

"My friends give me trouble about it, and even people I hardly know. I'm not the kind of person that gets embarrassed too easily, and I enjoy doing it so it doesn't really get to me." – Aaron Truitt

All Eyes On: Aaron Truitt

Male student finds enjoyment working out with cheerleading squad, plans to remain active with squad next year too

By ANNE REBAR
Columnist

The cheerleading team added three new members this year who won't be wearing skirts or waving pompoms.

Aaron Truitt is one of three men who signed on as the new muscle behind the Bulldogs' squad. Although this is his first year as a Truman cheerleader, Truitt is no stranger to the sport.

"One of my friends kind of talked me in to doing it in high school, and I actually kind of just thought of it as a way to meet girls and stay in shape in the football offseason," Truitt said.

Learning to cheerlead in high school was not a huge challenge for Truitt, who said he was a lot stronger then because of playing football.

"In high school it was actually really easy to pick up," Truitt said, "I had really good people teaching me and having my friend there helped because we would push each other and learn new stuff together. When I saw him do something, it made it easier for me to do it because I thought 'Oh if he can do it, then so can I'. I never doubted myself. I always thought 'Oh I can do this' and that made it a lot easier."

When Truitt started at Truman, some of the cheerleaders who heard he was involved with cheerleading in high school approached him about joining the squad. But Truitt said he was too busy with school and other activities. This year, however, he decided he wanted to get more involved.

"I just started kind of tapping in to Truman, now that I'm a senior, just now getting involved with everything it has to offer," Truitt said, "I want to get everything I can out of Truman now since I'm only in college once."

Some of the cheerleaders approached Truitt again about joining the team. One of the girls made him promise to come to at least one practice and said that if he didn't like it, he didn't have to do it again.

"I went to one practice with the intent of just stunting with them for a little bit and that's it, but I ended up liking it so I kept going," Truitt said.

Truitt not only enjoys cheerleading because it gets him involved, he said it's also getting him back in shape. Another reason Truitt didn't join the team earlier was that he didn't think he was strong enough to do the stunts anymore. Now, he said, cheerleading has given him an incentive to work out, and it's been pretty easy for him to pick back up.

"After the first day, I was sore for like a week because I really hadn't been working out," Truitt said, "It's really given me a reason to work out and lift weights and get stronger. It really goes hand-in-hand because the stronger I get, the more cheerleading stunts I can do."

Cheerleading at Truman is a little different for Truitt



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Aaron Truitt, one of Truman's three male cheerleaders, enjoys keeping in shape with a unique sport.

than it was when he was in high school. He gained a multitude of new experiences in the sport since he joined. He said he went to cheerleading camp this summer and didn't know what to expect.

"I have been to a lot of football camps and stuff where they just yell at you all the time, which is fine," Truitt said. "I love football, but here it was a lot different. All the teams are helping each other, and I was really taken aback. I learned a lot of stuff at camp that I didn't know how to do in high school, and some stuff we weren't allowed to do."

Being a male cheerleader has its stereotypes, and Truitt said he had trouble at first trying to find more guys to join the team.

"I asked a lot of my fraternity brothers if they wanted to join, and they all said no, except for Imran Mohammed,"

Truitt said, "Now that my fraternity brothers have seen that Imran and I are doing it, they are asking me about how they can get on the team. We're expecting to have a lot more guys try out next year."

One of the downsides of being a male cheerleader is the heckling. Truitt said it never really stops, but it hasn't ever really bothered him.

"My friends give me trouble about it, and even people I hardly know," Truitt said, "I'm not the kind of person that gets embarrassed too easily and I enjoy doing it so it doesn't really get to me."

Truitt plans on staying at Truman for two more years and getting his BA in psychology and his MAE. He is eligible to be on the cheerleading team as long as he is at the school and says he definitely is planning on continuing with it next year.

Sisterhood allows diversity

Alternative sisterhoods offer wider diversity, greater freedom than traditional sororities

By CASSANDRA MCCARTY
Features Editor

Early in September a large white tent graces the cobblestone path by the Student Union Building. Under the tent a congregation of girls flocks to meet and greet Gamma Chis, sorority members who have temporarily disaffiliated from their sororities to act as unbiased guidance counselors for sorority recruitment. However, some houses provide a different route than the traditional Greek system.

The girls of Prim Roses call themselves an alternative sisterhood, and although the organization is made up of women, it lacks the basic structure of a sorority to enter into the Greek system. President of Prim Roses and senior Rachel Richardson explained the benefits of and differences between her organization and sororities.

"We are about diversity," Richardson

said. "We pride ourselves in diversity, girls from all different backgrounds, all different kinds of majors, growing up in cities, growing up in farms, growing up with different kinds of values.

And as far as values, we don't have set values. Because we are so different, we like to have everyone's opinions and keep an open mind to people, so that's kind of what we are about: sisterhood and working together and having fun."

The governing structure creates a large difference between the concept of sororities and an alternative sisterhood. An alternative sisterhood such as Prim Roses does not rely on a National Headquarters to ultimately make its decisions. Prim Roses can create and reject anything in its constitution at any time.

"We can do whatever we want, we don't have to report to anybody," Richardson said. "We charge as much money as we want for dues or we can charge nothing for dues. We can really make our own rules."

Although each year at Truman girls hope to find the perfect house to call home during sorority recruitment, Prim Roses

offers some girls the opportunity to make a fit in their organization as well.

"It may just really sound corny, but really just the ultimate question is do you see them being a Prim Rose?" Richardson said. "There are some people who just naturally fit in with us. It's like we have known them forever. That's the best kind of friend you have throughout your life, are the ones you feel like you have known forever even if you haven't."

Richardson said that many of the members who join Prim Roses are looking for closer bonds to girls because they lacked a lot of girlfriends in high school, or they don't have sisters to communicate with.

"Through high school I was friends with a lot of guys, and I wouldn't say I was tomboyish, but I didn't have a lot of girlfriends," Richardson said. "One of the reasons I joined Prim Roses and the same reason why a lot of people join is because they don't have a lot of girlfriends."

Senior Andrea Cevallos said that when she was a freshman she wanted to concentrate on her studies and didn't think to join a sorority or group, but when she

met some of the girls in Prim Roses she felt comfortable among them.

"The girls are all just very welcoming," Cevallos said. "They got to know me and were interested in me. Usually I feel uncomfortable around people if I haven't met them, so I was kind of nervous that I would say the wrong thing or do something that's going to look stupid, but with them it was kind of effortless."

Beta Omega Beta, or "Bob" for short, is another alternative sisterhood. "Bob" Vice President and junior Courtney King said anybody is welcome to join and immediately be accepted into its ranks. Because there are no interviews or tests and quizzes to perform on the new members, the girls are expected to recognize whether the organization is a fit for them. King said the girls in "Bob" are always there for each other.

"A lot of girls in "Bob" are girls that had a lot of guy friends growing up and don't have sisters and things like that and really wanted to feel closer with other weird girls essentially," King said. "We can be as nerdy and awkward as we are, and that's OK."

- Open 24/7, except 9 p.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday
- Full menu - breakfast, lunch and dinner 24/7
- College tradition
- Est. 1983
- Locally-owned and operated
- Free wireless internet access every night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Now broadcasting 24 hours a day!

Kirksville's Tru Alternative now features your favorite music all night long. Whether you're pulling an all-nighter on that term paper or prefer an early morning jog, we're still rocking from 4 to 7 a.m.!

88.7 The Edge
KTRM Kirksville - ktrm.truman.edu