

**CONTACT US**

Reach Opinion Editor Taylor Poro at Taylor.Poro@usd.edu or at 677-6892.

# OPINION

"I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."  
— ATTRIBUTED TO VOLTAIRE

## THE VOLANTE

THE STUDENTS' VOICE SINCE 1887

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### CONTACT US

The Volante welcomes contributions to the letters column in regards to campus, local, state and national issues. Letters will be edited for clarity and length and will be printed as space allows. Please limit letters to 300 words or less. The Volante reserves the right to hold letters for publication in a later issue.

Submissions must include the author's name, address, telephone number and year in school and major or job title. Letters must be exclusively for The Volante.

We will not publish anonymous letters.

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The deadline for letters is 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. Letters must be typed and under 300 words.

# EDITORIAL

## Free speech is about civility and freedom

During the past week, USD experienced a hands-on lesson on the complications of free speech after a protest at the veterans club memorial. The debate over the motives and intentions of the students is ongoing, but it's important not to ignore the question of First Amendment rights on campus.

These recent reactions to free speech have been part of a larger culture of censorship at USD that awoke from its slumber this past year. In this school year, T-shirts, dormitory doors and bulletin boards have been censored, and some with questionable guidelines.

The methods of censorship, both by the administration and others ranged from unsettling to down right chilling in a country that values speech so much.

However, the university's authority to dictate the specifications of protests has the potential for free speech abuses. The university could decide to place protests that are unpleasant in deserted locations to nullify their effects.

The university has the option to make content neutral restrictions, but it doesn't have to.

Further, it could expand protest times past the Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. hours they have in place now.

Shortly after the memorial protest was reported, veterans groups and other online commenters reacted.

Some people protested against the protest peacefully, with peaceful arguments. These people were engaging in the debate. Others, however, demanded redactions.

Civil people do not argue with others through threats; that is not free speech. Free speech is about the right to not be censored for unpopular speech, not to demand people redact opinions, lest they face vandalism.

The very nature of free speech and opinion, is disagreement, the idea that opinions should be censored or retracted simply because others disagree is frightening. If students don't have the right to speech, regardless of its content, in college, in an independent, student-run paper, where do they? Were the calls for censorship to be heeded, it would only be a matter of time before more opinions make the blacklist.

## volanteonline.com

### COMMENTS

These are some comments from The Volante's most popular online articles. Visit VolanteOnline.com to share your thoughts about this week's stories.

### Column: A memorial for all of the fallen in war

Most colleges have become liberal cesspools. I can guarantee I'll never come to any of the Dakotas as a tourist or for any reason short of an emergency ever again. We go out to the Black Hills every Easter in off-tourist season when businesses need money. Not anymore. The "editor" and the "reporter" should both be removed. I am a totally disabled vet and I am very offended that you compare our soldiers to the maniacs that pulled off 9/11. You said without saying it that those lives lost on 9/11 were no less tragic then the terrorists who died that day. This is an outrage.

- R. PHILLIPS

Did we expect the British, French, Mexicans, Creek Indians, Spanish, Triple alliance, Axis powers, North Koreans, North Vietnamese or many of the other countries or cultures that the United States had conflicts with, to construct memorials to our fallen when we fought them? Of course not. Each of our enemies or opponents has honored their fallen in the way their culture dictates as we do ours. It is our job to count our dead and make sure they are honored.

- ANONYMOUS

By and large, The Volante does a decent job. It's their prerogative to give students a forum to express themselves. This is an important function of a student newspaper. The fact that you see fit to silence them because you disagree with one of their opinion columnists makes you seem pretty thick.

- ANONYMOUS

### We violated our code

Even before the April 21 edition of The Volante hit the racks last week, commenters were on our website responding to:

- a protest a Students Against the State member made at the veterans club memorial,

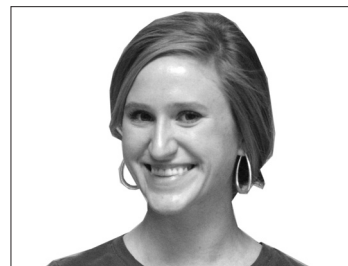
- a column published from a Secular Students Alliance member writing about the same ideas the SATS member expressed in the protest,

- a letter to the editor submitted by the SATS advisor defending the value of having the club in the campus "marketplace of ideas," and

- a centerpiece story on the veterans memorial.

The reactions from campus to these pieces have made it to the Department of Defense's website and were central at the Cross Media Council First Amendment Forum Monday.

