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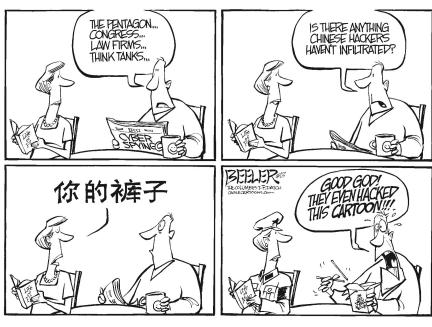
Abortion Waiting

Period Fine As Is

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (Feb. 18): Some South Dakota lawmakers support a bill that would essentially extend the time that women must wait before having an abortion.

South Dakota law already requires a 72-hour waiting period before an abortion. Now some representatives want to exclude weekends and holi-

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The President's Big Con

Bill

O'REILLY

BY BILL O'REILLY

Creators Syndicate

Please listen up. We are all being conned by the Obama administration. This year, the American taxpayer will fork over about \$571 billion to pay for educating children in the nation's public schools. All told, the country spends close to \$16,000 per student every year on primary through col-lege education. That's the highest per-student expending rate in the world

spending rate in the world. However, according to President Obama, it's not enough. He wants more tax dollars, es-pecially for "early education." He said so in his State of the Union address, and it drew big-time applause from his crew. Of course we need to spend more on education. And any-

need to specific under on reduction. And any one who opposes that hates kids! The centerpiece of the president's early-education vision is the "Head Start" program, which has been in place since 1965. Over the past 48 years, the feds have spent close to \$200 billion on Head Start. But there's one big problem: The program is not working.

problem: The program is not working. According to a recent study by the Depart-ment of Health and Human Services, by the end of third grade, Head Start children remain academically disadvantaged compared to their same-age peers. So why did the president not mention that? Why is he still pounding the drum for more funding for a program that is not cutting it?

The answer is social engineering. Obama will not say this, but one of his devoted followers, Columbia University professor Joseph Stiglitz, will. What the left really wants is to redistribute income through the public education system.

In a recent New York Times column, Stiglitz called for the following: More spending on preschool education.

- More spending on before- and after-class programs.
 More entitlements to ensure that pregnant women

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON - First they came for the drones. No, not the unmanned kind that kill strangers from a safe distance but the sort who sit in meeting rooms and repeat slogans until they absorb the proper way of think-ing. The killers, figuratively speaking, are the diversity trainers who numb the human mind with slogans and rote instruction on emotional correctness

Would that it were unnecessary to say "figuratively speaking," but in an era when fundamentalist literalism is on the rise, it is always necessary to be perfectly, perfectly clear. Signal: The following may include exaggerations, sarcasm and, possibly, snark, all in-tended to make life somewhat more bearable. Then again, hyperbole is superfluous when real life is so absurdly over the top.

Thanks to Judicial Watch, the conservative-leaning watchdog group, and The Daily Caller, we recently have learned about the United States Department of Agriculture's magical diversity training programs, i.e. "professional development opportunities," wherein em-ployees learn how they ought really to "think" about things. Lessons include such angst-inspiring tropes as the U.S. has destroyed other nations, we all commit sins

are protected from "environmental hazards." That means increased payments to prospective moms for better food, housing and medical care. And the topper:

 Direct cash payments to parents of poor children who make sure their kids participate in school programs and show up for class. If that ever comes to

be. America essentially will be paving parents to parent. It is all about control. Obama believes the

deck in America is stacked against the poor and wants to get lower-income citizens as much cash and as many entitlements as he can. Masking those payments under "more money for education" is a clever way to do

It is certainly true that poor children have a much tougher academic road than affluent kids. And smart educational policy can close that gap. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told me the reason Head Start is not delivering is that it doesn't concentrate enough on read-ing. In many school districts, it is primarily a

babysitting service. As a former high school teacher and a stu-dent in a class of 60 urchins at St. Brigid's grammar school, I know that education is all about discipline and motivation. Disadvantaged students need extra attention, a stable school environment and enough teacher creativity to stimulate their imaginations. Those things are not expensive.

But that's not all of what federal education spending is about, is it? It's also about redistributing income. We are being conned big time. And it's the kids who suffer the most because of it.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama.

Training" session that have been featured prominently in

conservative media in recent days. As detailed by Caro-

line May at The Daily Caller, Betances leads a group through a process of self-enlightenment. (See sarcasm

"I want you to say: 'If we work for a federal agency.

days in that waiting period. What an insult to women The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Jon Hansen, R-Dell Raids, has passed the full House. South Dakota already has a conservative law that does an unusually good job of balance when it comes to women seeking a legal abortion.

