor working out in gym.

6 MS. CLOSE:
EVEN WITH A FULL COLLEGE LOAD OF CLASSES, CODY IS CONSTANTLY CARING FOR HER BODY. PREPARING FOR THE CHANCE TO WALK.

More NAT SOUND of working out.

7 MS. CLOSE:
CODY, BY NECESSITY, HAS TO BE IN COMPLETE TOUCH WITH HER BODY. IRONICALLY THE PARALYSIS HAS MADE HER MORE AWARE OF HER BODY THAN *MOST* PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PARALYZED ARE AWARE OF THEIR OWN.

CODY in gym California:
I feel when I have to go to the bathroom. But I didn't..I didn't always have that..I lost hat in the very beginning. So…that sensation of, you know, I've got to go to the bathroom, has sort of come back slowly but surely so I just can't contract my bladder. That's…I can't make myself pee. I have to…I have to use a catheter

that I insert and stuff. I feel the catheter, yea, going in, which is…took awhile because at first I had to use a mirror because I couldn't feel at all. So I had to use a mirror to see which hole to insert the catheter in, but once I got rid of the mirror and really..because it was almost like I was dependent upon the mirror in order to go to the bathroom. So once I got rid of that, it was almost like my body challenged itself in order to feel the sensation of…of inserting the catheter. So very interesting.

BRIEF NAT SOUND OF CODY IN CLASS. ANSWERING A QUESTION, WORKING.

8 MS. CLOSE:
CODY USES THE INFORMATION FROM HER COLLEGE CLASSES IN VERY PRACTICAL WAYS. SHE IS MORE INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY POLITICALLY, THAN MOST OF US.

We CUT TO the I-25 highway that runs up the center of the wide open spaces of New Mexico. We SEE Cody and her MOTHER SHELLY driving north to the state capitol. We see them tightly inside the car and we also have the exterior of the car as it travels up to Santa Fe.

9 MS. CLOSE:
SINCE THE EVENT THAT CAUSED HER PARALYSIS, CODY HAS BEEN LOBBYING AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH. ALONG WITH HER MOTHER, SHE ORGANIZES DOCTORS, RESEARCHERS AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS TO EDUCATE POLITICIANS.

We HEAR:

SHELLY: So now what's happening is there's a movement for states to try to pick up where the federal government left off and what they (inaudible). That's why we're going to Santa Fe. ///////…and then the latest thing that's really messing everybody up is the skin stem cells and when you talk to the researchers they're like yea, it's an absolutely wonderful find for science but it's 20 to 30 year away. Embryonics is two years away. ///// But it's really got everybody confused because they think there's another alternative. Yea, if you want to wait 30 years. I don't want Cody to wait 30 years.

CODY: And that the thing that it sucks if you're not directly effected by something like if you aren't paralyzed or know someone who's paralyzed or know someone who's living with diabetes then you don't care. I mean, that's the nature of the beast but still like… I don't know. We're all going to get old, we're all going to become disabled in one way or another so we might as well figure out the research now.

We SEE Cody and her mother and Dr. Stewart, getting out of the car and heading into the State Capitol Building. As this occurs, we HEAR:

10 MS. CLOSE:
CODY CREATED HER COLLEGE MAJOR, BIO-POLITICS, FOR JUST THIS KIND OF EVENT. SHE WANTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTIST AND POLITICIAN, TO INCREASE THEIR COMMUNICIATION AND THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE BETTER POLICY DECISIONS.

We now HEAR a sequence of sound bites that overlap constantly and slowly build to a climax in this ***POLITICAL BABBLE SEQUENCE.*** *Initially we see the speakers in sync sound but slowly it turns to total Voice Over and we just see the treated images and overlapping shots in slow motion of people talking, none of it in sync. All* ***bolded segments*** *are the words that will stand out in the babble.*

Dr. Os Stewart at Legislature:
What we know now is that **stem cells offer tremendous promise,** and we don't know whether some of these other approaches offer the same level of promise. As long as there is this great promise, **to fail to pursue it would be a tragedy**.
Senator John Ryan:
We've **reintroduced the bill in hopes of getting it through this year and that's what Cody is going to help do**, is help us educate people, help us raise awareness to the issue, and she brought some fantastic doctors from Cal Irvine to help in that process,

INTERSPERSE THE NEXT TWO SOUND BITES ACCORDING TO THE INDICATED ORDER (A,B,C, ETC).

Gov. Bill Richardson:
An (A)**estimated 128 million Americans suffer from crippling** and physical, psychological burdens of chronic, degenerative and acute diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, spinal cord injuries. This legislation would allow for (C)**further human embryonic stem cell research and other bio medical research**. Many of the hundreds of thousands of frozen embryos from

fertility clinics will eventually be destroyed. America couples meanwhile are not being given the choice to donate their frozen embryos to research (E)to **help others with stem cell advances**.

Dr Leslie Morrison
/// on a real human level, every single day (B)**I take care of people with fatal diseases**. These are children in many cases, that will not live beyond the age of 30 and it's… we… we have to be able (D) **to provide better needs of treatment** for these children and young adults, as well as even older adults, ///////// (F) to make **important discoveries about the way stem cells work** and the ways that they don't work in treatment of human diseases

WE NOW PICK UP SPEED AND OVERLAP (NON SYNC SOUND)

Dr. Caperton:
// our laboratory's the only IVF laboratory that exists in the state of New Mexico currently so it is the home right now to **a number of frozen embryos that are destined to be disposed** by patients who have to make that choice. /////

Donnie Dolcey, Right to Life
One should **never discard a human life and that is a human life. We were all embryos.** And we weren't discarded.