But also in the backlash from both SATS and the veterans club dispute, a question arose about Volante bias because we had opinion pieces from



**JOSIE KERK**

two SATS members and a congruent side to the protest from an opinion columnist with no SATS association. That was simply a matter of coincidental timing. If we'd had them, we easily could have included pro-veterans pieces.

But the accusation also was made that we violated our code of ethics. We did. And as a result, we're going to review that code and how we apply it, as well as how we convey it to our staff members.

The Volante follows the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics, but also follows a Volante code of ethics, which was adopted Feb. 13, 2009, and posted on our website. The code reads, "Staff members, excluding opinion columnists, cannot publicly endorse or pro-

mote SGA or political campaigns. This includes ... joining Facebook groups ..."

While there was no violation in the April 21 edition, the controversy that surrounded that opinion page brought our practice of joining Facebook groups to light from a previous edition. April 14, a reporter who was also a member of the SATS Facebook group wrote a story about the club. While he is not actually a member of the club and has never attended a meeting except in his capacity as a reporter, he had joined their Facebook group.

As technology changes, The Volante will look at how it needs to modify its code of ethics to uphold the standards set by the SPJ. Facebook groups have become news sources for us to pick up story ideas and make contacts with members for stories. They don't always signify group affiliation, but they do associate the reporter with that group. We are looking at how we can revise our code to reflect this.

In the meantime, however, we are thankful that we cover a student body that holds us accountable. We adopted a code, we are held to it.

Reach Editor-in-Chief Josie Kerk at Josephine.Kerk@usd.edu.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### In defense of Professor Swan

This last week Students Against the State made a display against our veteran's club flag display. The day after they put up their disrespectful display The Volante had four articles talking about the display. One was a letter to the editor written by the faculty advisor for Students Against the State, titled "In Defense of Anarchy." I initially connected the letter to the editor as a defense of the actions against the flag display, which turns out to be incorrect. There were more people who made this connection than just myself and I want to

let them know, Dr. Swan was not defending the actions of Patrick Linsenmeyer. Because of Mr. Linsenmeyer's actions and the timing of his article's publication, Dr. Swan has suffered.

Let me talk about Dr. Swan. He is a veteran himself, serving in the Marine Corp where he spent time in Korea, the Philippines and Panama. He believes strongly in the freedoms of expression and is a diehard supporter of any and all people's right to express themselves as they see fit. Due to his convictions, he decided to be the faculty advisor to SATS. He does not believe in anarchy, he does not believe in defacing a flag display meant to commemorate those who have died in Iraq

and Afghanistan. He repeatedly told SATS to follow the policies and procedures for anything that the group was planning.

Sometimes good people do great things for the little guy; Dr. Swan should be commemorated for that. In this instance, the actions of Mr. Linsenmeyer caused harm to the one person who helped his radical fringe group. I was the person who took down the display put up by Mr. Linsenmeyer, it made me sick and made me angry, but that ire should not be directed toward Dr. Swan.

Craig Evenson  
USD Law Student, Iraq War Veteran  
Vermillion

### Reacting to SATS

"In a broad sense, SATS are simply trying to emphasize the importance of human liberation and expand the marketplace of ideas on the USD campus."  
— Robert Swan, Ph. D

In a broader sense, Dr. Swan and Patrick Linsenmeyer decided to make a political event out of something designed to honor the soldiers who have given their lives to give this country a beginning, who have given their lives to defend this country from the Nazis and Japanese and who even now give their lives to defend their country from the extremists and the anarchists who want to tear down the Western culture and Christianity to spread their perverted view of religion.

By placing the upside down flags, you not only desecrated an event that has meaning for millions of Americans, your actions serve to illustrate your ignorance on the issues which you espouse so dearly.

If you are trying to emphasize the importance of human liberation and expand the marketplace of ideas, and not just commit a hateful act, let's look

at some facts. Saddam Hussein gassed hundreds of thousands of Kurds in the late 1980s; Warlords in Afghanistan had carved the country up into little fiefdoms following the Soviet exit.

Millions were killed in the indiscriminate aftermath, including the Taliban takeover where dissidents were killed outright, women were and enslaved and extremists multiplied.

Since the United States of America invaded Iraq, they have had two successful elections, with almost 7,000 people running for public office in the March 7, 2010 elections. If Mr. Linsenmeyer would like the Iraqi civilians to have a say, why doesn't he ask them?

