Do you want to know what it's like to be thought of as stupid all your life? I have lived that story so I feel obligated, now that I have access to communication, to tell the world what it feels like to be misunderstood in this manner.

This is not because I am mad at anyone or wish things were ever different for me. I love who I am and wish others could share that. When a person sees someone who is different it is natural to make assumptions. The concern for me is that people are too quick to think that the heart beating inside that rather strange person is different than their own.

I would like to propose each and every one of you take a moment to evaluate yourselves. Here are the questions:
What is it that scares you when you see someone not being normal?

What old ways of thinking about people with disabilities can you throw in the trash?

What is it in you that needs special attention?

How did you do?

Now, let me tell you, being presumed to not know what's going on creates some funny recollections I'd like to share with you. One day I was called a wacky person by a young girl showing off her new word to her parents. Another time, the bus driver discussed his love life in colorful detail over the phone while we passengers enjoyed the ride. Due to my playful manner and happy demeanor I am perpetually thought of as a child by my family.

I would love to meet you all. So, please come to the Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington on June 14 and meet me, Seven Days columnist Jernigan Pontiac, and my communication partner, VSA Vermont's Emily Anderson. There we will continue this discussion and I will fill you in on my plans to make movies.

Mark Utter of Colchester has been unable to communicate verbally for much of his life but is able to slowly type his thoughts. He and VSA Vermont are planning to make a film about his life, titled “I Am In Here.”