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RAMPAGE

SENIOR FAREWELL EDITION

Senior Spotlight: *Get to know Ben Luiken*

ETHAN SILIPO STAFF REPORTER

In just a few weeks, 410 students will be leaving PR for the last time. Many of these students will be going off to college, and others will be immediately looking for a job. Of these 400+ seniors, no two are alike. This case can be proven by the one and only Ben Luiken, a man like no other.

Ben will be attending Slippery Rock University and will major in Secondary Social Studies Education. After taking American History with Mr. Torso in freshman year, Ben was inspired to become a teacher himself. Although he is walking through his final quarter at PR, it is fair to say that Ben has been lacking motivation for some time now. In his freshman year, Ben was asked to label countries by their flags. This assignment was not for points, solely for fun and Ben labeled all 196 nations, and to this day this is one of Ben's favorite high school memories. If he were asked to complete an optional assignment of this magnitude today, then he said he would surely decline. Ben even admits to not having much motivation since junior year.

In retrospect, Ben feels that his time at PR went pretty slowly, and he disagrees with people who claim it is over before you know it. Freshman year was his favorite year, and he said senior

year has been quite easy for him. He said he had very little homework despite taking 3 AP classes, and as he sees out his final few weeks, Ben can say that senior year has been pretty fun.

With the end in sight, and college getting ever closer, Ben is looking forward to change at Slippery Rock. However, Ben is sad to say goodbye to his beloved jazz band. Through his time in jazz band and time in the classroom, Ben has learned to accept anyone, and simply advises everyone to not be a psycho.

Throughout high school, Ben said his style was always the same: jeans or sweatpants with a sweatshirt. Ben wears these outfits because they are comfortable and simple, which is a reason I can respect and understand. These clothes define him now, but this style is subject to change in his time at college.

Ben Luiken describes himself as eccentric, creative, and melancholic. Although on the surface, Ben may act and think like the pessimistic Grfield, he has a spark somewhere in him; he just have to find it. If all goes as planned, Ben will be teaching a Social Studies class within the coming years, but if all else fails, he said he is aware that becoming a basement wizard is always an option.

What it's like to be a senior? *Meet Brandon Pierce*

ALEXA DEZELAN STAFF REPORTER

"I don't want to leave all that I've ever known," said senior Brandon Pierce.

Pierce has about a month before he leaves to attend college at Slippery Rock University. He plans to major in digital media and communication.

For Pierce, the last four years have gone by extremely fast for him. With being in the fall play, the musical, and choir, he ranks his senior year the best of all four years.

Although he admits that high school has been "fairly easy" for him, he also said his teachers have prepared him for college.

He said he will miss PR's structure: having a set schedule and teachers telling you what to do has become routine for Pierce. And so in a few months when

college begins, he won't have someone telling him to go to class; he will only have himself, or maybe his roommate,

**"Balance school work and social life. You can't have one without the other."
-Brandon Pierce**

fellow senior Ben Luiken.

The last four years have been full of life lessons for Pierce, and something that has stuck with him is remembering you are

only as good as the people you know, and also the notion of balance.

"Balance school work and social life," he said. "You can't have one without the other."

While wrapping up the last few weeks, he said he's very excited for graduation but doesn't want to say goodbye since it will be the hardest part for him. Over the summer he plans to work in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and be in a play.

At SRU he hopes to meet new people, but let's be honest, he met the best people already: the journalism staff.

GOODBYE RAMPAGE SENIORS

In this special Senior Edition of the Rampage, the Rampage Staff takes the time to say farewell to the two senior staff reporters: Ben Luiken and Brandon Pierce. Combined these two staffers wrote almost 100 articles for the paper. Their presence will be missed next year and I applaud their journalistic endeavors. Ben and Brandon, I do hope you take us up on the challenge to be Rampage's first PR Graduate Correspondents while you attend Slippery Rock University! Your contribution to this paper was positive and creative, and I know your fan base will miss your weekly articles. Good luck to you both!

