



LAME is name of the game

The skill called senioritis

A COLUMN

By Eden Hemmingson

Alcester-Hudson High School

**Editor's note: So begins our experiment with the TEEN GAZETTE here at the Plain Talk. Miss Hemmingson has taken the first steps to show our community what we have in mind for this section we hope to grow over time. We have had a handful of Vermillion students express interest and may begin contributing soon. Hope we can get many, many more of you young talents on board. Enjoy!*

By Eden Hemmingson
Alcester-Hudson High School

Imagine a world without art, imagine how it would affect everyone to live and grow up in this world.

In Alcester, the high school has been artless for nearly 4 years. South Dakota's budget cuts a few years ago affected Alcester-Hudson greatly, and students have had to find alternative ways to express themselves.

Most of the assemblies, award ceremonies, and extra-curricular activities revolve around athletics; giving little recognition for the students with artistic drive and talent.

This year, a group of seniors were finally fed up and conjured up a new idea for a club.

There's a new club to be accounted for at AHHS and it has a peculiar name; it's called the LAME club. An acronym for Literature, Art, Music, Etc., the LAME club is for students who want to express themselves

in an artistic environment. This is where students are free to share their own original pieces, or share pieces they've found that have impacted or inspired the students.

At the first meeting, Students gathered in the new-to-this advisor, Ms. Kleinhans's room.

They voted on a President, Vice President, Secretary, and other titles first hand. Next, they established how often the LAME club would meet, and if everyone would be interested in the occasional field trip.

This was a short meeting, just to get a feel for how many people might be interested, and who would be able to make it.

The second meeting happened to fall on a game day, so several students didn't make it.

But the few seniors who started it surely went. Ashton Liston and Nick Malmberg played guitar and sang for the group. Cheyenne Sorlie shared two pieces of art she had recently completed, along with an art book that helps spark her creativity.

The LAME club has several meetings planned this month, and hopefully as the fall sports wind down more students will be able to make it.

The members continue to advertise with posters, encouragement to other schoolmates and through



The club has barely gotten its feet wet with only a couple meetings under their belt, however students have already started exploring some different pieces and sharing with the group. Another specialty to the LAME club meetings is trying new and different foods.

Their advisor shares different fruits and other foods that the students haven't heard of.

The club meets bi-weekly and plans to go to a play, some poetry slams, and some local band concerts within the next couple months.

The Lame club encourages everyone at AHHS to join, and hopes that this idea may spread to other small schools with little art recognition.

For additional information about meetings or to see the some of the pieces from the students, follow @ThoseLameKids on Twitter!



Above are just some of the examples that students at Alcester-Hudson High School have produced while working with the Literature, Art, Music, Etc. Club, or LAME. The fall photo, top, is one taken by Eden Hemmingson. The portrait on the bottom is a painting by fellow student Cheyenne Sorlie. To see the color versions of each piece please visit www.plaintalk.net later this weekend.

EDEN HEMMINGSON,
CHEYENNE SORLIE /
TEEN GAZETTE

FILM

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Professors Elise Boxer, David Posthumus, and Kurt Hackemer.

I believe the film's topic would be of great interest since the Oglala Sioux Tribe recently voted to repeal Prohibition on its reservation," John A. Maisch, assistant professor at the University of Central Oklahoma who produced and directed the film, said. "My service as a former Assistant Attorney General and former liquor prosecutor in the state of Oklahoma may provide different perspective on the issue. My family's local connections to Vermillion may also be intriguing."

The film was funded with private donations and no university funding or government grants. The film will be screened at recovery film festivals, college campuses, and churches throughout the country.

Maisch's parents were born and raised in South Dakota with his mom Gloria (Gregoire) Maisch coming from Vermillion. His father Gordon Maisch graduated from USD in 1960 and is buried in Bluff View Cemetery just east of town. Maisch's cousin, Ron Johnson, is actively involved in the Dalesburg Scandanavian Association in Centerville.

Maisch's motivation to make the film came during his time dealing with state liquor legal issues.

