

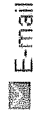
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Luck can be dumb, sheer or Irish



by Konrad Marshall

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WHAT'S THIS?

Darcy Keith, 38

This business analyst for State Auto Insurance survived a serious car accident with severe brain trauma.

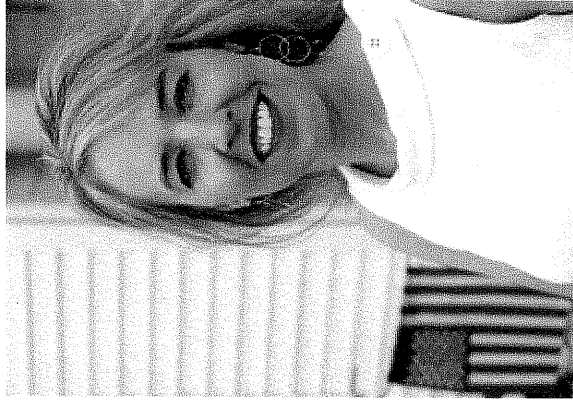
One moment, Darcy Keith was an intelligent, attractive, 22-year-old actuarial science student at Ball State University on the road home with four sorority sisters from a trip to Kentucky.

The next she was in a hospital bed, two of her friends dead, her brain bleeding, trying to overcome paralysis, relearning how to bathe, dress and feed herself. She was in a coma, then a wheelchair, then adult diapers. But she was alive, a lucky surprise in itself.

"Some people say you're lucky and some people say it's God's provision," Keith said. "I believe in God's grace. My injury has given me a whole new approach to life. It's given me a purpose. I like to think you create your own luck."

Luck of the Irish factor: Medium

Keith survived. She mostly recovered from the devastating injuries she suffered when she was 22. But she still suffers vertigo, memory loss, and body weakness. "You don't want to sound ungrateful," she said. "But for someone who used to be really into sports, not being able to do certain things really impacts your freedom."



Darcy Keith was lucky to survive a horrific crash, but recovery's been hard.(Photo by Heather Charles/The Star)