

# EAST

The Herald

# neighbors

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## SOAPBOX

etc.

Another interesting revelation in the Harvard study suggests that the majority of students support school policies aimed at reducing drug use.

Teachers and administrators must also recognize how serious the issue of substance abuse is among students. An adult's relaxed attitude toward under-age drinking and experimental drug-use may suggest to a young person that the benefits outweigh the risks.

Therefore, MADD's efforts to push for stronger state laws that would hold adults accountable should be supported.

Consequently, in treating substance abuse among adolescents, studies have found that family engagement is a better predictor of successful treatment.

"Setting boundaries" is a parenting technique not only critical during the adolescent years, but also needed from a teen's perspective.

Interestingly, when asked in a 1998 survey to rank major problems facing America today, students aged 12 to 19 most frequently named as one of their top concerns "lack of parental discipline."

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Soapbox is a Miami Herald column aimed at letting people vent. A few rules: We will not publish personal attacks. Your rants must address a specific LOCAL problem and be short and to the point as possible.

We also reserve the right to edit for length and also to exclude any comments that may be libelous.

We will NOT publish your name if you don't want us to. However, please leave us your initials, the area where you live and a phone number or e-mail address to contact you.

Ready to rant? You can do it in English or Spanish. Call 305-671-4356, e-mail [joneill@herald.com](mailto:joneill@herald.com) or write Soapbox, 7300 N. Kendall Dr., Suite 200, Miami, FL 33156.

## Substance abuse talk needed at all schools

In response to Parents' role in teens substance abuse discussed [Feb. 16], my utmost gratitude to the Palmetto High PTSA for raising the level of awareness among parents on the issue of adolescent substance abuse.

As a licensed psychotherapist specializing in adolescent addictions for the past 12 years, it is crucial for this type of conversation to take place among all schools.

According to findings released by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, greater attention should be paid to "factors that impact the environment around the students." These factors could be measured as educational efforts that expose students and parents to lectures, meetings, workshops,