Public opinion is changing. Many Iraqis do not want us to leave because they realize the benefits we have brought to their country. Security has improved, quality of life has improved, and Iraqis now have a chance. In a country that has seen a tyrant, religious extremists and a sectarian war, peace is now a strong option, thanks to the sacrifices born by the United States Military.

Professor Swan and Mr. Linsenmeyer

are correct. Radical thought, differing beliefs and the expansion of the marketplace of ideas on the USD campus are a noble and honorable cause.

As a matter of fact, U.S. military members have fought and died for you to exercise your rights. However, when you exercise your rights ignorantly, you not only perform a disservice to all those who died to give you those rights, you also do your cause a disservice.

If you oppose military occupations in other countries, send your congressman a letter, write the President, but why dishonor the Americans who fought and died so you can live your life in freedom?

The American military does not make foreign policy, the people you elect do. We serve the Commander in Chief, the representative of the American body and the representation of your peers. By dishonoring those who serve the American public, you not only disgrace those who have fallen, but you disgrace yourself.

First Lt. Nathan Becker  
USD Alum  
Baghdad

## OPINION

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# Commentary

## Some final words about free speech

It is with some sadness that I announce this will be my last column in *The Volante*. Because other endeavors will demand more of my time and attention, I must cease these occasional writings.

I have greatly enjoyed writing and working for *The Volante*. Despite my excess in years to each of my *Volante* colleagues, every one of them has taught me something new about journalism, academics and life. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to be associated with one of the finest college newspapers in the United States.

However, before I disappear from this newsprint, let me voice one more opinion.

Your voice, your opinions, your involvement are vital to the strength of this college community. Despite the disgustingly low level of discourse that was witnessed in the comments section of *The Volante* website with regards to the USD Veterans memorial protest by a member of the Students Against the State, it was evidenced on Monday afternoon that civil discourse could be had on this campus.

Students from both organizations and all across the campus came out and listened to a forum on the First Amendment. The pan-



**DAVID WHITESOCK**

elists all agreed, and it seems to be the widely held view across campus, the manner in which the protest was conducted was deplorable, but the right to protest what was said should not be infringed, nor should there be repercussions against the protester.

The consensus also held, that in order for this issue to move forward and for productive civil discourse to exist, each side must respectfully listen to the other side's position.

I am optimistic that the student body at USD can properly engage in civil discourse, and I am hopeful that repercussions will not be levied against the protester. Furthermore, I believe everyone will move forward through this controversy having learned some valuable lessons. However, I fear that students will be fearful and choose not to speak out for what they believe in.

It cannot be said that the protester has been censored or silenced. His voice has been personally represented on *The Volante* website and numerous supporters have taken up his cause and voiced their opinions.

However, the personal attacks and generally hateful rhetoric on both sides of the issue may be enough to marginalize certain voices, and because of such retaliation, most who want to speak out will decide to keep to themselves for fear that they will be publicly exiled.

This is no way for the First Amendment to exist at a liberal arts university.

Last semester I made the calculated decision to express my views on a problem that seriously affects the law school and the students within. Despite many e-mails supporting my decision to make the drinking culture a public issue, my presence in the law school was not always warmly received.

However, because of that column, there has been substantial conversations about the issues of drinking and mental health among law students and in the legal profession. There has been action too.

The Student Bar Association recently sponsored a Mental Health Week, which brought the issues front and center. I will con-

tinue to work for and demand that more be done, but for now I am satisfied that the positive effects of my speaking out far outweighed the negativity I faced immediately following the column's publication.

This campus needs more people voicing their opinions and standing up for the issues that matter; without such activity the marketplace of ideas is dead.

What is your cause? What are you passionate about? Who on this campus deserves a voice, a voice you could lend them? Do not be afraid, speak out, even if your opinions seem unpopular.

If the last week has taught us anything, even the most unpopular opinions on this campus have supporters. Do not be afraid to take a stand. It is your right and your civic duty to voice your concerns.

While students at a liberal arts college there should be no better practicing ground for exercising your right to speak freely and without repercussions for doing so. I urge each and every student not to let these years and this opportunity simply pass you by. You, your cause and our community will be better off for it.

Reach columnist David Whitesock at [David.Whitesock@usd.edu](mailto:David.Whitesock@usd.edu).

## The veterans respond



**GUEST COLUMNIST ERIC GAGE**

While reading last week's *Volante* I had very mixed emotions. The veteran's club, of which I am president, is a proud group of people and is one of the more active groups on campus. Our group, as you can tell by its name, is made up of military veterans, student military, family members of military, as well as civilians.

