

RADIO PACKAGE: SAMPLE SCRIPT 09

SCHOOL DRUGS

3:00

MEREDITH MERCANDETTI (8--D)

TFN

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TIME:	ENGINEERING:	NARRATION:
0:00	<p>(FADE MUSIC UP:) “Rainy Day Women #12 & #35” Bob Dylan <u>DYLAN’S GREATEST HITS</u> (excerpt: “Everybody must get stoned....”</p>	
0:03	<p>(MUSIC UNDER)</p>	<p><u>HOST:</u> Getting Stoned. Drug Abuse. Drug busts. Those used to be terms heard in association with other high schools. West Windsor-Plainsboro High School was a blue ribbon school, able to avoid such problems. That myth was shattered when a major drug bust took place last year on both West Windsor-Plainsboro High School Campuses.</p>
0:10	<p>(FADE MUSIC OUT)</p>	<p>Good afternoon. I’m Meredith Mercandetti, and today on 107.9-FM, we take a look at the drug problem at W-W-P.</p> <p>When the drug bust took place last year, ending in the arrest of 13 students, shockwaves rippled the community. Many residents moved to this area to keep their children away from the bad elements in society. And yet, of the students arrested, six were honor students. While that may have come as a surprise to many people, it was not a new revelation for West Windsor Juvenile Police Detective Donald Edwards. He has worked with local students for nearly a decade, and over that time period, he says he has witnessed a growing drug problem:</p>
0:20	<p><u>EDWARDS ON TREND</u> IN: WHEN I BEGAN... :25 OUT: ...NOW THAN EVER.</p>	<p><u>EDWARDS:</u> “<i>WHEN I BEGAN WORKING WITH STUDENTS IN THIS DISTRICT, WE MOSTLY HAD TO DEAL WITH STUDENTS USING POT, AND MOST OF THOSE STUDENTS SEEMED TO BE THOSE THAT WE WERE DEALING WITH FOR OTHER PROBLEMS, AS WELL, LIKE VANDALISM AND TRUANCY. THE NUMBERS WERE DISTRESSING BUT NOT NEARLY AS ALARMING AS NOW. IN RECENT YEARS, THE NUMBER OF DRUG USERS IS FAR GREATER, AND MOST OF THE TYPES OF DRUGS YOU HEAR ABOUT ARE BEING USED BY OUR LOCAL STUDENTS. THE ABUSE IS MUCH MORE NOW THAN EVER</i>”</p> <p><u>HOST:</u> Detective Edwards feels it is a mistake to think drug abuse is isolated to one type of student, or to one socioeconomic class. In fact, he says the problem cuts across all types and all classes:</p>
0:35	<p><u>EDWARDS ON DIVERSITY</u> IN: MANY PEOPLE THINK... :15 OUT: ...WHITE AND RICH.</p>	<p><u>EDWARDS:</u> “<i>MANY PEOPLE THINK OF DRUGS IN TERMS OF URBAN STUDENTS OR BAD STUDENTS. HOWEVER, THE ABUSE CROSSES ALL CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS, WHICH IS JUST A REFLECTION OF SOCIETY. GOOD STUDENTS. POOR STUDENTS. ATHLETES. RADIO BROADCASTERS. CHESS CLUB CHAMPS. AFRICAN AMERICANS. CAUCASION AMERICANS. ASIAN AMERICANS. LITUANIAN AMERICANS. ON AND ON. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THERE ISN’T ONE TYPE OF STUDENT DOING DRUGS. AND IT ISN’T JUST PEOPLE WHO DON’T HAVE MONEY. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, MANY ABUSERS ARE WHITE AND RICH.</i>”</p> <p><u>HOST:</u> Edwards believes money can actually be at the root of many of our drug problems.</p> <p>W-W-P drug counselor Nancy Himsel agrees with that assessment. She says local students have a lot of money, and that increases their ability to experiment with many types of higher level drugs:</p>
1:00		
1:20	<p><u>HIMSEL ON DESIGNER DRUGS</u> IN: IT TAKES MONEY... :18 OUT: ...ECSTACY AND HEROIN.</p>	<p><u>HIMSEL:</u> “<i>IT TAKES MONEY TO GET DRUGS, USUALLY, AND THERE ARE LOTS OF RICHES IN THIS COMMUNITY. I THINK THAT INCREASES ACCESS TO SOME OF THE DRUGS THAT ARE OFTEN OUT OF REACH FINANCIALLY TO LESS AFLUENT STUDENTS. MANY IN THIS SCHOOL HAVE ACCESS TO WHAT WE SOMETIMES CALL DESIGNER DRUGS, AND THEY’RE ALSO PAYING BIG BUCKS FOR DRUGS LIKE COKE, ECSTACY, AND HEROIN.</i>”</p>

