

From pain to Hollywood gain

By Katrina Vella

CRAIG Anderson of Liverpool is about to write a movie script that could change his life, but getting there hasn't been easy.

The 30-year-old was involved in an accident when he was a teenager which resulted in him having major head injuries. He now battles depression and epilepsy as a result.

The accident happened when Mr Anderson was 19 and he decided to ride a skateboard while holding on to the back of a car. He fell off and hit his head.

"It was a dumb-teenager thing to do. I thought I was invincible and I found out that I wasn't," he said.

Mr Anderson's girlfriend took him to the medical centre, not knowing the severity of the situation, but when he became unconscious he was taken to the emergency department at Liverpool Hospital.

Doctors found swelling to his brain and had to perform a crani-

otomy - an operation to open the skull.

"That was the main problem and it was going to be fatal," Mr Anderson said.

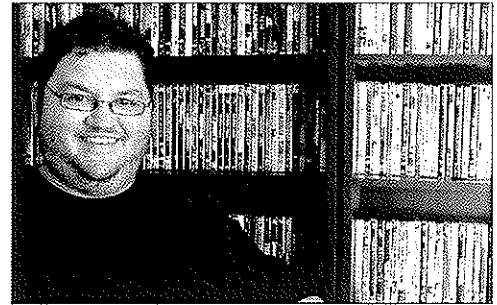
The next three days were crucial. Mr Anderson's parents were told that if he didn't wake up within those days he would die.

Luckily Mr Anderson woke up and for the next five years he worked on rebuilding his life.

"Sometimes I'm actually glad that the accident happened based on opportunities I have now because, basically, if I didn't I would probably still be a waiter," he said.

Mr Anderson soon decided to pursue his passion - scriptwriting. He has written a couple of screenplays, including *Misgiving*, which was screened for staff and clients of Liverpool Hospital's brain injury unit as part of Brain Injury Awareness Week recently.

But his latest achievement has been to be selected to write a Hollywood feature film.



Movie passion: The next DVD to be added to scriptwriter Craig Anderson's collection could be his very own Hollywood feature film. Picture: Elliott Housego

"Through a pitching session of 13 people I was one of three selected to write a Hollywood feature film," he said.

"At one point, I pulled out because I had low self-esteem, but I ended up going back in

because of the support of my family and friends."

But Mr Anderson is not giving anything away about his script.

"I can say two things: it's a romantic comedy and it's set in New York City - think *27 Dresses*."



NRMA NEWS

from your local Director

Gary Punch

NRMA Road Service Best in the World

It is official - NRMA's roadside assistance is the envy of motoring clubs around the world.

Our patrols achieve a 'go rate' of 92 per cent, which means we get stranded motorists driving again nine times out of 10 - without needing to be towed.

To put that achievement into perspective, the 'go rate' for our counterparts in the United States is around 50 per cent.

Last year, our patrols helped more than 1.5 million stranded motorists and on 90 per cent of occasions our patrols arrived at the broken down car within the hour.

The NRMA team gets regular training on new model cars as they are released and the company only recruits patrols with at least five years experience.

Clubs in the United States and Europe have even invited our patrols to teach them how to reach these goals and after visits by our teams many of the clubs have already seen an improvement in service.

Being the best in the world is not enough for our patrols. They are committed to maintaining this world-beating service so that NRMA Members continue to receive the highest level of support when they need it most.



Islamic school choice 'up to council' says applicant

By Katrina Vella

THE applicant behind the proposed Qaadiri College in Austral has said he is open to listening to objections about the development, but that the decision rests with Liverpool Council.

Ashraf Ali, who is part of ASFA Limited, a charitable organisation, lodged the development application to the council for a school, which he

said would cater for 600 students.

Even though numerous residents are opposed to the school because they don't believe the rural area can handle such a project, Mr Ali said Austral was the only available site.

He said residents opposed to the school simply needed to wait for Liverpool Council's decision.

"I do acknowledge what [the opposed residents] are trying to say

but it's not up to them to decide; it's up to the council," he said.

"All council requirements have to be matched before we go ahead.

"But I can assure you one thing, whenever you see a school or shopping complex built, the roads will be upgraded by the council anyway."

Mr Ali said he was trying to comply with what was being asked.

"I do appreciate what people are

saying, but if we don't comply with council then the school doesn't get built and if we do, then it will."

Qaadiri College will be an Islamic education facility, but Mr Ali stresses it will "be open to all".

"I did stress this point, because this will be a fully accredited Board of Studies school," he said. "Schools are always needed everywhere."

The application is under assessment.

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