Dr. Caperton
As it stands today we really don't have a good mechanism for **patients who do want to donate those embryos** rather than discard them, in order to do research within New Mexico, /////

Cody Unser: … I mean, this really means a lot to me. **I'm so ready to pass the stem cell research bill**. I remember being like 13 years old and lobbying for stem cell research alongside with the Christopher Reeve Foundation in DC

Donnie Dolcey:
So if one wants to go invitro fertilization **they should not have the right to take another life** and that is either through discarding them or using them in fetal experimentation.

Dr. Caperton:
50% of all embryos that are perfect looking down the microscope, are actually genetically abnormal and **not capable of producing a live born offspring**. So half of the perfect quality embryos that are cryo-preserved in my laboratory today have no potential for creating a live born offspring,

Cody: Stem cell research is a human issue, not a religious and political one simply because human suffering does not discriminate against any one religion and any one political view.

Allen Sanchez, Catholic Church
And so we asked the governor and senator Ryan to **withdraw their plans for this legislation. This is the number one issue for the Catholic Church** and we're going to be here tomorrow with 1200 people to fight them.

CODY: And so today I still have a dream. **Stem cell research is my answer**. Don't let me and others down who are suffering wait any longer. Vote yes on this bill.

Dr. Stewart:
It's a bill that **potentially will bring cures in a rapid timeframe** to the citizens of the state of New Mexico and one that offers the potential for, in the long-term, significantly reducing long-term healthcare costs ///.

We SEE a slo mo shot of CODY just listening in the conference room. It BUILDS TO AN AUDIO CLIMAX as the image pushes into cody.

ALLEN Sanchez:
Well, **the church opposes this. Last year we killed this bill five times** and we're surprised that it's back because what's happening in here is that the governor's trying to beat a memorial that was passed last year //////

There is QUIET FOR A BEAT, and then FULL CLEAN SOUND:

Cody: Ever since I became paralyzed due to transverse militias in 1999, I always **wondered why the act of walking became so political**.

HARD CUT TO:

SHOWER SEQUENCE:

A low angle shot of Cody's dorm bath room. We SEE Cody enter the bathroom with her back to the camera and disrobe. She moves to the bathtub/shower, turns on the water and checks with her hand until the temperature is right. Finally she lifts herself from the chair onto the stool that sits in the tub. This is all NAT SOUND with no music or dialogue. We see several CU of Cody bathing, shampooing her hair, shaving her legs. She is a beautiful young woman. We CUT back to the wide low angle shot with the tub and her wheel chair as she begins to lift herself off the stool and into her chair. She falls and curses. She lifts herself back up onto the stool and resets the wheelchair. She tries again and falls again. The third time she is successful and slowly moves herself into the front of the sink/mirror, drys off and begins to dress. As she does this we end up on a CU of her face as she is putting on her make up.

We slowly DISSOLVE to one of the videos of CODY as a young girl dancing on stage.

FTB

11 MS. CLOSE:
CODY IS A BEAUTIFUL, SENSUOUS YOUNG WOMAN. EVEN THOUGH SHE'S IN A WHEELCHAIR AND SOME WOULD CONSIDER HER DISABLED, HER LIFE IS VERY MUCH……ENABLED.

CODY Dorm Room Camera:
a lot of people don't really don't think people who are paralyzed are sexual and let me just clear the air right now I am definitely sexual I am definitely I definitely have a sex drive, I'm definitely horny and stuff like that but it's something that I think a lot of people sort of misunderstand, there's a stigma sort of attached to people and especially women who are paralyzed that they're dependent, they're incompetent, they're needy, they're asexual, they require a lot of attention I mean there's so many things that I think are attached to women in society who are paralyzed and that's definitely one of the things that I want to break and I think once I started experiencing, experimenting with my sexuality when I was 16, ///// and getting to know my body as as something that is sexual I began to notice that and I began to realize that any fears or any doubts that I had about how I was gonna be intimate with a guy was definitely demolished

Adam Kaplan, Psychiatrist, Johns Hopkins:
with women what we know is that women who have had a successful sexual set of experiences prior to the injury usually they will continue to regain sexually, sexual functioning afterwards, Cody's an example of someone who was 12 when this happened so she's in that group of young women who she never had any sexual function and so it's hard enough for all of us to go through that experience of learning to become sexually active and for women who have never been sexually active that adds just so much more complication with the spasticity and you know the just the... the positioning and all of these issues and for actually unfortunately a majority of young women in those situations they will never

successfully go on to regain sexual functioning it's not that they can't but it's often that the barriers are enormous and again Cody breaks down those barriers

CODY Dorm Room Camera:
being intimate at that level with a guy I think is is I think for me it's a huge trust factor because you know I can't move my legs, I can't get up and run away or or anything like that you know so and a lot of the interaction during sex or whatever has to be really controlled by him because I can't move my legs, I can't really move my body about his, so it's so the intimacy level is suddenly heightened I think and and the trust factor I I've I basically have to surrender to him and that in and of itself is really hot and sexy I think but which is huge because I am such a control freak and I think because of that because I don't have a lot of it now but you know he's definitely learned how to move me around the bed, he's definitely learned how to he's definitely gotten to know my body and how my legs react and and stuff and I remember the first one of the first things that this woman named Paula told me she also has transverse militias and she got it when she was 12 also but she said Cody, always pee first whatever you do pee first///

Adam Kaplan, continues:
Cody also explodes the stereotypes in terms of the fact that she is a beautiful young woman who is very much in touch with the fact that she's a very attractive young woman ////// to a lot of people that just teaches them something because people are not used to seeing women or men for that matter often, but especially women in wheelchairs are sort of considered sort of broken vessels and they're not considered to have any sexuality or sensuality and Cody really does I mean she brings to her world all of the things that she can that she would were she not in a wheelchair and again she's a tremendous leader I think for us all to appreciate that that the wheelchair is as much a state of mind as it is anything else.

