

Tom Tom Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Kristen Berman

Managing Editor

Lauren Hungarland

Business Manager

Amy Dembinski

Ad Manager

Ashley Foster

Head Copy Editor

Ashley Ginascol

Copy Editors

Kevin Kruthers

Janet Mandro

Layout & Design Editors

Rick Mengyan

Matt Ward

News Editor

Michael Cohen

Feature Editor

Lindsey Bailey

A & E Editor

Ciarra Kent

Sports Editor

Dan Moore

Photo Editor

Jessica Halston

Photo Coordinator

Chris Jacobs

Art and Graphics Editor

Jeff Danna

Circulation Editors

Kellie Rouse

Craig Maniscalco

Staff

Shawn Froberg

Ben Newton

Andy Pruski

Carrie Strickland

Adviser

Michael Gordy

Tom Tom Policy

All editorials are written by the Tom Tom Staff. Letters to the editor must be signed and should not exceed 250 words in length. Those wishing to withhold his or her name must still sign it for the Tom Tom office purposes. No more than two signatures can represent a letter. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

The Tom Tom Staff reserves the right to edit lengthy material or withhold the publication of any letters. Letters may be mailed to the high school or submitted to staff members or the adviser, Michael Gordy, in room 202 throughout any school day. The Tom Tom office can be reached at (847) 838-7766.

The Tom Tom is published monthly. Annual subscriptions to the Tom Tom may be obtained by sending \$5.00 to the Tom Tom in care of ACHS. The Tom Tom is a publication of:

Antioch Community High School
1133 South Main St.
Antioch, IL 60002



A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

editorial

Time for action...

Authorities need to crack down on America's drug problem once and for all

"Say no to drugs." Teenagers used to hear this phrase so much, they were repeating it in their sleep. There was no question about it at all because everyone knew that drugs were the wrong thing to get involved in.

Kids, of course, still did drugs... no phrase could stop a generation of people from "keeping it real."

Kids still do drugs now, and no one even bothers to pay attention to slogans or commercials.

With the recent suspensions and subsequent expulsions of students at Antioch Community High School for dealing and possessing marijuana on school property, the time has come for some action, some serious action, to be taken against drugs, once and for all.

What is the answer? What statement can a country make and what action can authorities make that will be clearly understood by our nation's youth?

Some will argue, with reason on their side, that drugs should be legalized. Obviously, with

drugs legalized, drug use wouldn't be against the law.

It is a person's choice whether or not they chose to use drugs and ruin their lives, just like it is someone's choice to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol. After all, the freedom of choice is *the American way*.

But that's not really the point. The point is that, as it is now, dealing and using drugs are illegal, especially on public property. The government took a stand against drugs, and all other smoking paraphernalia for that matter, when it outlawed smoking of any kind in all federal buildings. The government has the right, and will always have the right, to prohibit drug use on its property.

However, neither a campaign of phrases nor policy making at the federal level has really done anything to stop the drug

problem in the United States. And due to the expulsion of three ACHS students because of a drug deal during a sporting event, this community was made aware of the ineffectiveness of those anti-drug campaigns.

If our nation wants to win this "war on drugs," it is time for some "tough love."

Laws are meaningless unless they are enforced.

If people killed one another and only received slight punishments, killing would continue and even spread. And because drug dealing and drug usage are not being punished, they have continued and spread.

So, our school board deserves some credit for the action they have taken.

"Tough love" isn't easy. It is not easy to hand out punishments and expulsions, but it is a necessary step. It is a step in the right direction.

The anti-drug laws, if the government is going to write

them in the first place, need to be more heavily enforced.

If a student breaks the law by dealing drugs at school, that student should be held just as responsible and to the same accountability as any other drug dealer.

Not only should student criminals be suspended for a lengthy period of time, not only should they appear before an expulsion hearing and be expelled, but they should also serve jail time, just like any other criminal would. Only if drug enforcement goes in that direction, will drug use decline and end.

We can continue, as a nation, to dismiss these drug offenders and slap them on the

wrist, just as we can continue to allow them to deal and use drugs. But if we want to stop drug use once and for

all, if that is what this country really wants, then our nation's anti-drug laws need to be enforced and no mercy should be spared.

"The point is that dealing and using drugs are illegal. [The government] outlawed smoking in all federal buildings. The government will always have the right to prohibit drug use on its property."

"...if we want to stop drug use once and for all... our nation's anti-drug laws need to be enforced and no mercy should be spared."

JUSTICE?

Scenario A



Scenario B