I hope you write for your college paper too! ☺-Mrs. Harshman

Thank you for everything this year. We have all learned so much from you two; we see you both as huge role models to us and the RAMPAGE. Your hard work and determination has definitely paid off this year. I hope that both of your futures are as bright and successful as you. Thanks for everything, Abby Moreland

Thank you for making this class interesting and helping to come up with story ideas. – Jake Gongaware

Thank you for all the laughs and good memories this year. You made being a part of the Rampage Staff extra fun and exciting. I hope you both have an amazing college experience, and I wish you the best of luck in the future. Thanks again for making this year unique and your inspirational thoughts at staff meetings. From, Cameron

I can't believe this year went so fast. Ben and Brandon, thank you so much for being passionate throughout staff meetings and peer editing. From your presentations, impressions, and funny stories, you've always found a way to make us laugh and put a smile on our faces.

I know ya'll will have a great time at SRU! I'll miss you guys and all the funny comments. Best of luck! -Alexa Dezelan

Journalism was so much fun this year. Thank you so much for all the memories and jokes throughout the year. Thank you for the guidance you have had in the class with peer editing and layout decisions. Good luck at SRU I'm sure you'll do great. -Shelby Petonak

Thanks for guiding this class with your maturity and leadership. Our newspapers really came together just because of your participation and intelligent writings. We hope that college will bring you success and triumph and kickstart your world to adulthood. Thanks, Maggie Allwein

You are the two best seniors in existence and your impact will become everlasting on the young lives of millions. Thanks for helping me with everything and I wish you the best of luck at Slippery Rock. Just know that even though you are gone, you will never be forgotten. - Ethan Silipo

This year on the Rampage staff, the Seniors played a huge part. Both Brandon and Ben wrote many amazing articles, and contributed heavily to the production of the Rampage each week. Not only did our seniors make the Rampage possible, but they also made the staff a fun, relaxed, and enjoyable experience for all of the underclassmen. We know that both of them are going to do great things at Slippery Rock University, and the Rampage staff wishes them the best of luck. Until next time! -Maddie Jewart

I'm going to miss you boys. You two were the eldest members of the staff, and you provided guidance and wisdom to the all of us younger students. The contrast and dynamic between you was beautiful, and something I will miss. Brandon, you were always upbeat and always seemed to be good at whatever we needed you to do, whether it be editing a video or putting together an issue. And Ben, you're cynicism and weird interests always made things interesting. I am proud to have worked with you two and am even prouder to call you my friends. Aidan Pavlick

A Final Farewell *Moving on to greater and better things*

BRANDON PIERCE STAFF REPORTER

As the end of the school year draws near, students and staff alike seem to be coming to a close. Decorations being taken down, lockers being cleaned out, and backpacks being emptied all mean the end of a school year. To some, the sounds of closure offer a happiness to finally be done with their school education. Some anxiously await the coming of school the next year. For most, they lie somewhere in the middle.

Being a senior, I have gone through that feeling for 12 years now. Considering the fact that I will be leaving all I've ever known in a few short months, I have many mixed feelings about graduation. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail." I have thought about that a lot and have based my next step in life after it. Through the entire college search and even deciding what I wanted to major in, I have tried to keep that quote in my mind. After all, who wants to go somewhere where they know they will never make a difference? Who wants to just pass through life and never do anything? I certainly don't, but that's just me. Don't get me wrong, I'm really looking forward to college and the life outside of high school, I just wish I had more time.

Growing up, my parents often told my brother and I that we would "understand when you're older" every time we didn't understand something. A common thing in my mind was the idea of cherishing every moment, something that I truly didn't understand until senior year. So, I guess my parents were right, hmmm. The point is, I can confidently say that I am "grown up" (although many would disagree.) But just because I'm calling myself "grown up" doesn't mean I'm ready to move on.