"I first heard about Whiteclay beer sales while serving as Oklahoma's state liquor prosecutor," he said. "My first child had just been born, so I was particularly shocked to learn that 25 percent of all infants born in Pine Ridge are born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. I was raised in Nebraska, and my parents, were both born and raised in South Dakota, so the issue really hit close to home to me."

The film was shot in the weeks leading up to the Oglala Sioux tribe's vote to repeal Prohibition on August 13, 2013. The entire process, pre-production to post-production, took over a year.

"Sober Indian/Dangerous Indian is both a story of brave men and women on the Pine

Ridge Indian Reservation who have found empowerment through sobriety and those still struggling to overcome their alcohol addiction," Maisch said. "Set in the weeks leading up to the Oglala Sioux Tribe's historic vote to repeal its ban on alcohol the documentary follows the journey of four alcoholics living on the streets of Whiteclay, Nebraska, less than 300 yards from their homes in Pine Ridge.

"It's a must-see film for anyone interested in stories about beating the odds in one of the poorest places in the country. Sober Indian/Dangerous Indian explores the harmful effects of alcohol abuse on tribal reservations including high rates of fetal alcohol syndrome, cirrhosis, teen suicide, and high-risk sexual behavior."

The film has held other screenings and the early returns have been strong according to Maisch.

"The feedback has been extremely positive, particularly among college students and parents who want to see Whiteclay beer sales stopped." He said. "For example, we screened the film at Creighton University on Oct.9. As a private institution, Budweiser runs advertisements at Creighton University sporting events. After learning that Budweiser accounts for at least 70 percent of the beer sold in Whiteclay, some students started to ask whether Creighton should stop accepting these

Budweiser supports legislation to shut down Whiteclay beer sales."

Maisch added that parents and grandparents are also upset by the fact that the state of Nebraska and the federal government receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in excise tax and sales tax revenue from Whiteclay beer sales, but yet there is only one, seven bed in-patient treatment facility on the entire reservation.

"These parents and grandparents see it as a pro-family issue," Maisch said. "How can we sit back and allow these mothers to be assaulted by drunk husbands, children to be abused by drunk parents, and infants to be born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, as Budweiser and the federal and state governments get rich off the sale of beer in Whiteclay?"

On Oct. 2, the film was screened at recovery film festivals on two separate continents – the Quad Cinema in New York City and the Libia Theater in Cape Town, South Africa. A newspaper columnist in South Africa reviewed the film. I thought it was particularly interesting to get an international perspective on the issue. The reviewer called the movie an 'uncomfortable' and 'important' movie, because it deals with issues that most members of society find uncomfortable."

Maisch said he hopes to continue on aiming to end beer sales in Whiteclay and with the film in place that

"If Budweiser refuses to support these legislative efforts, we will encourage universities, sports franchises, and entertainment venues to reconsider its future relationships with the brewer, as well as organizing students and consumers wishing to communicate their displeasure with Budweiser's Whiteclay policy by boycotting sporting events, musical venues, and universities that continue to accept Budweiser's money," he said. "To be clear, we believe Pine Ridge's leaders also have a responsibility. Assuming that the August 13, 2013, vote to repeal prohibition on the reservation was free and fair, we will encourage the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council to adopt a plan that will allocate the revenues earned through the sale of malt beverages within its borders to addiction treatment, recovery, and educational programs on the reservation."

To view the movie trailer online visit www.soberindian.com.

Ultimately, the film will be available on NetFlix, Amazon, and other streaming services for wide scale distribution throughout the US and world.

So far viewers in 64 countries have watched the film according to Maisch.

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All State Chorus and Orchestra was held in Sioux Falls last weekend. Over 1000 students were represented from across South Dakota. Vermillion was represented by eight students. Pictured are (left to right) Chloe Nielson, Max Askew, Sowmya Ragothaman, Alec Leber, Savannah Kirsch, Andrew Heine, Natalie Swanson, and Jack Brown. If anyone didn't get a chance to hear it, it will be re-aired on South Dakota Public Broadcasting during Thanksgiving.

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