FTB

We FADE UP on a ECU of Cody's hands pushing the chair. We cut to the POV of Cody moving across campus throughout the FOLLOWING POEM.

12 MS. CLOSE:
WHEN SHE WAS 19, SHE "COMEMORATED" THE 7 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HER PARALYSIS, BY WRITING A POEM.

CODY Dorm Room Camera:
7 years. I never really think about time maybe I'm afraid to know how much time has passed by or not enough time for that matter. You know how there are some

people in the world that run by routine, clocks, schedules, time, well it's been 7 years now and here I am thinking about time. Thinking about how fast those 7 years have gone by and yet how slow because I am still paralyzed not yet walking, not yet feeling the ground solid beneath my feet as I once did before. I can't really remember how it felt to be free and walk, run, skip, dance, try on shoes, jump, ride a bike, tiptoe and yet I never thought to remember, to store those moments in memory. 7 years fuck me time goes by incomplete yet forever changed and fully aware of hope and why it still exists. Why me because you asked for it remember, you're dying chance to be you, untouched and marked, paralyzed.

CUT TO SYNC SOUND with dorm room cam:
I guess with that ending statement I never really told anybody this before but, when I was little I always wished that something bad would happen to me… *(TAKE VIDEO FROM INDY 500 RACEWAY, CODY AS A CHILD)* growing up with a famous dad and a last name that has, a legendary last name was... was... /////// I always felt really privileged but I always felt guilty about being so fortunate and being you know having, having a dad that was able to make that kind of money just by I mean by winning races and taking the checkered flag and I always felt guilty about that though I always didn't understand why I was so fortunate and when I became paralyzed that sort of you know it... it... it totally came to me that I can do something about this, I can... *(BACK TO SYNC SOUND IN DORM ROOM)* I can use the last name, use all of my anger and frustration and guilt about who my dad was and... and channel that into something positive and into something meaningful

TRANSITION Into
SCUBA DIVING SEQUENCE

We SEE underwater footage in the Bahamas of several paralyzed scuba divers. Over this we HEAR:

CODY Dorm Room Camera:
One of the greatest things that I've ever done, and I never thought I would be able to do when I first became paralyzed, is scuba diving. ////// but I knew I wanted to see the, you know, below the ocean surface and be under the water and… because water is… I just… I feel free. I'm out of the chair and it's a way for me to be like everybody else for once and not feel like my chair's defining me at that particular moment. ///

13 MS. CLOSE:

CODY HAS TAKEN THIS SPORT, THIS PASSION AND BEGUN TO SHARE IT, TO TAKE OTHER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES UNDER THE WATER….AND TO FREE THEM.

We SEE images from the earlier Bahama's trip in various overlapping views .
The MUSIC blends with the water.

CODY Continues:
You know, it's a whole other world down there and it's very quiet and peaceful and all you can hear is your breathing. And you don't have to talk to anybody, it's just you and the tank and the whole open ocean, you know, so… every color imaginable and fish, I mean, it's just… I just love it. It's the greatest thing ever so… once I was able to accomplish that, it was almost like I can do anything and… my mom and I created, and I knew I wanted to offer this kind of thing for everybody else who's paralyzed because scuba diving gave something to me, you know, that I didn't think I would ever have. A sense of independence and a sense of freedom that I don't think being on land and being in the chair provides me. So being able to be underwater is such a free feeling. So… so basically we created, out of… out of this we created Cody's great scuba adventure which is basically… it's a quality of life program to help other people, you know, I wanted to share the underwa… underwa... being underworld with everybody else who doesn't think that they can. And I just want people to know who have any disability, whether it's… whether they're blind or deaf or anything like that, or they're paralyzed from the waist down, the neck down, have no limbs, I mean, regardless, it's such a way to give back. It's something to give your soul to sort of recover, I guess, and sort of see the world in a different light.

14 MS. CLOSE:
CODY'S FOUNDATION HAS PARTNERED WITH THE DIVE HEART ORGANIZATION AND VETERANS GROUPS FOR OPERATION "DEEP DOWN" TO HELP INJURED SOLDIERS DISCOVER THE JOY AND FREEDOM OF SCUBA.

We SEE and HEAR the Paralyzed Veterans group give Cody an honorary membership in PVA.

SHELLY UNSER:
Christopher Reeve pushed her to… to endorse scuba as her quality of life program and she's been at it now about eight years. What I didn't foresee for the foundation is I never dreamed we'd start training adaptive instructors and that we would in turn collaborate model with so many people in the… in the United States that are doing adaptive scuba and that we would find Jim Elliot, you know, from

Dive Heart from Chicago and fast forward, we now have a dive training team that is now training other people to help assist that are almost all veterans.

We TRANSITION to images of everyone getting ready to get in the water.

JIM ELLIOT, Executive Director, Dive Heart:
We start out in a pool and what we do is just give somebody an experience of scuba diving where they're weightless and it depends on their disability we spend a lot of time weighting them properly and getting in the water and getting… getting them acclimated to the equipment. It's the only sport in the world where there's no gravity so it's perfect for people with physical disabilities. So we get them out of their wheelchairs, we get them in the water and basically we teach them how to fly.

MUSIC and visual sequence from Rio Rancho underwater and pool footage.

FTB

TRAVEL SEQUENCE:
We SEE Cody and Beau moving through an airport. We WATCH her go up and down stairs.

15 MS. CLOSE;
CODY LOGS MORE MILES IN THE AIR IN A YEAR THAN MANY WILL IN A LIFETIME. THE TRAVEL COMES WITH CHALLENGES.

CODY Dorm Room Camera:
/// I think people who are paralyzed their independence is all they have and when you lose that independence you do lose yourself you do you know ////... I'm so independent that it's really it took me a really hard time and a long time to actually ask people for help and that I'm not degrading myself or I'm not you know sort of lessening myself by asking for help

Adam Kaplan, Psychiatrist:
you know when people go to get on the airplane it's often very difficult, they've got this terribly uncomfortable you know very narrow sort of wheelchair that they can take people up the aisle with, Cody the way she travels is she finds the really cute guy at least this is before she was with Beau, finds a really cute guy in the waiting area say excuse me can you help get me into the plane and she'll just grab onto their neck and they'll just wheel her in so she's someone who reaches out to people she connects with people///

CODY in Gym:
Well, some bathrooms aren't really accessible or they don't have like a handicap stall or something like that, a big enough stall, so I just work around it and I… and I use cath kits with are… it's just the catheter with like a bag so I just pee into a bag and then throw it away but those are five dollars each. I mean, it gets really expensive so… especially on the airplane.

TAKE COVER in airplane Cody peeing during flight.

CODY Continued:
That's a new trick I sort of developed where I just, you know, put a blanket over me and I … you know, sort of improvise. You know, people… people who are paralyzed sort of improvise and so I use a water bottle and I just insert the catheter into the water bottle and I pee in the water bottle. I mean, you come up with these things, you adapt, you... sort of form your own way of dealing with it and go about your life but… and nobody knows it. You know, it's… I'm peeing in the airplane seat and nobody knows that I'm doing it.

We SEE a fast paced series of Cody and her mother and boyfriend on the plane and moving through the airport.

BEAU PG. 3:
when people come along and see me holding her hand and we're moving along pretty quickly as she's rolling through wherever we're going that say, oh, you've got it pretty easy. And if they could just think about those words. It always strike me and gives me goose… goosebumps up and down my spine.

More footage of Cody and Beau traveling together.

BEAU PG 2:
You know, being with her people maybe have the impression that there are struggles for me or there's issues for me and I guess as I've finally started to mature in my life and become less self-centered, there aren't things that I go through that I consider a struggle knowing what she has to go through and what a great attitude she has about things. So does it take me a little longer to get her comfortable in the car and carry her wheelchair around and put it in the back? Yes. But that extra few minutes out of my day as we travel and go about our normal life, is absolutely no price to pay for you know, the happiness that we have together.

16 MS. CLOSE:

SHE IS TRAVELING TODAY TO JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICAL CENTER IN BALTIMORE. HER MOTHER WILL BE WITH HER ALONG WITH HER BOYFRIEND, BEAU.

Locator Graphic:

Johns Hopkins Medical Center

(Nat Sounds and Lab Cover)

THIS IS WHERE THE HOPE RESIDES. THIS IS WHERE CHRISTOPHER REEVE'S DOCTORS WORK. THIS IS WHERE, WHEN SHE WALKS AGAIN, THE MEDICAL TRIALS WILL HAVE STARTED.

17 DR. DOUG KERR IS THE HEAD OF PROJECT RESTORE.

Doug Kerr, Neuroscientist, Project Restore, Johns Hopkins:
So demilinating disorders are disorders in which the myelin is stripped from the nerves. So the analogy is really an electrical wire and

TAKE ANIMATION that follows bite

the electrical wire in the house is insulated and so when the insulation around the electrical wire gets stripped, there's a short circuit in the house. The light doesn't go on or it flickers on and off. Same thing in the nervous system. So the wire itself is really the neuron. And the neuron is a cell within the cell and spinal cord that conducts electrical impulses to and from the muscle. And so if I want to move my right side, a neuron in the left side of the brain fires an electrical impulse down to the spinal cord and then out to the muscle. But along the wire it's got to have myelin. Myelin is the insulation. So demilinating disorders are those in which the myelin is stripped and as a result the electrical impulse gets short circuits and so you try to move your right side, doesn't happen, or it's just a little bit. So other things can happen, too, like you can have bowel and bladder disorders, you can have numbness, tingling, pain, al of those are examples of what happens when the wires are demilinated.

TAKE SYNC SOUND
Doug Kerr continued
We've been able to remilinate parts of the spinal cord and the brain in animals we demilinating disorders using stem cells. And many groups have done that. That.. the biology there has advanced to the point where that's absolutely clear by many groups throughout the world that we can do this.

Doug Kerr continued:

and that clinical trial is not far off. ///////… I think not far off it means really for some clinical trials in stem cells it'll be 2009. /////Now I think that we have to kind of temper our expectations of those first clinical trials because it really is the early days of this.

18 MS. CLOSE:
CODY HAS KEPT HERSELF READY FOR THE TIME WHEN HER MEDICAL TRIAL WILL BEGIN. DR. JOHN MCDONALD HAS BEEN KEY TO THAT EFFORT.

COVER of Cody working out.