There is no clamor that indicates women have not been able to seek and receive the counseling that is mandated under the 72-hour waiting period. There is no reason for this latest proposed requirement other that what appears to be an attempt to backhandedly control the rights of womer

It is fine for a lawmaker to be against abortion as an option. But legislative power should not be used to grandstand and chip away at the legal right to an abortion by challenging whether women can get adequate counseling if weekends and holidays are included in the 72-hour waiting period.

We send lawmakers to Pierre to represent their constituency, to come together on key issues that make life better in South Dakota. We don't send them to Pierre to keep tinkering with a law until it fits their own personal agenda.

We urge lawmakers to drop the extended wait idea and get to other matters for the good of our state.

Johanns Turns The Page

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD (Feb. 19): Nebraskans today can thank Mike Johanns for three decades of public service. His decision not to seek re-election next year will close another chapter

in a political career that began with his election as a Lancaster County commissioner in 1983. He served on the Lincoln City Council, twice was elected the capital city's mayor, twice was elected governor, served as U.S. secretary of agriculture and won election to the U.S. Senate.

That resume alone is impressive. But the work Johans did for his com-munity, state and country is impressive, too. The common-sense conservative displayed steadiness, energy, sound judgment and competence in every office he has held.

During tight budgetary times, Gov. Johanns made clear his determina-tion that the state maintain fiscal discipline. He showed statewide vision as his administration helped develop strategic policy to address Ne-braska's water needs and pushed for community-based reform of the

state's behavioral health system. After President George W. Bush called Johanns to Washington, congressional Democrats and Republicans recognized him as a capable Cabinet of-ficer, while abroad he earned a reputation as a knowledgeable and skilled "Gang of Eight" seeking solutions to the nation's fiscal problems. Johanns and his wife, Stephanie, said that in looking ahead, "We want a quieter time with our focus on each other, our family and our faith."

There will be time to reflect more fully on his career, but for now con-gratulations are in order. After 30 years of service to his fellow Ne-braskans, Mike Johanns has earned it.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the edi-tor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed. ■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are ed-

Ited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.
 In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.
 Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the sense issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Tenn hecame

lander Chase Knox.

Colt patented his revolver

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2013. There are 309 days left in the year. Today's Highlight In History: On Feb. 25, 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was de-clared in effect by Secretary of State Phi-lander Chase Knox.

new signs of real cooperation, but Presi-dent George W. Bush was dismissive, pre-dicting Saddam Hussein would try to "fool the world one more time." Roh Moo-hyuo became South Korea's new president. **Five years ago:** An Associated Press photograph of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama wearing tradi-tional local garb during a 2006 visit to Kenya becan circulation on the Internet On this date: In 1836, inventor Samuel Kenya began circulating on the Internet. The New York Philharmonic arrived in

Korea to perform a c

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> * * * MEMBERSHIPS

Here's A Different Drone Issue

Kathleen PARKER

Say that. (Audience repeats) 'We have discriminated in the past.' (Audience repeats) Say: 'Every federal agency,' (Audience repeats) 'has discriminated against African-Americans,' (Audience repeats) 'His-panics,' (Audience repeats) 'Antive American Indians,' (Audience repeats) 'and other groups' (Audience repeats)," Betances preaches. In other clips, Betances regales his audience with a little history lesson. Not only did the U.S. steal the lands that are increasingly

being populated by illegal immigrants (Texas, California, Arizona) — hence, implicitly, they have a right to re-occupy — but America's founding fathers took their governing cues from Native Americans. Oh, and they stole their symbol, too — the bald eagle.

Well, gosh, I feel so bad about all this that I'd like to cede the lower U.S. to Mexico and adopt the chicken as the national symbol.

There's no end to the ways by which nations can make recompense to those whose fates were altered by history. Shouldn't we all just pack up and return whence we

that

of discrimination, and America should repent and stop being so proud of itself.

More or less. One does not have to be a flag-waving, uber-patriot to find this sort of mind-training repugnant, though watch-ing clips of the USDA sessions might help one better understand the recent rush to collect ammunition. (Ahem: I am merely making an observation here, not suggesting behaviors that some might find troubling or offensive; one wishes it were unnecessary to say.) The sessions recently highlighted are not new. Most

corporate employees - and all American students have been exposed to this wee-minded busy-ness. More than a decade ago, I wrote that the demise of newspapers was owing more to the Human Resources Department than to the explosion of the Internet. The "tidy-desk memo mentality" of management bean-counters began killing newspapers long before pajama-clad bloggers began mastering hyperlinks.