I loved my senior year. I loved my high school experience. Not everyone can say that, and I consider myself lucky to be able to say that. Obviously, there were a few rough patches along the way, but everyone has those here and there. I made sure to have a great experience in high school, especially my senior year. My main motive was to make sure I had no regrets when I left high school. I also made sure I maintained all my grades to a decent level and to be responsible to what I did with my time in school. I made sure to hang out with as many friends as possible since I will not be able to see most of them as often as I would want to next year when I am in college. Obviously, I will have all summer to hang out with friends, but considering school has been the biggest influence in my life, I wanted to spend as much time enjoying my experience with the little time I had remaining. After all, who wants to have a bad day?

I guess the last thing for me to say is goodbye, and like any good award recipient, a few thank yous. First, I would like to thank the faculty of PR, for providing me with a strong education. Second, thank you to the students of PR, for letting me be who I am. Lastly, thank you to the PR 2018-2019 Journalism class, for being the best period % class I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

FEATURES

Curious Currency

Weirdest Commodities Bought & Sold

BEN LUIKEN STAFF REPORTER

Did you know that paper currency has not always been the “gold standard” for money? Throughout the history of mankind, we’ve bartered, sold, traded, and bought with a plethora of weird things, some more practical, like grain or livestock, but some are so unique they deserve to be shared, so here are some of history’s most interesting forms of currencies.

#1 Giant Rocks

On the Pacific Island of Yap, doughnut shaped stones were bought and sold on the island for hundreds of years. Since some stones were so big, they couldn’t be moved, it was agreed upon simply that the ownership of the rocks, called Rai Stone, had changed. Although Rai Stones have not been used on the island since at most, the 20th century, they have become a national icon for the Yapese people.

#2 Cigarettes

Directly following World War Two, Germany was in shambles, with infrastructure destroyed, people destroyed and ashamed, and was occupied by the US, France, England, and the Soviet Union. Since Reichsmarks had essentially become tissues, since the nazis were destroyed, Germans had to get by via selling cigarettes to the allied soldiers in return for goods.

#3 Shells

Across many places across history, shells have been used as legal tender because they were fairly pretty and easy to find. Even one of the most advanced civilizations of the ancient world, China. In ancient Chinese, the word money, was a pictograph of a cowrie shell. Shells could also be worn like a necklace, or ground and sown together to make wampum, a sort of tapestry used to designate authority, and was also used as legal tender in Colonial America.

Though we may have stopped using these curiosities to buy and sell today, they do provide a useful lesson into how our modern day dollar bill works today, it doesn’t necessarily matter if something weighs three tons, is consumed upon smoking, or found on the beach, as long as people are willing to trade, anything works.

Have a great summer!

-Rampage Staff

Universal Studios, Florida

The Best Amusement Parks in Florida

BRANDON PIERCE STAFF REPORTER

Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure are the best theme parks in Florida. Period. It is as simple as that. Sure, it has some very heavy competition in Walt Disney World, but Universal is still better, and I am here to tell you why.

Universal Orlando is a three-park property owned by Universal Studios. The three parks are Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, and Volcano Bay, the newest water park. Universal Studios is a world-renowned film company, which has been making A class movies since 1931. Universal used to primarily focus on horror movies back then but have since grown to produce all genres of movies. I am sure everyone has seen at least one Universal movie in their lives, especially the opening title which shows planet Earth with the word “Universal” wrapped around it.

Due to the success of so many movies over the years, the company decided to open up a theme park in in Hollywood and another one in Orlando in 1990. At first, the park did not do too well. Even on the opening day of the park, many rides malfunctioned, which did not help the park, but since then Universal has been on a steady course of enjoyment for all guests. The park is geared more towards young adults and adults as opposed to mostly children, like Disney World, but Universal does offer many rides for younger guests as well.

Many of the rides located in the park are designed after famous movies Universal produced in the past. For example, rides such as *The Revenge of the Mummy*, *Transformers: The Ride 3D*, and *E.T. Adventure* are a few of the fan favorites of the park. Universal is also famous for its thrill rides, such as *The Incredible Hulk Coaster* and *The Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit*. Offering a total of 27 rides and 8 shows, Universal definitely has something for everyone.

Another huge attraction at both of the Universal theme parks is *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter*. Consisting of four rides and a fifth soon on the way, *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter* pushed past any theming in any amusement park ever seen, and it only gets better every year.

