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# Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 057

August 12, 2013

## Greetings!

I hope this finds you well.

I recently returned from Atlanta after a whirl-wind trip that kept me on my toes, and then I found myself delivering several programs to various corporate audiences and a speech to a patriotic group in Southern California.

But I managed to bang out this edition of *Uncommon Sense* and I hope you find value in this issue.



A hearty welcome to the newest subscribers! Welcome aboard.

OK, let's get started.

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood

## Self-Development

### A Sure-Fire Way to Derail Your Career

It's not enough to be "good" at your job. Being competent and effective is necessary but insufficient.

Just last Friday at a growing firm in Southern California, a decision was made to cut someone loose. The person who was fired from her job ended up being the office manager.

In actuality, the title of "office manager" is not quite accurate, although that is how she described her position to others. She was more like a receptionist who also handled various other logistical duties for the entire office that staffed about 100 people.

She had been at that position for a number of years. She was loyal to the company. She cared about its progress. She was a hard worker. And she performed her job admirably.

But she always struck me as having a kind of belligerent personality. She always came across as rather curt in her interactions with others. She seemed kind of bossy, and slightly mean-spirited. In short, she was unpleasant to work with, and I tended to avoid her. From what I could tell, I was not alone in that assessment.



I have no absolute proof that her poor social skills contributed to her being fired, as I was not privy to any of the discussions that led to her dismissal. Yet it is difficult to escape the conclusion that her lack of charm, her lack of people skills, had at least some bearing on the decision that it be her - and not someone else - that gets the axe.

And the surprising thing is that she was surprised she was let go. I had occasion to cross paths with her just before she exited the building for the final time. As we chatted, it became apparent that she was oblivious to the idea that she was, frankly, unlikeable and hard to get along with.

Being gracious and having a pleasing personality is something that can be acquired. It doesn't require reading books like [\*How to Win Friends and Influence People\*](#) (although there's nothing wrong with doing so.) It does require a great amount of self-awareness, something that often seems to be in short supply. It also involves making a decision to be kind, gracious, and respectful to others. It requires basic aspects of social etiquette such as not interrupting others, demonstrating deference, complimenting where appropriate, and having a sense of humor.

The person who both produces results for his or her employer, and is pleasant to be around, does much to insulate him/herself from ending up on the chopping block.

## The Elephant in the Room The Unspoken Gay Agenda Unmasked

A few months ago I was in the audience of a sort of red-carpet affair at a local high school. The event was prom night for the seniors of that school, and before those seniors boarded the many busses that would take them to their destination, the school had all of the students literally walk a red-carpet stationed just outside the multi-purpose room, as a couple of MCs announced the names of the students. Many of the young men were in suits and ties, some in tuxes, many wearing tennis shoes. The women were wearing stunning-looking evening gowns for the most part. The majority of the students were announced as couples, with the male leading the female across the plaza towards the bus area. Some walked alone as individuals, apparently without a date, and some walked in groups, usually 3 or 4 females going as friends. Parents and other family members and friends were sitting in a kind of amphitheater and cheering for their son or daughter as they paraded by.

It was interesting to note which couple received the loudest cheer. The loudest cheer did *not* go to the Homecoming Queen, or the star athlete, or the senior class president, or the most popular guy or gal on campus.

The loudest cheer -- by far -- coming from the crowd was reserved for two effeminate-looking boys who walked across the promenade together hand-in-hand, going not as pals, but as gay lovers. The crowd around me erupted in wild and prolonged cheering that seemed to last 3 or 4 times as long as it's nearest competitor.

Mind you, it is doubtful that no more than 7 or 8 people in that audience even knew those two boys. But they knew they were homosexuals, and that is all they had to know. The majority of that audience, which numbered about 300, was making a statement: *We are more in favor of gay couples than we are of straight couples and thus, we reserve our highest expressions of approval for them.*

Thus, the relentlessness of the gay agenda has proven highly successful over the years. What was once viewed

as strange, repulsive, and abnormal, is now seen by many as lovely, desirable, and something worth striving for. The combination of ceaseless claims of victimization from hate-crimes and bullying, combined with a fierce radicalism while attempting to intimidate and even destroy the lives and livelihoods of anyone who dares express something less than total support of their agenda, along with the incessant cries of tolerance and the relentless name-calling ("homophobe") of those who have the temerity to question the morality of homosexuality has worked beautifully for the LGBT juggernaut.

It is important to examine just what it is that is actually being celebrated.

Just how radical does the gay agenda go? Has anyone stopped to ponder what are the goals and ambitions of some of its more militant and extremist leaders?

Would it surprise any of those cheering at the Senior Prom event that there are voices within the gay community whose goal is the absolute and total obliteration of the institution of marriage itself? While rarely articulated openly, it is ominous to contemplate just how Left of center the LGBT community is at its core.

Allow me to introduce you to Ms. Masha Gessen of Australia (seen to the right). Ms. Gessen is a lesbian who is striking in terms of her candor, yet eye-opening in terms of her stated goals. As a keynote speaker at last year's [Sydney Writer's Festival](#) on May 19th of 2012, Ms. Gessen said on



behalf of her LGBT community: "It's a no-brainer that we should have the right to marry. But I also think, equally, that it's a no-brainer that the institution of marriage should not exist. So, that causes my brain some trouble. . ." And I heartily concur: her brain does have much floating around in it that could only be described as trouble.

But she goes on: ". . . and part of why it causes me trouble is because fighting for gay marriage generally involves lying about what we're going to do with marriage when we get there. You know, because we lie that the institution of marriage is not going to change. That is a lie. The

institution of marriage is going to change and it should change, and again, I don't think it should exist."

