

## BEN GAREN

Somewhere in the midst of finals week, Ben Garen, the son of two music majors, was born at Southern Mississippi University. Ben also pursues a life in music.

*date needed*

At the age of ten, Ben went to live with his Grandparents in Houston, TX. Ben's parents decided to get a divorce. — They felt it would be better for him until they settled down.

Ben's mother got remarried and settled down in El Paso, TX. So Ben left his Grandparents, and went to live with his mother. Ben went to school there for five years. Ben — got in with the wrong crowd, was fighting all the time, and his grades went downhill.

In the meantime, Ben's father was traveling around trying to find some financial stability. He found a job with an orchestra. While his father was in the orchestra he meant a woman @ married her. The newness wore off and he went — and through another divorce. He then applied for a job with the Department of Defence as a teacher, and succeeded in getting the job.

Meanwhile back in Texas, Ben's grades were getting really bad, so his mother sent him to live with his father. She thought that maybe his father could straighten him out. Ben wanted to leave anyway, since there was a gang chasing him, so he went to live with his dad.

Since his father got his job with the Department of Defence the had to move around a lot. His father was transferred to Germany. — and Ben went with him

ferred to Germany, and Ben was glad he would be going with his dad.

While in Germany, Ben went to Jr. High and started High School. He also went to a German school for 2 years, and was picking up on the culture. In his words a good little "Kraut crout boy".

While he was there he ate a lot of traditional food. He said "I started gaining weight. The food was so good I couldn't stop eating. The schnitzels are great.

He talked a lot about guest houses. he said "you can walk in and order beer, wine and eat." These places are like a motel. If you get tired, or you are too drunk to drive home you can rent a room and stay there.

After his father got his divorce they moved in together and shared expenses. He called it a "bachelor pad." They even did their homework together. Ben's father was trying to get a degree in English so he could have two majors.

While he was in Germany Ben got into bicycling. He rode his bike everywhere, since he couldn't afford a car. When you get a car you take care of it, but Ben didn't have a car so his bicycle had to stay in good shape so he could get around. "It wasn't the best bike in the world, but it worked."

Following four years of Germany, Ben and his father moved to Korea. His father got his teaching degree in English. So his father was teaching Music and English while still with the Department of Defence.

While in Korea, Ben had to change his eating habits.

ERASE  
COTTON CONTENT

Unlike the Germans, Koreans eat a lot of rice. The Koreans use no pepper or spices on their food. He mostly ate at Burger King and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Ben finished high school and tried to get into a band. He tried and tried and finally found one. They were together for a year, but times were hard and things weren't going well between the members of the band. They split up, and Ben moved back to the states and lived in Boston. He lived there for a half a year and went to college. While enrolled in school he studied Electronics, but decided that wasn't his cup of tea.

One day Ben decided to come out to Wyoming and visit his mother. He got out here and found nothing, so he came up to the college and checked it out. He was interested in the Art Department and thought it would be a pretty good program. After starting school he found out that it was not up to par, so he decided to get into music. His dad does not think it is a good idea but Ben pursues a life in music anyway.

I asked him to talk a little about his art and music back ground. He said that he got into art when he was in Germany. When he was in Korea he had an art teacher who took him under his wing. Ben said, "this man had a great impact on him and that he was a fantastic artist."

When he came to Western, he took a couple of painting classes. But Ben had to make a decision between Visual Arts and Musical arts. He went with Musical Arts because Visual Arts doesn't pay as well as musical. He has gone

full speed into music and let his art fall to the wayside, but he loves both.

Let's talk music, Ben started playing the Viola at the age of five and stuck with it. When he was fourteen, he started playing the piano. Then he picked up on playing the Cello. Soon after he went to a music school in Michigan. Ben gave up all that and started playing the guitar and has been playing ever since. He also plays the keyboards quite fluently, and also plays the drums quite well.

He has written several songs that are really good. I heard some of them and he is a great song writer. He is going into a studio over Christmas and record some songs. He plans on sending them out to a record company. Hopefully a band will hear the songs and ask him to become a part of the band.

Ben's long life goal is to join a band and see the world. I think that he will make it.

When I asked him if he would settle down he said, "I don't think so. I am a person who has moved around all his life and I can't. It is just my nature to keep moving."

He said he won't get married until he is financially stable. He doesn't want to be like his father, having a family and not having a job.

I found out some of his hobbies, which are just like everyone else's. He likes to play baseball, soccer because he played on a team in Germany, and likes wood working. The reason why he likes wood working is because if he can't play a ~~guitar~~ anymore, he will build cabinets for bands to put their shit in.

I just want to say this boy has a lot of talent and will go a long way in life. I know he will do it and I wish him the best of luck.



Dear Chris,

I know it is not that long. I found Ben an interesting person. I know he is not that old (21) but I loved hearing about the places he lived and what he did. I hope it is ok.

Scott Clingman



NAME:

Ben Jones

PRESENT ADDRESS:

1405 California Circle

1. Present profession or occupation: None
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates): None
3. Date of birth: 6/24/66 Place of birth: Mississippi
4. Date of moving to Wyoming: 1985 Dec.
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)  
Madeline <sup>Nowak</sup> Jones Dean Jones
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):  
Dean Madeline
7. Schools attended (give dates): Wirzburg An H.S.  
Seoul An H.S.
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):  
WYC & above address
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):  
None
10. Political offices held (give dates): None
11. Political affiliation: None
12. Religious affiliation: ~~None~~ Anglican
13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):  
None
14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):  
None
15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member: