

## THE PRESS &amp; DAKOTAN

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## OPINION

USD Does It Right  
In Coaching Search

This time, the University of South Dakota got it right when it came to hiring a new men's basketball coach. That's a reference not to the man hired for the job, University of Nebraska assistant coach Craig Smith (although he does appear to be a solid hire that many basketball people are praising). Instead, it speaks to the process in general, which has ended well after a curious and confounding start.

The hiring of Smith came just two weeks after the school announced that interim coach Joey James would not be retained after a 12-18 season. Well, that's what the school effectively did, even though the press release announcing the change stated only that USD was going to begin a national coaching search and never mentioned James by name, nor did it offer any apparent indication of whether there were any future plans for the former assistant coach. (However, since his name was never used in the press release, that would seem to be an indication of where he stood in the scheme of things.)

From the outside, at least, this didn't look like a real promising start to the process.

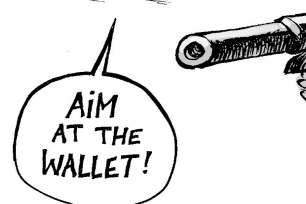
But in truth, the process didn't really begin two weeks ago. It began last September when longtime Coach Dave Boots abruptly announced he was retiring after 25 years in Vermillion. The timing was such that the school had no real choice but to promote James to the head role on an interim (read: trial) basis. In retrospect, this was incredibly awkward for everyone involved, and it probably served no one particularly well. What's more, it made USD officials look hamstrung by elements beyond their control, which probably didn't sit well with them.

If your memory goes back long enough, USD's last foray into hiring a men's basketball coach was mostly a disaster. When USD fired its men's coach in 1988, the school opened the job up, then was forced to re-open it again about six weeks later. Meanwhile, some media had a field day speculating over the possibilities, which caused miscommunications and general public uncertainty. Yes, it was MOSTLY a disaster — except that the coach they finally ended up with, Boots, completely transformed the sad sack program into a perennial contender. But that did not justify the amateurish process that started it all.

So, with all that in mind, USD got it right this time. The entire matter took two weeks, media speculation never overwhelmed the process, and the guy that's been hired comes with a strong reputation. Athletic Director David Herbster showed that this thing can be done without much drama, which in this instance is a very good thing.

So, congratulations to USD not only for the guy you hired but for the efficient way it all came together. It suggests good things for the future of this new Division I school.

kmh



CHARTER International New York Times

## The New Tribalism

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

We are witnessing a reversion to tribalism around the world, away from nation-states. The same pattern can be seen even in America — especially in American politics.

Before the rise of the nation-state between the 18th and 20th centuries, the world was mostly tribal. Tribes were united by language, religion, blood and belief. They feared other tribes and often warred against them. Kings and emperors imposed truces that were temporary at best.

But in the past 300 years, the idea of nationhood took root in most of the world. Members of tribes started to become citizens, viewing themselves as a single people with patriotic sentiments and duties toward their homeland.

Over the last several decades, though, technology has whittled away the underpinnings of the nation-state. National economies have become so intertwined that economic security depends less on national armies than on financial transactions around the world. Global corporations play nations off against each other to get the best deals on taxes and regulations.

News and images move so easily across borders that attitudes and aspirations are no longer especially national. Cyberweapons, no longer the exclusive province of national governments, can originate in a hacker's garage.

In a world where everyone and everything is interconnected, the connections that matter most are again becoming more personal. Religious beliefs and affiliations, the nuances of one's own language and culture, the daily realities of class, and the extensions of one's family and its values — all are providing people with ever greater senses of identity.

The nation-state, meanwhile, is coming apart. A single Europe — which seemed within reach a few years ago — is now succumbing to the centrifugal forces of its different languages and cultures. The Soviet Union is gone, replaced by nations split along tribal lines. Vladimir Putin can't easily annex the whole of Ukraine, only the Russian-speaking part. The Balkans have been Balkanized.

Separatist movements have broken out all over — Czechs separating from Slovaks; Kurds wanting to separate from Iraq, Syria and Turkey; even the Scots seeking separation from England.

The turmoil now consuming much of the Middle East stems less from democratic movements trying to topple dictatorships than from ancient tribal conflicts between the two major denomina-



Robert REICH

tions of Islam — Sunni and Shia.

And what about America? The world's "melting pot" is changing color. Between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, the share of the U.S. population calling itself white dropped from 69 percent to 64 percent, and more than half of the nation's population growth came from Hispanics. It's also becoming more divided by economic class. Increasingly, the rich seem to inhabit a different country than the rest.

But America's new tribalism can be seen most distinctly in its politics. Nowadays the members of one tribe (calling themselves liberals, progressives and Democrats) hold sharply different views and values than the members of the other (conservatives, Tea Partiers and Republicans).

Each tribe has contrasting ideas about rights and freedoms (for liberals, reproductive rights and equal marriage rights; for conservatives, the right to own a gun and do what you want with your property).

Each has its own totems (social insurance versus smaller government) and taboos (cutting entitlements or raising taxes). Each has its own demons (the Tea Party and Ted Cruz; the Affordable Care Act and Barack Obama); its own version of truth (one believes in climate change and evolution; the other doesn't); and its own media that confirm its beliefs.

The tribes even look different. One is becoming blacker, browner and more feminine. The other, whiter and more male. (Only 2 percent of Mitt Romney's voters were African-American, for example.)

Each tribe is headed by rival warlords whose fighting has almost brought the national government in Washington to a halt. Increasingly, the two tribes live separately in their own regions — blue or red state, coastal or midsection, urban or rural — with state or local governments reflecting their contrasting values.

I'm not making a claim of moral equivalence. Personally, I think the Republican right has gone off the deep end, and if polls are to be believed a majority of Americans agree with me.

But the fact is, the two tribes are pulling America apart, often putting tribal goals over the national interest — which is not that different from what's happening in the rest of the world.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on iTunes, DVD and On Demand.

## Kathleen Parker

## A Photo-Op And Salvation?

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — This week's meeting between Pope Francis and President Obama holds great promise in a time of turmoil, though not necessarily in the ways some may hope.

In anticipation of the meeting, everyone seems to want a piece of the pope. The head of the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good has posted a petition on the White House's "We the People" website that makes a religious case for action on climate change.

Activists pushing for immigration reform are seeking an audience with Pope Francis the day before he meets with Obama. The president has said he wants to discuss his own agenda of tackling poverty and income inequality, the focus of the pope's ministry.

None of these issues can be characterized as hard sells to the leader of the Catholic Church, a man who has eschewed the papal palace for more modest accommodations and strolls the streets of Rome in sensible shoes; who has said we have a duty to protect God's creation; and who is, by the way, South American.

Thus, getting the pope to voice concern about poverty, immigration and environmental conservatism is not likely to require much sweat in the exercise of persuasive powers. Getting to how one accomplishes such things through policy isn't in the pope's wheelhouse. Getting people to examine their own souls is something else.

When the pope and the president look into each other's eyes, they may not see each other's souls, but we know that one of them will be focused intently on its discovery. What happens next is known to no one. But it is inconceivable that the president will not be moved in the presence of such grace. Equally likely is that Pope Francis will discover the pilgrim in Obama.

The rest of the world will see what it needs. In the U.S., both left and right have projected onto the pope the image they wish to see — that is, a reflection of themselves — rather than the man he truly is. My own observations are gleaned not from a crystal ball but from many conversations with people close to the Vatican and from each man's actions. From these we may infer the verities each holds dear.

We know our president well enough at this point, but our view of the pope has been only a partial image conveyed by commentaries and cameras. He is the pontiff who pats a stray boy's head when the child tries to keep the pope's attention to himself. He's the leader who wants the church to focus less harshly on the social issues that divide. He is the most unusual pope who organizes a fast and leads a peace vigil opposing U.S. military action in Syria.

And he is the one who asks, "Who am I to judge?" on the subject of gays.

He is beloved because he makes us feel good, pointing us in the direction of our better angels. But he is also human and we should not infer that because he is benevolent, he is also benign. This would be to misunderstand and underestimate him. In his daily homilies, Pope Francis talks frequently about the struggle between good and evil. He quotes from Robert Hugh Benson's 1907 novel "Lord of the World," a story of the anti-Christ.

His earthly concerns may be the least of these, but his primary business is souls.

He is also a cagey, worldly-wise Jesuit — keenly aware of human nature and motivations. In other words, he knows full well that he is the object of a presidential photo-op. But the man whose kind smile reminds us all that we were children once will play his part because, let's face it, he's the pope. His smile for the camera may be interpreted as pleasure with present company, but more likely it will be for the good it might do.

Beneath that kind countenance is a sharp mind well versed in the conflicts between his church and this president. For certain, he will have been thoroughly briefed on the several dozen lawsuits against the Obama administration related to the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate.

Obviously, not all Americans see the point in all the fuss about contraception, to the extent they care about it at all. The principles in dispute may seem esoteric, but at the end of the day, yes, the Pope is Catholic. And though he may bless our president and beam that knowing smile, his prayer for humanity's salvation has no political party affiliation and should be construed by none as such.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.

## ON THIS DATE

## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 26, the 85th day of 2014. There are 280 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On March 26, 1964, the musical play "Funny Girl," starring Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice, opened on Broadway.

**On this date:** In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In 1874, poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco.

In 1892, poet Walt Whitman died in Camden, N.J.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitan became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens.

In 1937, a 6-foot-tall statue of the cartoon character Popeye was unveiled during the Second Annual Spinach Festival in Crystal City, Texas.

