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Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 063

November 11, 2013

Greetings!

Today is Veteran's Day. All of us living in these United States are the recipients of good fortune brought about by the men and women of the Armed Forces who protect our borders and enable us to enjoy the fruits of this wonderful republic. We owe them far more than we can ever repay them.

I have, once again, attempted to provide some value as well as some thought-provoking information in this issue of *Uncommon Sense*. Please do me the favor of reposting to your favorite social media site or forward to a friend. And thanks for your continued support.

OK, let's get started.

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood

Self-Development

My Favorite iPhone Apps

We now live in world where mobile devices are the latest craze. That will go away some day, just as 8-track tapes had their day, and the horse and buggy was at one time in the past considered a normative mode of transportation.

But while the iPhone and other competitive products are among us, it makes sense to consider the apps that we utilize in such devices. Apps (short for applications) are the mobile equivalent of software to a personal computer. Apps are what make the mobile device functional. Apps

are the arrows in the quiver of today's productivity-conscious knowledge workers, and the more apps you possess that are relevant, the more productive you can be.



People sometimes ask me what apps I use to stay productive. I will talk in terms of the iPhone since that is the device I use and allow devotees of Blackberry or the Android system, or any other competing product out there to figure out how to apply this content to those platforms.

The User Interface is a very important element. The UI is simply the layout of your iPhone. Where you place the various tools is really up to you. It is important to note that you can drag them to different locations on your screen, and on the iPhone you can scroll the entire block of apps that are there, dragging them off the face of your iPhone screen, and revealing a whole new set of apps. I myself have 3 "pages" as it were of apps.

Now here comes the fun part. You can actually create "folders" which you label any way you want, into which you drag various apps that fall under the rubric of that label. For instance, I have folders labeled "Productivity," "Games," "Social Networking," "Utilities," "Music," "Finance," and "News."

Some of the apps I have placed in these various folders came loaded on my iPhone to begin with, and others I have downloaded from the App Store. In my Productivity Folder, I have an app called "Reminders" which is simply a checklist or To-Do List. I also store my Voice Memos app, and a Translate App which lets me translate anything from one language to more than 70 other languages. Another app I keep in my Productivity Folder is a wonderful app from Microsoft called Office Mobile, which enables me to download any Microsoft document from my computer to my iPhone - Word, Excel, PowerPoint. This one isn't free, but the \$10/month I pay more than makes up for itself in terms of productivity gains. Another app I keep here is called Passbook (comes with the iPhone) which is a holding bin for things like loyalty cards, retail coupons, movie tickets, and boarding passes.

In my Social Networking folder, I have a Facebook App, a Facebook Messenger App (which makes it easy to send messages back and forth to your Facebook Friends), a Constant Contact app, a YouTube app, a LinkedIn app, plus apps for both Skype and Twitter.

Here is what I keep in what I have labeled my Utilities folder: a calculator, a compass, a weather app, and a maps app, all of which came with the iPhone. In addition, I downloaded the following free apps from the app store:

- Password Wallet which stores all my passwords and also all the documentation of everything I keep in my wallet (passport information, frequent flier accounts, insurance card info, credit card info, etc.)
- A Conversion Tool which enables me to convert any unit into any unit (and we're talking about units that I've never even heard of before - there are hundreds of them!)
- Waze, which is simply one of the finest navigation tools out there.
- A Flashlight app (which comes in handy quite often.)
- A CamScanner which turns my iPhone into a scanner, enabling me to crop and scan documents with crystal clarity.
- QR Reader, a great app for scanning QR Codes, which takes you right to the website source those codes are linked to. I also have a standard Bar Code scanner app called ShopSavvy which is also useful.
- An app called SignEasy which enables me to use my own finger as a stylus to sign my name to any document that comes to me, then send the signed documents back to their source.
- An hour glass timer called Sand Timer which I use when someone tells me to call them back after a certain number of minutes have elapsed. A sound of my choice (I can choose up to 30, or I can choose no sound) alerts me when the time has elapsed so my precision in calling someone back is quite keen.
- Groupon: a wonderful app that points me in the right direction of which retailers in my area are offering which products for a substantial discount. It's great to save money!

These represent some of the apps I currently use, but I have no allusions that I even know about all the apps I

could be using. If you want to browse someone else's list of 80 apps for the iPhone, [click here](#). You might find something useful.

What about you? What cool apps do you recommend? Write to me and tell me about them and I may well talk about them in a future issue of *Uncommon Sense*.

The Elephant In The Room Leftist Poison Runs Rampant and Unchecked at Brown University

Last month a very predictable thing took place at Brown University.

A conservative was invited to speak there. (That is *not* the predictable thing that took place. In fact, inviting a conservative to give a guest lecture at an Ivy League University is about as common as winning the lottery *twice in the same week*.)

What was predictable is that the Left-wing anarchists that make up a portion of the student body at Brown University shouted down New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, the invited guest. Kelly is a conservative who has

found a way to radically reduce crime in his city using a program called "stop and frisk." The program has had a profoundly successful track record at



reducing crime statistics, most notably those that involve blacks murdering blacks. But to left wing students at Brown who don't stop to consider such pragmatism, the policy smacks of racism and therefore, in their minds, Mr. Kelly is not allowed to exercise his right of free speech and deliver the lecture he was invited to give.