Ŏnce you kill the spirit, the rest is a matter of decomposition

Exhibit A this go-round is sensitivity trainer Samuel Betances of Souder, Betances and Associates, who appears in clips culled from a 3.5-hour "Cultural Sensitivity

This is, of course, emotional extortion designed to engineer behavior while enriching people who have invented an industry around the notion that people can be numbed into niceness and therefore more easily managed. It is helpful to recall that drones are also stingless

There was a time when such lessons, otherwise known as manners, were taught in every American home. Said homes were not privileged in most cases but they were occupied by a mother and father who, though they perhaps did not adore each other every waking moment, were at least committed to the mutual task of rearing thoughtful, well-behaved children. Sensitivity training, alas, is one of the many legacies

of our sundering of the family, which has led necessarily to greater dependence on third parties to instruct and order. We are unlikely to hear much about that in the next government diversity seminar and, soon enough there will be none left to recognize that there is some thing wrong with this picture.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com

YOUR LETTERS

A Better Approach

Charles Snyder, Apple Valley, Minn.

The need for USPS to cut service back to five days a week is understandable. But, there is little rationale for suspending service on Saturday. The one advantage that I see goes to the postal workers, granting them two consecutive days off per week. Yearly, USPS observes five holidays on Monday, so there will be a minimum of five occurrences of three consecutive non-delivery days per year. The optimal approach, making the closure day

least disruptive, would be to move it to the middle of

the week. If Wednesday were chosen, there would never be three successive closing days. Thanksgiving is our only fixed mid-week holiday, so that would result in only one for sure instance of two consecutive non-delivery days per year, with additional two-day closings depending upon where the other holidays fall. For 2014, there would be four two-day closings because New Years falls on Tuesday. Independence Day on Thursday and Christmas on Wednesday. Whereas for 2014, for Saturday closures, there will be six occurrences of three consecutive days of no mail delivery along with 46 two-day periods absent of mail first Confederate state capital to be occu-

pied by the North during the Civil War. In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was

In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan. In 1913, character actor Jim Backus, who played Thurston Howell III on "Gilli-gan's Island" and voiced the cartoon char-acter Mr. Magoo, was born in Cleveland. In 1922, French serial killer Henri Lan-dru, convicted of murdering 10 women and the son of one of them, was executed in Versailles

Versailles. In 1943, Allied troops reoccupied the Kasserine Pass after clashing with Ger-man troops during World War II.

In 1950, "Your Show of Shows," star-ring Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca, Carl Reiner and Howard Morris, debuted on NBC-TV

NBC-1V. In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Edwards v. South Carolina, upheld 8-1 the right of civil rights demonstrators to peace-fully protest outside the South Carolina State House

In 1973, the Stephen Sondheim musi-cal 'A Little Night Music' opened at Broad-way's Shubert Theater. In 1983, playwright Tennessee Williams was found dead in his New York hotel suite;

he was 71

In 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election: Corazon

the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency: In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. **Ten years ago:** Chief U.N. weapons in-spector Hans Blix said Iraq was showing

FROM THE BIBLE

The birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. Matthew 13:32. Portals of Praver, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

same day Lee Myung-bak was sworn in as South Korea's first conservative president

In a decade. One year ago: A gunman killed two American military advisers with shots to the back of the head inside Afghanistan's heavily guarded Interior Ministry as protests raged for a fifth day over the burn-ing of Qurans at a U.S. army base. Lynn D. "Buck" Compton 90 a veteran whose An "Buck" Compton, 90, a veteran whose World War II exploits were depicted in the television miniseries "Band of Brothers,"

died in Burlington, Wash. Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ralph Stanley is 86. Actor Tom Courtenay is 76. CBS newsman Bob Schieffer is 76. Actress Diane Baker is 75. Actress Karen Actress Diane Baker is 75. Actress Karen Grassle is 71. Humorist Jack Handey is 64. Movie director Neil Jordan is 63. Rock mu-sician Dennis Diken (The Smithereens) is 56. Rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm) is 54. Actress Veronica Webb is 48. Actor Alexis Denisof is 47. Actress Tea Leoni is 47. Comedian Carrot Top is 46. Ac-tress Lesley Boone is 45. Actor Sean Astin is 42. Singer Daniel Powter is 42. Latin is 42. Singer Daniel Powter is 42. Latin singer Julio Iglesias Jr. is 40. Rhythm-andblues singer Justin Jeffre is 40. Rock mu-sician Richard Liles is 40. Actor Anson Mount is 40. Comedian-actress Chelsea Handler is 38. Actress Rashida Jones is Handler is 38. Actress Rashida Jones is 37. Actor Justin Berfield is 27. Actors James and Oliver Phelps ("Harry Potter" movies) are 27. Rock musician Erik Haager (Carolina Liar) is 26. **Thought for Today:** "If people behaved in the way nations do they would all be put in straitjackets." — Tennessee Williams (1911-1983).

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