Now, lest you suspect that she is one crack-pot voice that really doesn't have much pull in the gay constituency that is sweeping across both America and [the world at large](#), I would alert you to how the crowd reacted in the audience she was addressing. The moment Ms. Gessen uttered the words ". . . the institution of marriage should not exist," they exploded in applause. Her ideas are not considered radical to the rest of the gay and Leftist community she was addressing. They consider her ideas both heroic and wonderful - the destruction of marriage as an institution is truly their supreme objective.

The institution of the family, which is the basic unit of civilized society, is in the cross-hairs of Leftist leaders the world over. God forbid if they are allowed to persuade the populace of the validity of their perverse ideology.

Normally my writings in this column are *descriptive* rather *prescriptive*. My usual approach is to find something taking place in the world that are troubling and simply put it out there. But I think it's high time I put on the prescriptive gloves for a moment, and share with Americans and others who believe in decency, dignity, and traditional values a handful of recommendations that may prove useful when engaging those who wish to destroy the institution of marriage.

First, we have to get clear on right and wrong, on what is moral and what is immoral.

Second, we have to figure out how to explain our positions in clear language that is void of hyperbole, misrepresentation, and mean-spiritedness. We must avoid extreme rhetoric. We can leave such tactics to our opponents.

Third, we have to courageously speak out. We cannot be shy or retreating. We must engage those who disagree with us on our turf and fight the fight our way, not their way. And we have to embrace the reality that not every gay person -- some of whom are among my subscribers to *Uncommon Sense* -- entertain such Leftist or radical positions. They may prove to be some of our strongest allies.

It is entirely possible (and, I maintain, necessary) to

combine our courteous approach with bold courage, to combine good manners with razor-sharp logic. There are occasions where our opponents in the Great Conversation of civilization's moral standards must be confronted strongly and decisively, albeit civilly, primarily by example, but also by reasoned debate, and persuasive dialogue. We have to have the kind of bold courage to state our views candidly and with persuasion and elegance, as was done in a recent piece by Frank Kacer published in the [\*Washington Times\*](#).

This can't be ignored or America will pay a heavy price.

### **From Ara's Journal**

## **An Open Letter to the Mayor of San Diego**

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Believe it or not, I actually have a fair amount of sympathy for you. That sympathy balances out the contempt I feel for the way you have conducted yourself towards a wide variety of women who have crossed paths with you over the years. It seems the only positive thing I can say about your recent conduct is that at least you were not married at the time these sordid displays took place. I do not believe your exploits, deplorable though they have been, will bring severe damage to your political party (Democrat) or the religious heritage you were raised in (Judaism). But they do mar your own reputation in severe ways, and at age 70, it may be extraordinarily difficult to undue the damage.



It is perfectly understandable that you would seek female companionship. That is normal and healthy, and no one faults you for it. The problem is how you went about it. The complaints of the dozen or so women who have come forward lead one to believe two things about you:

- 1) As your opening advances to these women were about instant intimacy, one cannot escape the conclusion that you tend to see women as objects and not as people.
- 2) You seem to lack a fundamental sense of

judgment and self-control.

This is not a combination of attributes the people of San Diego want in their Mayor. That is why the entire City Council - 100% of them - want you to step down as Mayor. And that, Mr. Filner, would be the honorable thing to do.

Because what we have here on display is a public servant who lacks virtue.

Virtue is a special combination of moral rectitude, wisdom, faithfulness to duty, and an ability to control one's appetites and passions. One of our Founding Fathers, John Adams, said that "public virtue cannot exist in a nation without private, and public virtue is the only foundation of republics." In your case, you have used your positions of power over the years to try to advance a private agenda of sexual gratification. This is contrary to the whole notion of virtue, where public servants are expected to subordinate their personal desires and ambitions in order to advance the public good.

Your apparent habit of coming on to a wide variety of women - many of whom attracted you solely because they represented a potential tryst - suggests that your mind is bent on such maneuvers more than on doing the job you were elected to do, and the bullying manner in which you approached many of these women displays a lapse of judgment and a level of buffoonery that disqualifies you to continue to serve in such capacity.

I never dreamed I would find myself agreeing with someone like Nancy Pelosi, but I have to concur with her assessment that you appear oblivious to the significance and scope of your misdeeds, hence your attempt to clear it up with two quick weeks of what you call "therapy" - as if that would solve many years of willful misconduct.

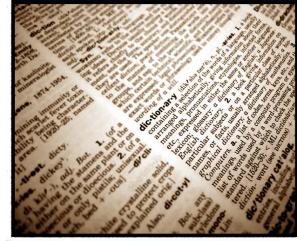
Please spare the people of San Diego the headache of having to forcibly oust you from office. Show us that you have the capacity to be accountable, and resign. Then take some time to work on you. You can change if you have the necessary determination and the stamina to stick with it.

As hard as it may be, relinquishing your post as Mayor of San Diego could put you on a new path of developing real virtue that could make the remainder of your life one of the great success stories of public service.

## Roil

### Building Your Power of Expression

Roil, v



**Pronunciation:** roil

#### **Meaning:**

This word is used in a variety of ways. I prefer the figurative usage which has to do with something that is turbulent or unstable or unsettling. Anything that agitates or that is disturbing or disquieting could be said to roil something or someone.

#### **Usage:**

- *His voice is so obnoxious that hearing it even for a moment roils my emotions.*
- *The wind blew so fiercely towards us that the very clouds seem to roil across the sky in shapeless patterns.*
- *Please do not bring that up in the meeting; doing so will create a disruptive, roiling mess.*

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New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should have been sent out to you already. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email ([ara@aranorwood.com](mailto:ara@aranorwood.com)).

For more information on my work, follow me on Twitter ("Ara Norwood"), or on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: [www.aranorwood.com](http://www.aranorwood.com)

**Sincerely,**

Ara Norwood  
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