Dr. John McDonald, Kennedy Kreiger Institute:
... so our center's based on a concept that we term activity based restoration therapy really based on two principles, let's get all the benefits of exercise which are predictable we can offset almost all virtually all of the medical complications that accompany spinal cord injury 30% of people with spinal cord injury have to be readmitted every single year for major medical complication this is a broken bone, as Mrs. Unser had, the biggest bone in her body, Christopher Reeve broke the two biggest bones in his body, ///// these are very big problems not small issues, big problems, so this is up until recently this was thought to be immutable or unchangeable that these complications were a product that couldn't be dealt with, well that's nonsense. We know that the benefits of exercise will offset every single one of them, right,

Oswald Stewart, MD Director Reeve Irvine Research Center Univ. of Calif.
What we're beginning to understand is that the body has a certain set of self repair mechanisms that are inefficient at best. but different things can turn these things on. So, for example, there are cells in our body that are capable of producing stem cells and these cells can go on and repair the brain, for example, or the rest of the body. But it's an inefficient mechanism in general. It turns out that in the brain we can actually make these cells turn on and proliferate by things like activity, physical exercise. /////// So some of the restorative therapies that Chris Reeve engaged in, the active physical exercise that he did during the years when he began to show tremendous recovery of function that may have been due to triggering some of these innate processes of repair within the body.

Dr. John McDonald continued:
but what we do know is we can simulate normal activity so for example there's a mini computer in the [inaudible] spinal cord that governs walking that's why you

don’t need to think about it, you only need a few control signals down to activate that minicomputer to walk that’s why you can cut the head off of a chicken, a chicken will not only run, it’ll adapt itself, ok, humans have the same ability, we can also activate that minicomputer by

COVER of Cody in Dorm Room putting on and working the electric bicycle.

cycling the legs, if we drive, [inaudible] the nervous system remains intact below the level of the injury so we can stimulate across the skin electrically we don’t activate them the muscle cells directly we do it indirectly we actually activate the nerve endings on the muscle, those contractions activate sensory organs that send patterns of signal back up to the cord, they activate this pattern generator this minicomputer sends a normal pattern of activity up and down, we discovered that that’s enough to promote substantial recovery of function, we’ve seen that most everyone with a spinal cord injury can recover significant and important function

19 MS. CLOSE:
TODAY IS A CRUCIAL VISIT FOR CODY. HER BACK HAS BEEN HURTING AND IT MAY BE SCOLIOSIS, A CURVING OF THE SPINE. THIS HAPPENS WITH MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVE LIFE IN A WHEELCHAIR. IF THE HURT **IS** SCOLIOSIS, IT MAY MEAN SURGERY AND RODS IN HER BACK AND AN END TO HER DREAM OF WALKING.

Consultation in Dr. Kerr’s Office. Cody, her mother Shelly, and her boyfriend Beau are all present.

Dr. Kerr:
So tell me about your back pain. Where is it, what does it feel like?

It’s gotten like worse. I don’t know if it’s because I gained a lot more sensation back. Or if my scoliosis has gotten worse.

Scoliosis hasn’t gotten worse. Has not. So what does it feel like?

(inaudible)

So what’s it feel like?

It’s tingling all over. Especially like my left rib cage.

Like a pins and needles?

Yea, and sometimes it's like a burning sensation and then it goes away. But… it's like I'm adjusting all the time because it hurts.

And it's around both sides or really just around the left rib cage?

Just I think all over but it's like I can feel that.. that it's pulling my ribs that way. So it's mainly the tingling in the (inaudible).

What about when you touch it? Does it feel weird?

No.

Do you feel anything? Does it feel normal when you touch the skin?

Not right there, no.

But you feel some light touch there, it just doesn't feel quite normal, but it doesn't trigger those pins and needles?

No. But the pain has gotten worse.

So that is neuropathic.

It's cool.

So that is a recovery of sensation.

GRAPHIC:

Recovery of sensation

It's not… you know the possibilities here was that it was the scoliosis, it's not, that it was a wedge fracture of the vertebral body, because sometimes the vertebral body can shift and kind of collapse a little bit, because of osteoporosis, it's not. And the pins and needles and the burning is clearly neuropathic.

20 MS. CLOSE:
NINE YEARS OF EXERCISE AND WORK HAVE CREATED A BEGINNING, SOME OF HER FEELING IS COMING BACK.

Dr. Kerr Continues:

The scoliosis is actually self corrected.

It's so weird. Really warm. I think it's because the pain is so bad I'm sitting here adjusting it so much.

Well, what it may be is that as the nerves wake up, you're feeling them.. . you're feeling this but they're actually exerting more of a balance on the spinal column. Because you know why scoliosis occurs, right, because the nerves are asleep, one side pulls more than the other and kind of pulls the spinal column out of line, but as this side is kind of waking up more, it's actually pulling them back in line so it's kind of corrected itself. Because it usually goes one of two ways. It can either kind of worsen and the curvature gets more and more and more or…

I feel like it's (inaudible).

Then that's good.

(inaudible)

Yes. exactly. If it were, that'd be bad, but it's not.

So the bad is good then?

The pain is good.

So don't take it away, if I took it away then I won't be adjusting?

No. I wouldn't necessarily say that. I mean, it can be pretty uncomfortable. I mean, neuropathic pain can be really uncomfortable and there's no reason why you have to you know, bear it. Because even if we kind of make it, damp it down little bit with a medicine for neuropathic pain, it's not going to change what…what's happening. Right?

(inaudible)

(inaudible) would be the top three for you. Why?

Because if you're saying that it's kind of gotten better, is that what you're saying?

Yea, but it doesn't put them to sleep. It's not like saying, you know…

But if the pain is gone then I won't be adjusting so much. Like…

You mean squirming in your seat?

Yea.

Well, yea. But the nerves will still be waking up, it just won't be as bothersome to you. But it's not like it's going to put them to sleep and then we're going to go back to where we were. Doesn't do that.

I think I'll stand it for now.