The club exists not just give its members a social network, but to improve college for all of our military family as well as the other students. This last week was a big week for our group. On April 18, our club set up our annual memorial to honor our fallen brothers and sisters in uniform who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial had a small flag to represent each one of the dead.

This year the number of flags totaled more than 5,413. The *Volante* covered the setting up of the display and Josie Clarey of *The Volante* did an amazing job re-telling our story. This powerful and hallowed event was not just for veterans but for all Americans who love their freedom and recognize what these brave men and women sacrificed to provide for it. That story made me proud to go to this school; the story that fell below it on the page did not. The story "Student group objects to memorial" told of a group of students who, because of their own beliefs about war, desecrated this humble display to honor our fallen.

The Students Against the State is a group of misguided youngsters claiming they were exercising their student rights to be on campus and protest however they want. This act taken by these misguided students is insulting to everyone who has ever put on a uniform. The display was not set up to glorify war. As people who have been directly affected by war, there is nothing glorious about it. I, as well as many veterans, keep in contact with people I consider friends from that region of the world and will help them people anyway I can. In fact, there is a family who moved from Iraq to Vermillion that the club has helped in the past and will continue to help.

As military people we don't pick the people we fight and on the modern battlefield, we don't consider anyone an enemy until they carry out an act to show their intent. This group's claims are not only insulting but incorrect. SATS claim they retrieved their information from a valid resource, however their resource is invalid. Their group claims to try and give a voice to Iraqi civilians and believes the veterans club flag display should mourn all of the dead from the war. This concept doesn't work for our group.

We are a group of student veterans; we set up a display to honor our fallen. Should something be done to honor the people of Iraq and Afghanistan? Yes. Should it be done as part of our display? No. If this group would like to set up such a display to honor the people of the great nations of Iraq and Afghanistan, I will offer my personal help. Those of us who have served to give you the rights that you enjoy can handle a lot of things, you can talk out about the war, insult us personally but there is one line that we can and will not ever let you cross. And that is to disrespect our fallen brothers and sisters.

Reach guest columnist Eric Gage at [Eric.Gage@usd.edu](mailto:Eric.Gage@usd.edu).

## The income tax is an autoratic tyranny

The Federal Reserve Bank and the income tax are illegal autocratic institutions used for social control. Before this troubling issue is explained further, a better understanding of the creation and proliferation of the U.S. money supply is required.

To begin, the Federal Reserve Bank was created in 1913, along with the Federal income tax, and is a private organization that issues the entire money supply.

It essentially creates money out of thin air and loans it to the U.S. government and others. The money loaned is loaned at an interest rate and thereafter the Federal government and its affiliates have to pay off the loan.

The 16th Amendment (used to justify the income tax) passed in 1913 states, "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

The case here seems cut and closed, but this is far from the truth. In fact, the amendment is completely unconstitutional and one of the greatest deceptions in history.

The definition of income, as described by the 16th Amendment, is defined in the Supreme Court ruling of *Eisner vs. Montgomery* as, "Income is profits and gains deriving from corporate activity,"



**COLE HEISEY**

i.e. not individuals' labor. Chief Justice White stated in 1913, "that the Sixteenth Amendment did not authorize any new type of tax" and previously to 1913, income tax was deemed unconstitutional in 1894.

If it was unconstitutional then and by the chief justices' own words, did not constitute any new form of taxation, then how is it constitutional now? It is not.

The Constitution allows for two types of taxes. These being direct and apportioned taxes. Article 1, section 2 states, "direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states."

The income tax is a direct tax for which is not apportioned among the states, thus making it unconstitutional. To make matters worse, the required number of states never properly ratified the 16th Amendment.

President Woodrow Wilson, the president in office at the time of

the acts' inception, stated after the fact, "a great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the most completely controlled and dominated governments in the world — no longer a government of free opinion, no longer a government by conviction and vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and duress of small groups of dominant men."

A small group of bankers and government officials were able to dupe the American people into instituting a private bank called the Federal Reserve.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Government should create, issue, and circulate all money." Instead, the money supply is operated and controlled by private interests. The most heinous deception is that your income taxes fund government activities. This is false.

Remember I stated previously that all money is loaned, thus interest is owed. Your income taxes do just this. They pay off the interest owed to the Federal Reserve Bank that is owed by the federal government.

Why did this come to pass? A quote from President James Garfield does this question justice, "Whoever controls the volume of money in any country is absolute master of all industry and com-

merce."