In 1958, the U.S. Army launched America's third successful satellite, Explorer 3.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Baker v. Carr, gave federal courts the power to order reapportionment of states' legislative districts.

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In 1982, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington D.C., for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1989, the science-fiction TV series "Quantum Leap," starring Scott Bakula as an errant time-traveler, premiered on NBC.

In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who'd committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

**Ten years ago:** Phoenix Bishop Thomas O'Brien was sentenced to four years' probation and 1,000 hours of community service for a deadly hit-and-run that claimed the life of pedestrian Jim Reed. Actress Jan Sterling died in Woodland Hills, Calif., at age 82. Jan Berry, half of the surf music duo Jan and Dean, died at age 62.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama held an unprecedented Internet town hall from the White House as he made a direct sales pitch for his \$3.6 trillion budget. A 23,000-ton Norwegian-owned vessel with a crew of 27 was hijacked by pirates off the Somali coastline. (The *Bow Asir* was released two weeks later.) A Soyuz capsule carrying a Russian-American crew and U.S. billionaire space tourist Charles Simonyi blasted off for the international space station. All-Star

shortstop Miguel Tejada received a sentence of a year's probation for misleading Congress about an ex-teammate's use of performance-enhancing drugs. Evan Lysacek became the first American since Todd Eldredge in 1996 to win the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championship, held in Los Angeles.

**One year ago:** A new study from the Society of Actuaries said that insurance companies would have to pay out an average of 32 percent more for medical claims under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. President Obama named veteran Secret Service agent Julia Pierson as the agency's first female director. Italy's top criminal court overturned the acquittal of American Amanda Knox in the grisly murder of British roommate Meredith Kercher and ordered Knox to stand trial again. (In Jan. 2014, an appeals court upheld the murder conviction of Knox, who said she would never willingly return to Italy to face her 28 1/2-year prison sentence.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Conductor-composer Pierre Boulez is 89. Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 84. Actor-director Leonard Nimoy is 83. Actor Alan Arkin is 80. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is 79. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi is 74. Actor James Caan is 74. Author Erica Jong is 72. Journalist Bob Woodward is 71. Singer Diana Ross is 70. Actor Johnny Crawford is 68. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 66. Singer and TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 65. Actor Ernest Thomas is 65. Comedian Martin Short is 64. Country singer Ronnie McDowell is 64. Movie composer Alan Silvestri is 64. Rock musician Monte Yoho is 62. Radio talk show host Curtis Sliwa is 60. Country singer Dean Dillon is 59. Country singer Charly McClain is 58. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 57. Actress Ellia English is 55. Actress Jennifer Grey is 54. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen is 54. Actor Billy Warlock is 53. Actor Eric Allan Kramer is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer John Stockton is 52. Actor Michael Imperioli is 48. Rock musician James Iha is 46. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 46. Actress Leslie Mann is 42. Actor T.R. Knight is 41. Rapper Juvenile is 39. Actress Amy Smart is 38. Actress Bianca Kajlich is 37. Actress Keira Knightley is 29. Rapper J-Kwon is 28. Actress Carly Chaikin is 24.

**Thought for Today:** "Our whole life is an attempt to discover when our spontaneity is whimsical, sentimental irresponsibility and when it is a valid expression of our deepest desires and values." — Helen Merrell Lynd, American sociologist and author (1896-1982).

## FROM THE BIBLE

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10 NIV. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

## YOUR LETTERS

## Refreshing Change Of Pace

## Julie Perakslis, Yankton

I took my 13-year-old daughter to see Rep. Kristi Noem speak at a luncheon sponsored by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce on March 19. I am very impressed by Rep. Noem and proud that South Dakota gets to claim her as our lone representative to Congress.

I have been so discouraged by the personal attacks and posturing I so often see in the media by our public servants from all political parties. I want my children to be proud of their government and to feel confident that the people they are electing to serve their interests are doing

just that — serving the interests of their constituency; NOT serving the interests of their own campaigns, or their own future job prospects, or their donors, or their own/party political power or ideological agenda. For the first time in a very long time I heard a compassionate, intelligent, knowledgeable, dedicated, concerned and actively engaged public servant—not a politician, a real public servant.

Ms. Noem clearly and concisely explained the issues she is working on and why they are important to her and to her constituents. She explained, without blame or judgment, what is working and what is not working in our political system that leads to some of these terrible

breakdowns in progress.

Ms. Noem took questions from the audience (not prescribed). The topics were diverse and she answered each question honestly, directly and most importantly with a clear understanding and knowledge of the issue in question. Ms. Noem did not make a single personal attack on any member of any political party, for which I am deeply grateful and honestly more than a little impressed!

Thank you, Ms. Noem, for teaching my daughter she is represented by someone who is solution-oriented, fair-minded and focused on ensuring a bright future for her and all the other people in South Dakota.