21 MS. CLOSE:
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, CODY DOESN'T TAKE MEDICATION. SHE WANTS TO FEEL EVERYTHING, GOOD AND BAD. BECAUSE FEELING IS WHAT SHE IS FIGHTING FOR.

Dr. Kerr Continues:
Remember initially when I would do this what would happen?

(inaudible)

No. I mean, there was just no activity at all. And now there… that hurt?

That was weird.

Why? Where does it feel weird?

I don't know, in my legs. When you touch this leg, like that, I feel it in here, not in here.

You do? It doesn't feel normal?

That tickles, the right side.

So see, I'm just tapping the Achilles Very easily (inaudible) so that put… that's (inaudible). So all of that was just quiet for years after this, you know, I couldn't get anything. And so but you can… in water you can reproduce a (inaudible) hip flexing.

Yea, watch.

Wow. Wow. You couldn’t do that at all.

No, and then… hold your hand like right…

So it’s back extension, you‘ve got something. Now wait, lean forward. It’s not bad.

22 MS. CLOSE:
FOR CODY, UNDERSTANDING HER DISEASE AND POTENTIAL CURES, IS PARAMOUNT. HER DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE, INSATIABLE.

Dr. Kerr continues:
Yeah the embryonic stem cells for the rewiring no doubt but for the remilination you don’t need embryonic stem cells for those, so hopefully the combination of the two would be how we go, so the question is how do you get them in there, so there are three ways, one is spinal surgery right, second one is through the skin, just a little needle, numb the skin locally and you can get it into the spinal cord that way and the third way is…

Yeah get used to it.

And the third way is through the blood vessels and blood, that would be the easiest way.

Would that be like an IV treatment?

It would be like, well, it would be more like an angiogram or a cat, cardio catheterization so.

In your hip you won’t feel it.

Yeah. And so we don’t know if that’s gonna work but that’s what we have to do over the next two years is to see…

Which one’s better.

Which one’s better which is the safest and which is the least invasive right cuz if we can do it…

So you’ve done stuff though with mice, with that.

Ah-huh.

And what's the verdict.

Don't know yet, verdict's not in and we're doing it with large animals as well to see if we can really mimic what the procedure would be like in humans right, so we got two things to assess, one is the procedure and one is the cells. Both have to be really safe, but so we're doing both in parallel.

Well then get to it.

I will, I will we are.

23 MS. CLOSE:
AFTER THE GOOD NEWS IN BALTIMORE, CODY TRAVELS TO INDIANAPOLIS, THE CITY WHERE HER FAMILY NAME IS REVERED ALONG WITH THE RACE THAT SHAPED SO MUCH OF HER LIFE.

(Option: AFTER THE GOOD NEWS IN BALTIMORE, CODY TRAVELS TO INDIANAPOLIS, THE CITY WHERE HER FAMILY NAME IS REVERED. AND WHERE THEY HONOR THE RACE THAT SHAPED SO MUCH OF HER LIFE.

INDIANAPOLIS SEQUENCE

TAKE OLD VIDEOS of Cody and family at 500 during Al Jr.'s win. MUSIC sequence. BITES over.

AL UNSER JR. Cody's Dad:
When I was a young man and starting my racing career and starting my family, it was all about me and my success and… you know, quite honestly, the kids were a distraction to my racing career and… because, you know, in this highly competitive industry that… that auto racing is, at the level that… that we were at, you know the Indy 500, you have to have everything dedicated to that. And so by doing that, there's sacrifices that have to be made and those sacrifices fall in the family category///

SHELLY UNSER:
Indy was always a little different from the rest of the circuit because you were there for an entire month.

SHELLY Continues:
During the race my, our kids, Al and I… they would stay in the motor home which was in the infield. And usually watch, you know, live telecasts on the motor home and live outside the window.

SHELLY Continues:
so the kids would have, you know, just live inside the infield basically like a group of gypsies and our neighbors were other drivers and their kids and mechanics and their kids and they would just kind of freely roam around from hospitality tent to hospitality tent.

CODY Dorm Room Camera:
I remember being, I mean it always fun going to the races and my, with my parents and I mean it was definitely not an ordinary normal life I mean none of my friends had this kind of lifestyle or never really truly understood what it meant to be part of a family with a history as such as my family and to have a last name that's well known and stuff but I mean it was ride, it was fun racing, going to all the different races and you know all of the other race car driver's kids and... and me and my brothers or Al and Shannon we would always you know you always compete with each others parents you know my dad's gonna win, no my dad's gonna win, no my dad's gonna win, so and it was I mean at every race track I mean all the all the hospitality tents were raided by us kids I mean it was hilarious and it was so much fun

AL UNSER JR:
with where I'm at today, I know that.. that I thought I controlled things, like I controlled that race car, which I did, I… you know, it was me that drove it in the pits, it was me that drove it out on the race track, it was man that built it, okay, it's a machine that man built. And so… where I'm at today is… is… you know, god has a plan for all of us and, you know, with everything that I've been through I had to learn that. That God has the ultimate plan. And what we do is we do our part to live the way he would want us to live. The way that he wants us to live. And so… you know, for Cody, you know, hopefully, you know, it's God's plan. I can only pray that it's in his plan that she walks again. And it's in his hands that that's gong to happen.

WE DISSOLVE to CODY AND BEAU walking near the track at the Indy 500

GRAPHIC:

Indy 500 2008 Carburetion Day

24 MS. CLOSE:
RACING IS STILL PART OF CODY'S LIFE. HER BOYFRIEND WAS A RACE CAR DRIVER AND IS NOW A RACE OFFICIAL. *(We see Cody greet her Grandfather)* HER GRANDFATHER, AL SR., GREAT UNCLE, BOBBY AND FATHER, AL JR. ARE STILL PART OF THE LARGER RACING FAMILY. HER MOTHER CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN RACING AND IN THE EVENTS AROUND RACING.

