

Red & Black

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The staff editorial reflects the view of student editors and the columns represent the viewpoints of their authors.

R&B welcomes letters from students, teachers and members of the Hillsborough community. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity, and should be submitted to Room 506 or to the Red & Black, 5000 N. Central Ave., Tampa, Fla. 33603. Advertising content is subject to approval of the editorial board. The Red & Black is printed in partnership with The Tampa Tribune.

This newspaper includes content from the MCT Campus wire service. Phone (813) 276-5620; Fax (813) 276-5629; e-mail joseph.humphrey@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

www.hstoday.com

EDITORIAL

This reflects the viewpoint of the Red & Black staff

Don't take education for granted

If she lived here, Malala Yousafzai would probably be a freshman in high school.

But she lives in Pakistan, where on Oct. 9 she was shot in the head and back by Taliban members.

She was 15, boarding a school van and unknowingly risking her life for the right to equal education for women.

Later, according to CBS News, members of the Taliban said that, if they would had a second chance to shoot and kill Yousafzai, they would take it.

Yousafzai was initially targeted because she was "promoting secularism," specifically advocating for women's rights.

Meanwhile, here, almost 8,000 miles away, students are skipping school and falling asleep in their classes. Teenagers are doing drugs in bathrooms and treating school



(Illustration by Sydney Seekford)

as a fashion show rather than a place for learning. Yousafzai had her life on the line for the very thing many take for granted.

Having the right to a free education, regardless of gender or race, should be appreciated.

It's understandable that students may have problems with

certain parts of school, but we can't give up on our education and we cannot treat it as if it doesn't matter.

Although Pakistan may seem far away, it must be remembered that not too long ago this country was fighting for the right to equal education too.

Yousafzai is heralded as a hero throughout the world, she represents a struggle that has been too long overlooked.

Yousafzai was a voice that cried out for justice for herself and those like her. She was the change she wanted to see in the world.

School is difficult and frustrating. But not even attempting to succeed or make the most of it is disrespectful to those like her who fight for such a basic right.

To give up on school is to give up on her.

Principal disagrees with staff's view on Advanced Placement

Editor:

I have read your recent editorial regarding the placement of students in Advanced Placement courses.

I believe that while this is stated as opinion, some discussion of the facts surrounding the placement of students is warranted in order to enable readers to reach informed conclusions.

Your first sentence, "Advanced Placement (AP) courses do not necessarily benefit all students" is true as far as I can tell.

However, it should be noted that no teacher or administrator has asserted that AP classes do benefit all students.

You state: "There are students who may not be able to handle the workload. It can be a detriment to student's GPA since AP classes weigh more than traditional classes."

This is partially true.

The honors points for success in these courses are weighted higher. In cases of non-success, there is no difference.

The editorial states clearly that it "reflects the viewpoint of the Red & Black staff."

If this is true, I lament this fact, since the tone of the editorial hints at elitism and shows no attempt to obtain factual information.

From 2005 to 2009, the number of honor graduates in the traditional program averaged between 28 and 32.

In 2010, we had 46. In 2011, we had 49.

In 2012, we had 67.

The difference has been the academic rigor of their AP courses that many took without actively choosing them.

William T. Orr, Jr., Principal