Universal also offers a very wide range of hotels, suitable to accommodate any guest’s needs. With six hotels on the Universal property offering a total of 6,200 rooms with many different privileges for each and every guest. Each hotel also offers a water taxi to transport guests to and from the hotel to the parks, which is definitely a plus.

Another reason why Universal is so great is because of the night life it offers its guests. Universal’s *CityWalk* is a part of the property which offers tons of restaurants, mini attractions, and gift shops. A total of 21 food service venues reside in *Citywalk*, ranging anywhere from a full sit-down restaurant to a hot dog cart. *Citywalk* also acts as the main entrance to both of the Universal theme parks and remains open later than the parks are.

Universal offers a wide range of rides, attractions, food options, and activities, making it the ideal vacation spot for anybody, anytime.

FEATURES

Travel Ideas

Ten Places You Need to Go to At Least Once

MAGGIE ALLWEIN STAFF REPORTER

As summer comes around the corner, there are times when you just need to leave the great area of PR and see more than just McCandless Crossing Movie Theater and Ross Park Mall. So, I have made a list of ten places that you should cross off that bucket list before-well, before you kick that bucket.

1. Ireland- Now, I know this normally isn't a destination you would automatically think of for travelling. But the beautiful landscape and historical castles will make this trip one to remember.
2. Greece- This is my dream vacation. The bright blue water and the sun shining on the white, clay buildings make the scene serene.
3. New York City, New York- Not only are the busy streets electric, but the shows will stun even people who aren't into musical theater.
4. Salar De Uyuni, Bolivia- This is definitely not a well-known spot for travelling. Their most famous destination is the largest salt-flat in the world and due to the crazy amount of reflection, it creates a heaven like scene.
5. Antelope Canyon, Arizona- The way the water carved into the earth forms the amazing, picturesque canyon.
6. The Great Blue Hole, Belize- This 407 feet deep and 980 feet wide sinkhole is just off the coast of Belize.
7. Venice, Italy- This is the perfect spot for travellers seeking a unique experience. The canals that run through the city act as their main roadways, allowing tourists a new way of travel.
8. Positano, Italy- The pastel building along the hill make this place photogenic for you VSCO lovers.
9. Glass Beach, California- In the 1900's, locals would throw unwanted glass over the cliffs and into the water below. A few decades later, we have Glass Beach, filled with smoothed glass stones that are sure to wow you.
10. Northern Lights, Alaska- The Northern Lights will make your jaw drop from the natural beauty you see.

Students who did not order a yearbook online earlier this year may purchase yearbooks through end of the school year for the upgraded price of \$80 cash or check made payable to PRHS Yearbook. See Mrs. Harshman in room 221 or 217.

NCAA to Consider Athletic Compensation

JACOB GONGAWARE STAFF REPORTER

The NCAA has always been under scrutiny about athletes being paid for their work. Either coaches are in headlines for paying a player to come to their school, or people are upset for the amount of money the athletes are making the school without getting payed. Either way it has been an issue for years, the NCAA is exploring options that may solve the issue.

The new proposition is not that the athletes would be paid by the school or the NCAA, but rather that they can sell the right to the use of their names, image, and other things that have to do with them. As of now, this is forbidden. This would make jerseys have the names of the players on the back when they are sold. Also, it would create the option of bringing back college sports video games, which were previously enjoyed by many.

The group created to explore the options is made up of presidents, commissioners, and even student-athletes. The group will potentially come up with changes to the rules of the NCAA to make this legal under NCAA rules.

These rules have gotten athletes in trouble in the past. Most recently and notably, quarterback Johnny Manziel, was in trouble with the NCAA for selling autographs. Todd Gurley, a running back for the Los Angeles Rams, and many other athletes have also dealt with the autograph issue.

With this rule change, it will most likely reduce the number of scandals. Players will be less likely to take money from recruiters because they know that they can make money other ways. Players will now go to the school they like most, without the temptation of money.

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Teacher: Mrs. Harshman