MORE

RADIO PACKAGE: SAMPLE SCRIPT 09 CONTINUED

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TIME:	ENGINEERING:	NARRATION:
1:48		<p>HOST: According to Himsel, money and awareness are also the key ingredients in the fight against drug abuse. She cites Detective Edwards for his DARE program in the elementary schools. However, she says more attention and spending must be geared toward high school programs:</p>
1:58	<p><u>HIMSEL ON EDUCATION</u> IN: WE NEED TO... :22 OUT: ...OVERCOME THE MEDIA.</p>	<p>HIMSEL: <i>"WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR WHOLE APPROACH TO DRUG EDUCATION. I THINK THERE HAS TO BE A LOT MORE SPENT IN THIS DISTRICT ON PROGRAMS BEFORE THE FACT. TOO OFTEN WE NEED DRUG BUSTS OR DRUG RELATED DEATHS TO MAKE US SET UP PROGRAMS. WELL, IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE HAD BOTH. WHY NOT SET UP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE INTERDISCIPLINARY? WHY NOT HAVE MANY ASSEMBLIES AND SPECIAL IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO INCREASE AWARENESS. WE ALSO NEED TO BETTER TRAIN TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO RECOGNIZE DRUG ABUSE. THIS WHOLE COMMUNITY HAS TO GET TOGETHER TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, AND THE JOB IS INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE HAVE MIXED MESSAGES COMING FROM MOVIES, SONGS, AND TELEVISION. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME THE MEDIA."</i></p> <p>HOST: Himsel blames the media for providing so many partying messages. However, W-W-P student Michael Ladolcetta disagrees. He says while there are some bad role models in today's music world and on television, there are also positive role models:</p>
2:40	<p><u>LADOLCETTA ON POSITIVE</u> IN: THERE ARE MANY... :12 OUT: ...LIKE MANDI MOORE</p>	<p>LADOLCETTA: <i>"THERE ARE MANY ANTI-DRUG MESSAGES SENT OUT BY TODAY'S MEDIA, AND BY MANY OF THE STARS. EVERYONE ALWAYS FOCUSES ON THE NEGATIVE IN POP CULTURE, BUT IF THE MEDIA CAN INFLUENCE OUR YOUNG BRAINS SO EASILY, SHOULDN'T WE BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY ALL OF THOSE GOOD ROLE MODELS, LIKE MANDY MOORE"</i></p> <p>HOST: LaDolcetta feels it all comes down to personal responsibility. He says teenagers must learn to respect themselves, and that will lead to making good decisions.</p>
2:53	<p><u>LADOLCETTA ON DECISIONS</u> IN: IT TAKES A.... :08 OUT: ...TAKE THE HIGH ROAD</p>	<p>LADOLCETTA: <i>"IT TAKES A WHOLE VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD, AND I THINK THIS VILLAGE DOES A GOOD JOB. BUT BY THE TIME WE ARE TEENS, WE HAVE TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR ACTIONS. EVERYBODY HAS TO STOP PLAYING THE BLAME GAME. IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE HIGH ROAD!"</i></p> <p>HOST: Rather than following media icons, perhaps students like Ladolcetta can provide the role modeling necessary to lead other teenagers away from the path of drugs.</p>
2:55	<p>(MUSIC UNDER:) "Come Together" Beatles THE WHITE ALBUM</p>	<p>Indeed, last year's drug bust was a shock, but it also was the wakeup call the community needed.</p> <p>West Windsor-Plainsboro is not immune from society's ills. Rather than ignoring problems, residents need to admit them and then come together as a community in dealing with them.</p>
2:58	<p>(MUSIC UP)</p>	<p>This has been Meredith Mercandetti for W-W-P-H, 107.9-FM, in Princeton Junction.</p>
3:00	<p>(FADE MUSIC OUT)</p>	

END