CODY and BEAU are in a hospitality tent….Cody pees as before.

AND THAT HAS LED TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CODY'S FOUNDATION AND ONE OF INDY'S MAJOR RACEWEEK EVENTS

CARA fashion show sequence
We SEE fast cuts and hot music with models, make up, clothing, backstage as we HEAR

Ellen Goldberg, CARA Charities:
championship auto racing auxiliary. CARA charities has been around for 28 years and this year Cody was one of my honorary chairs and her program actually benefits from the funds that we raised at the annual fashion show which is always a few days before the Indy 500. So Cody and Beau and you all came in and Shelley and helped really make it an incredible show.

25 MS. CLOSE:
IT IS IN MOMENTS LIKE THIS THAT CODY SEEMS TO SHINE. SHE IS STARRING ON STAGE. BUT THESE ARE THE MOMENTS, WHEN CODY MAY INDEED FEEL THE MOST ALONE.

INSERT OF BACKSTAGE RUNDOWN that shows Cody is supposed to appear with her father, Al Unser Jr. CUT TO Cody on stage by herself and coming down the runway in her chair without her father as we HEAR:

Cody:
… it's just really interesting how one simple thing or one moment can change your life forever and February 5, 1999 was that day that changed my life forever because it's… it's made me it's been a part of shaping me into the woman that I am today and but at the same time I want to walk again I want to not be able to be so out there, be so forward, be so be the center of attention when I roll into a room, you know I don't, sometimes I just want to be like everybody else and… and you know walk with a crowd at a concert or… or at a theme park and I don't

want to always been looking up you know because that's one of the things that I've sort of become to notice you know when I talk to people I'm in the chair, I'm at downward angle so I'm having to look up in a sense at a world and to be able to look straight into people's eyes and straight into the world I think is a an experience that I hope to have one day again

26 MS. CLOSE:
CODY'S FOUNDATION WORK HAS TAKEN HER ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD. HER SCUBA ADVENTURE IS CONTINUALLY EXPANDING AND LINKS SOME UNUSUAL PARTNERS.

HARD CUT TO Cody driving the Race Boat in Miami from the POV of the front of the boat.

RACING BOAT MUSIC SEQUENCE

INSERT ELEMENTS OF GROUP MEETING WITH RESCUE PERSONNEL FROM OFFSHORE RACING SERIES

ELLEN GOLDBERG:
This is the sunny isles beach Florida offshore super series race down here in sunny isles beach, just north of Miami.

RON POLLI, Off Shore Series President:
The fastest boats run about 180 miles to 190 miles per hour, ok, now the skill involved with running a boat at that speed in a rough ocean 'cause remember we're not on the road here, the waves move, they're unpredictable,

CODY on Balcony in Miami:
I mean, just knowing that you're going that fast is a thrill so it was a lot of fun it was a little hot and I got kind of overheated which is pretty normal for me since I don't really sweat 'cause I'm, where I'm paralyzed so I usually just sweat on my face and stuff but so I got really hot but I really wanted to go back out and it was it was really fun so.

27 MS. CLOSE:
THIS YOUNG WOMAN, THIS BEAUTIFUL, SENSUAL, BRILLIANT YOUNG WOMAN, CONTINUES TO STUDY, TO HOPE, TO BELIEVE…BUT THROUGH IT ALL, SHE CONTINUES TO LIVE…. FAST AND COMPLETELY.

We SEE Cody driving the race boat, enjoying the day.

Slowly we TRANSITION to:
Cody and Beau on the Beach in Miami. Beau carries Cody to the shore and sits down with her. SEVERAL ANGLES on this as we HEAR:

Doug Kerr:
Cody says she's going to walk again, she's going to walk again. And that's not just somebody with blind faith. She… she has faith, she's very enthusiastic but the biology is there now to say, look we can do this. We can make this happen and I think we'll see it, and she's not going to be an old lady by the time she walks again. She's going to be a young lady when she walks.

SLOW TRANSITION TO:

MUSIC BEGINS AS WE SEE Cody in the Lobby of a Hotel, meeting people and preparing for another dinner speech.

Cody is now introduced on stage and she is alone. AS CODY starts the speech, we slowly SEE the images of her life. . Sometimes they are in slow motion. The IMAGES MATCH the talk she gives.

Each of the highlighted graphics are then ECHOED by the NARRATOR and perhaps hold during the cover and nat sound.

CODY at Goodwill Dinner:

It's interesting when things of life happen so unexpectedly and the very moment you think life can't go on, it does. The cool thing about life is that everyone has the ability to turn something negative into something positive. A poet once said that he that dares not grasp the thorn should never (inaudible) the rose. It took me a while, nine years to be exact now that I have come to realize how truly that, how true that statement really is. You can't have the sweet without the sour. I now hold a beautiful rose which took grasping the thorns in order to enjoy the beauty life around me so offers. I have learned to somehow reject but embrace my situation at the same time. I've learned, what started out as a ball of anger has now grown into the greatest thing that ever happened to me. You never understand how cool the simple things in life are until those simple things become so complicated. When I first became paralyzed my days in rehab were days of endless frustration and anger here I was 12 years old lost and confused as to what life was going to be like now that my body had become paralyzed. The funny thin is when they diagnosed me as having transverse militias they didn't know much about it except that my own immune system had attacked my spinal chord. As a kid I translated what the doctors had told me to be that I had made myself paralyzed. That idea bothered me and I would lay there in the hospital frustrated that no one had answers about my condition and right then and there the strive and desire to help make TM and paralysis history became my mission which is what grew into the Cody Unser First Step Foundation. One voice has power.