This is the exact reason why the Federal Reserve Bank was created, for the means of power and control. The federal government has the power to issue money, but yet it put it into the hands of private bankers.

Alluding to Garfield's quote, corporate and economic interests are where the power lies. As Wilson stated, we are no longer free. Democracy and freedom are bygone abstractions. The banks and corporations are the masters and we, are their all too willing puppets.

It is the biggest fraud ever perpetrated on the American people by their government. The only solution to solve this problem is to shut down the Federal Reserve. The government has the authority granted in the constitution to print money interest free. They do not however have the authority to give the power to print money to a private bank.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The issuing power of money should be taken away from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs." It is time for the individuals to take power away from private bankers and other corporate interests and reestablish it into the hands of the people themselves. It is time to regain what is yours and always has been, your liberty. Stand up.

Reach columnist Cole Heisey at [Cole.Heisey@usd.edu](mailto:Cole.Heisey@usd.edu).



**IN THE KNOW:** All of the finals week activities. There's going to be a midnight breakfast, bingo night, oxygen bar (who just breathes that stuff for free anymore?) and massage parlors.

**IN THE DARK:** Aisle 12 of the Vermillion Wal-mart. They have pesticides directly across from the chips. Either this is a well-coordinated metaphor for the quality of our food or just plain unsafe.

**IN THE KNOW:** Finals week. When it's over! Am I right everybody?

**IN THE DARK:** The light by McDonald's going North towards the DakotaDome. They give walkers perhaps 10 seconds to cross and if there aren't enough cars going north, it doesn't change.

**IN THE KNOW:** All the restaurants in town. Not only do we have some of the best chains (though no Taco Bell or Wendy's) but we also have great unique places to eat like Mexico Viejo and Raziél's.

**IN THE DARK:** The building culture. Maybe instead of using so much of our money to build dorms very few people want to live in, we could fund our departments? Just a suggestion.

## OVERHeard

Here you will find the weirdest, funniest and stupidest things that we've heard during the week. Context is for suckers.

"You're doing it wrong, the book says you're supposed to go counterclockwise for 45 seconds, then clockwise for 15 seconds to complete the minute."

"That's exactly how Ron and Hermoine would sound doing it!"

- CHERRY STREET GRILLE

"Cotoyte Village is the Phantom Menace of the dorms."  
"That assumes there's an original trilogy of the dorms."

- OLD MAIN

"This thing needs to load up, but it's still making that little rainbow swirly thing."

"Just wait a few minutes and it'll start back up."

"That's what she said!"

"He's not even joking."

- AL NEUHARTH CENTER

"I don't rise again until about three days after finals. I'm finals Jesus!"

- RICHARDSON

"Just chop his head and roll with it."

- AL NEUHARTH CENTER

"How could you ignore my shoe emergency?"

- THE COMMONS



## OpinionContinued ...

Go to [VolanteOnline.com](http://VolanteOnline.com) for more columns and blogs throughout the semester from our Opinion columnists or letters.

### "Proud of our soldiers and military"

While I want to say I appreciate columnist Thomas Emanuel's passion, I don't appreciate his opinion.

First of all, our troops are not terrorists and I don't appreciate the comparison. They are members of our armed services sent to do a job and they are doing it well. The people they are fighting are our enemy. I thank God that fight isn't on our own home soil.

It is not our job to honor the dead of the enemy. It is not our job to count their casualties. It is our job as Americans to honor our dead and count our casualties.

The people we are fighting over there hide in the midst of their innocent civilians, they put guns in the hands of their babies and they strap bombs to their helpless women all for a false god and a false ideal of war.

They are not even soldiers in a uniform. They are so cowardly they dress like civilians so that they can hide and attack so that if they or an innocent is killed, our soldiers are ridiculed and treated as criminals. Our

soldiers, which are real, do not even know who their enemy is until they are right up on them.

From all the mistreatment those people say they get from us, I've seen local law enforcement officials do worse.

I remember 9/11. I remember the brave pilots who crashed their planes into fields because they knew they were going to die and wasn't giving up. The pilot of the plane that crashed into the twin towers was dead. He didn't fly that plane.

I think about the innocent children on board those planes who were alone without their parents. I think about the brave citizens on board who called their loved ones to say goodbye because they ...

Check out the rest of Pat VanKirk's letter to the editor and many more letters at [VolanteOnline.com/opinion](http://VolanteOnline.com/opinion)