What else was predictable can best be described with the following hypothetical scenario.

Had the administration at Brown University hired me as a consultant three days before the Ray Kelly speech was to take place, and asked me what I believed the likely outcome would have been, I would have told them that

Kelly will, without question, be shouted down by leftist student protesters who will not tolerate conservative ideas being heard at their university, and that if university officials fail to prepare for such disruptions, Kelly will be unable to deliver the speech he was invited to deliver. I would have urged the university officials to give the protestors a place to stage their protest outside, away from the auditorium. Further, I would have advised that university officials have a strong security presence on hand, and specifically to have both uniformed and plain clothes agents planted throughout the auditorium where Kelly is to speak, and to be prepared to apprehend, remove, and arrest any and all protesters who disrupt the speech. Finally, I would have advised the administration that if they are not willing to implement these recommendations, they should contact Mr. Kelly and retract their invitation.

What is fascinating about this whole sordid mess is the utter naiveté of the Brown University administration following the Kelly incident. Brown's new president, Christina Paxson, seems truly befuddled and confused that this unseemly display of intolerance on the part of students took place at all, and, as a true-blue bureaucrat, has summoned a committee to look into the matter.

At least [one writer](#), desperate to paint a false picture that Brown University is actually *not* intolerant of opposing views, does so with the curious but misleading argument that since only 13% of students polled agreed with the anarchists, meaning that 87% did not agree that Kelly should have been shouted down, that proves there is no problem with free speech at Brown University. All that is needed to refute such convoluted and muddled thinking is to ask: *What was the end result of the Kelly lecture? In other words, who won - the 87% or the 13%?* The university allowed the 13% to win, and now act surprised and shocked that such an outcome took place.

And the liberal left that run such institutions are routinely blindsided by this one-sided treatment inside the American university today: conservative students almost never treat those they disagree with using such totalitarian measures; leftist students almost never *refrain* from doing so to their conservative counterparts - that is, on the rare occasions when a conservative is even invited. And liberal administrators continue to claim surprise at the history that repeats itself with startling consistency.

Another committee, anyone?

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

From Ara's Journal

What Is Wisdom?

Presumably, those who have a penchant for wisdom do not need to ask the question, *What is wisdom?*

Truth be told, I'm not sure I know how to define it. But I'll struggle anyway in an attempt to explain it, as I think I know it when I see it.



A person who has a talent for wisdom strikes me as one who possesses a good deal of judgment and perspective, born of experience. I do not think of the term as being synonymous with being learned, especially not in a formal sense of obtaining degrees. I say that because I have interacted with all sorts of people who had never earned any formal degrees in a university setting yet who struck me as quite wise. Conversely, I have met some academicians who were utterly brilliant in their field, yet quite unwise in a general sense.

Also, I should note that I have crossed paths with individuals who I would not necessarily describe as wise in an overall sense, but who on isolated occasions displayed profound wisdom. That tells me that wisdom is not necessarily an all-or-nothing proposition, where you either have it or you don't. Any person could, potentially, display high levels of wisdom at any moment without necessarily being worthy of the label "wise" as a regular part of their persona.

A few of the more interesting attributes about wisdom that strike me as noteworthy include:

- Wisdom has a strong moral component to it. There is an ethical dimension. It's generally displayed in a context of goodness, not evil, and not even value-neutral.
- Wisdom often seems to involve self-control, sacrifice, and restraint. There is a temperance and a kind of discipline that seems to accompany much of what passes for wisdom.

- Wisdom seems to be in short supply.
- There is great wisdom found in both philosophical and religious circles. The writings of Plato, Aristotle, and other great philosophers seem to have much that could fall within the realm of wisdom. In the case of religion, the Old Testament books (particularly Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job) betray a great deal of real wisdom. Likewise, religious figures such as Thomas Aquinas, Joseph Smith, Maimonides, St. Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Gandhi, and, of course, Jesus Christ stand out as luminaries of depth and wisdom.
- Wisdom can be acquired in a wide variety of ways (i.e., reading the right books, observing others who possess wisdom, pondering deeply, learning from one's - and others' - mistakes, maintaining meekness and humility and an awareness of the paucity of knowledge and understanding we possess.) But I think wisdom can also be possessed over time by simply desiring it and making its acquisition a constant quest.

I believe the more wisdom more of us acquire, the more likely this world will avoid unnecessary despair.

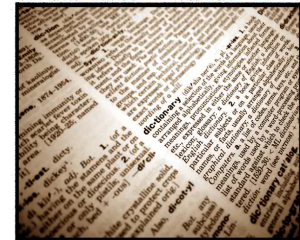
The World of Words

Proclivity

Building Your Power of Expression

Proclivity, n

Pronunciation: prō'klivətē



Meaning: A proclivity is a tendency towards something. Whenever you find you have a predisposition to say or do something a certain way, it could be said you have a proclivity in that direction. Think of it as an inclination.

Usage:

- *Let's hire him! He has a proclivity for working hard.*
- *Given your proclivity for elegant culinary choices, I'll let you decide where we dine.*
- *The report concludes in a way that hardly matches my own political proclivity.*

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).

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

Sincerely,

Ara Norwood
Leadership Development Systems