GRAPHIC AND NARRATOR:

One Voice Has Power

Independence and competence are two values I know all of you working for good will understand. Without independence our human self worth and competence somehow freezes in time as if it never existed. Once you give people the keys to their own life even if it's the small things the confidence they never thought was in them arises. For example, the hardest thing I ever had to do in the very beginning of rehab was to sit up in my bed on my own. I remember shaking because I was so weak and I was breathing really hard with anticipation because I knew the next step was to get from the bed to the wheel chair without falling on the floor. When I look back on my days in rehab everything from getting dressed, bathing, transporting, transferring in and out of cars, tying my shoes, doing my hair, wheeling from my bed to the bathroom, picking things up from the floor, eating, they all had to stem from the first task, being able to balance myself sitting on the edge of the bed. Flash forward only a couple years later and I found myself 100 feet down below the ocean surface. A moment I realized I was bigger than my paralyzed body. I gained an independence with scuba diving that I wanted to share with others who I know think they can't but with the help of my brother Al and my mother, Shelly we created Cody's great scuba adventure, a quality life program that certifies people of various different disabilities in scuba diving. If you can image yourself being trapped by something and then set free to fly that's what scuba diving is. We have successfully completed three great trips and are now working for our biggest one yet with helping young veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan to learn to scuba dive and gain an independence they once thought they would never get back. One voice has power. Today I go to the college, I go to college at the University of Redlands in California where I created my own major called bio-politics bridging the gap between science and politics with compassion and education. I have a wonderful boyfriend who loves me for who I am, fun, crazy friends, and a great family and dreams to one day find a cure for transverse militias and paralysis. The Cody Unser First Step Foundation is helping more and more people find answers about TM and paralysis issues that go along with life after disability. We have networked with many organizations like the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to help promote the health and recovery of the paralyzed world through lobbying congress for stem cell research and creating more quality of life programs like Cody's Great Scuba Adventure. I've learned through this experience mainly when my mom and I started the Cody Unser First Step Foundation when I came home from rehab that life may have it's boundaries but there are no limits as the ones we set on ourselves.

GRAPHIC AND NARRATOR:

There are No Limits as
The Ones We Set on Ourselves

I had so many questions because here I was learning how to do the daily necessities to live a somewhat normal life whatever that means, and all the while I more concerned about how my friends were gonna treat me, would I ever have a boyfriend, what about going to school, and dancing in my wheel chair. As the years went and my adaptations and the little things were accomplished my questions got more complicated. Would I dance (inaudible) at my senior prom, what about having kids and walking down the aisle at my wedding to the guy that is suppose to somehow suppose to love me for who I am. It took many down days to understand that my many dreams were never going to disappear and change just because I had physically changed, but because I did my dreams are only going to get bigger and arranged a little differently. I don't know about walking down the aisle at my wedding but let me tell you that my graduation ceremony I was carried by two guys like a princess. No matter the challenge may be I know I will find a way. I know I will find a way because fighting... fighting back at the paralysis and accepting it at the same time as become a lot easier the more I have let others like you guys inspire me to do even more. You can't change the world if you don't allow it to change you.

GRAPHIC AND NARRATOR:

You can't Change the World if
You don't Allow it to Change You.

One voice has power. I know Dr. Edgar Elms, the founder of good will believed this because of all of you guys here today. Everyone here uses this one voice even when you might not always trust it. You know if you listen hard enough you might be surprised by the message it can forever carry. I was inspired by the one voice of Christopher Reeve. I will honestly tell you I never really understood the power of one voice until I was inspired by one whose message inspired me to listen and deliver my own. His voice of never ending passion, motivation and inspiration lead me to believe that even though I may be paralyzed, my voice is not.

GRAPHIC AND NARRATOR:

Even though I may be Paralyzed,
My Voice is Not.

So with that belief I knew I could never be completely paralyzed, and once I realized that Christopher's message of nothing's impossible lead my to my voice that said it's all good. When you wake up not knowing how the day's going to turn out just turn to the voice inside. Trust me one voice does have power look where we are today and I can't thank everyone here enough for giving me this opportunity to use my voice to help inspire this fascinating cause of health, quality of life and how important it is to give back to the world. We are all in this world together and you don't have to wait for something to happen to you in order to make a difference. I've come to realize that it takes a certain level of desire and compassion that leads a person to accomplish great things. Someone once said compassion is the basis for morality someone else said I have a dream and another said nothing is impossible. From these statements I know life would not exist without compassion I know being, I know having dreams can conquer anything and I also know that anything is possible when you combine compassion and the determined will of making those dreams become what's real. It's not what happens to you that matters, it's what you do with it that counts,

GRAPHIC AND NARRATOR:

It's Not what Happens to you that Matters,
It's what You Do with it that Counts.

you have to stand up for something or be able to fall for anything so what are we waiting for? Life may not always have music but let's get out there and dance anyways. Thank you all so much.

We SEE the standing ovation as

MUSIC SWELLS and we end with one of the early videos of CODY as a little girl, dancing on stage…and DISSOLVE TO CODY today in her Stander in the Dorm Room.

CODY'S cell phone:
So listen. Check this one out. Would you rather be lost or found, forgotten or remembered, open or closed? And do you prefer to fall or fly? Let me know within your message because I'd rather be lost in an open remembered fall. So think about that one. Luv ya. Bye.

FTB

CREDITS