

Student elected into convention

BY MARK HARDY
Staff Reporter

Freshman Brett Carmical flew to Denver, Co., on Sunday and will remain there during his first week of college.

Carmical, who hails from Brookfield, Mo., was sent as one of two delegates to the State Democratic Convention. There he had the honor of being elected one of Missouri's delegates from the sixth district to cast a vote in the Democratic National Convention.

"I put in a lot of work for the past year or more," Carmical said. "I felt ... that this was historic, and I'd never get a chance to go to one this exciting."

Carmical said that when he was 16 his political interests gave birth to the Young Democrats Club that he helped establish at Brookfield High School.

"A state representative candidate [Tom Shively, State Rep 8th district] in our district was really kind of helping ... us get involved with [his campaign]," Carmical said. "We helped him out and went door to door for him, and ... from there on we were successful and won, and the interest kept growing."

He said his experiences on the campaign trail with Shively helped give him an insider's view of politics.

"We went to his fundraisers and learned about his platform," Carmical said. "He let us write letters to the editor, put ads in the paper for him and basically learn the ground-

work of a campaign."

Having participated in a run for office, Carmical said he feels like an educated voter and a more well-rounded individual.

"It gives you a lot of confidence when you have to talk to people," he said. "If normally you had to step back or just watch things on TV, you can't fully grasp the ins and outs of things that are done."

Carmical said he worked on Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination and was chosen to vote for her at the national level.

"Most of the Clinton delegates and I will still vote for her for nomination on the first ballot," Carmical said. "We were elected by our districts to represent all of the Hillary Clinton voters, so I kind of feel like I have an obligation to do that."

Carmical said that although he wants to honor the majority of his district's wishes, he also views Clinton's resignation with a sense

of realism. "After I vote for her and it's clear she's not going to get it, I can go ahead and vote for [Obama] and throw all of the support behind him," he said. "It's just a lot of her delegates worked so hard for her, and it was so close, so a lot of people want to at least have her on the ballot."

Carmical said he has been dealing with answering questions based on his actions, much like a political candidate.

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Brett Carmical
Freshman

All eyes on Brett Carmical

"I picture myself running for some type of office. I just don't know what it is."



Photo submitted
Freshman Brett Carmical missed his first week of classes to attend the Democratic Convention in Denver, Co. He was voted in as a Missouri delegate from the sixth district.

"A lot of people ask if I'm doing political science, no, sometimes I think it's a misconception," he said. "You can experience the politics or learn about that, and it doesn't really teach you the ins and outs of how to win an election. It's just theories of government and things like that."

Carmical said he doesn't plan on quitting after the smoke of this election has cleared.

"It's not associated with my major, but I may follow through with it when I graduate and move back to my area," he said. "Eventually I see myself running for some type of office. I just don't know what it is."

Online degrees expand college opportunities

BY CHRIS BONING
Staff Reporter

To Beth Thompson, a 35-year-old single mother with a full-time job, pursuing a college degree online made sense.

"There was no way I could work being a single mom and go to college at the same time," she said.

Thompson is part of a growing group of adults seeking university degrees through online programs. Thompson, who works in the home health industry, said she decided to continue her education and pursue her bachelor's degree in Database Administration through the University of Phoenix because she was tired of working for minimum wage.

"I don't want to have to look at my kids — my oldest is 11 — in seven years

and say I can't help you go to college," she said.

Thompson said that between having a full-time job and being a full-time mother, she often doesn't have time for her schoolwork until 8:30 p.m. and usually stays up until 2 a.m. working.

"Sleep," she said "That's my sacrifice."

Thompson said that anyone who questions the legitimacy of an online degree should take a look at her textbooks.

She also said her attitude toward participating in class is much different from the first time she went to college on a traditional campus when she dropped out so she could get married. Thompson said she hopes her future employers will look at the time and energy she put into her degree and regard her as a self-motivator.

Keith Nordmann, the associate dean of faculty and student support with the A.T. Still University School of Health Management, said his institution offers a variety of degrees online, including a master's in public health, geriatric health and health administration, in addition to a doctorate in health education. All online degree programs through the school can be completed within two years, Nordmann added.

He said the school has been offering online degrees since 1998 and that currently about 500 students are enrolled in the program. The typical student completing an online degree through the School of Health Management is a medical professional who wishes to supplement his or her existing expertise, Nordmann added. He also said the

School of Health Management has an agreement with Truman wherein students may begin working on their master's early, up to three classes.

Nordmann added that a common misconception about online degrees is that hard work isn't involved. He said students have to work harder and must pay more attention to details.

"You're no longer just a voice in the choir," Nordmann said.

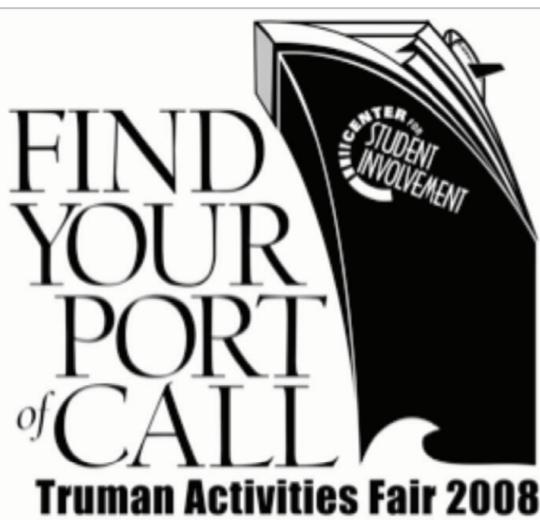
Ralph Cupelli, assistant to the provost and vice president for academic affairs, said University administrators have yet to discuss offering online degrees.

"Truman basically is ... a traditional university where you have students on campus, ... and we have the face-to-face [interaction and] small classes," he said. "We have gotten more online courses,

but at the moment we haven't really looked at whether we want to do an online degree program."

A few years ago, a marketing class surveyed students regarding online courses, and the results indicated students were not in favor of them and that they thought online courses were easier to cheat on and that the level of interaction wasn't the same as in a traditional classroom.

"It depends on what market you're looking at," Cupelli said. "Most of the online schools that do the degrees are looking for markets outside their own campus, and they use them as ways to generate income for the university. You can look at it that way, but there is also the concern that if you get a Truman degree, it should be a Truman degree and represent a Truman degree."



Hey freshmen! Are you looking for a way to get involved on campus or for an organization that fits your interests? Jump on board with the **Center for Student Involvement** on **September 4** from 12 pm- 4 pm for the Activities Fair on the quad. There will be **over 150 organizations represented** at the fair. Come and visit them and find your port of call. For any questions come by our office or call 785-4222.

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