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# Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 074

April 30, 2014

## Greetings!

Truthfully, this intro has to be quite short. I've got a squirmy 10-month old on my lap as I write this, plus the month is almost out and I must not fail to produce my second issue of *Uncommon Sense* in April.

I admit I get a little cheeky in this issue, but for those of you who know me well, that's par for the course. I hope you are as instructed as you are amused.

As always, thanks for being a faithful reader and supporter of *Uncommon Sense*.

OK, let's get started.

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood



## Self-Development

### The 7th Deadly Sin of Leadership: Failure to Leave a Legacy

Earlier this week I was asked by an impressive and enterprising young man if I would be able and willing to mentor him. While my circumstances at present prevent me from doing so in any serious or prolonged manner, I am flattered to have been asked. The question got me thinking about mentoring in general and the people that have mentored me in years past.

It dawns on me that mentoring really involves a significant relationship and a level of commitment that should not be entered into carelessly. Mentors need to understand that to be effective, they must carve out adequate and regular segments of time to give the necessary attention to those they mentor. Mentoring is not a fly-by-night proposition. And that insight leads me to a comment about leadership.

One of the most overlooked aspects of leadership concerns that which leaders leave behind when they are no longer on the scene.

Truly great leaders have an intuitive grasp that a significant part of their work involves preparing the next generation of leaders to lead. Good leaders lead effectively. Great leaders lead effectively and also leave a legacy.

Leaving a leadership vacuum is something forward-thinking leaders simply cannot



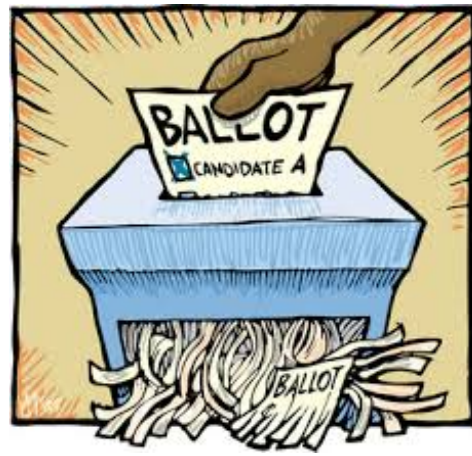
countenance, and so they spend a portion of their time grooming someone, sometimes several people, to resume the leadership reigns when the time is right. Great leaders do this because they are not selfish and they know that leadership does not begin and end with themselves.

If you are a leader, devote yourself to mentoring and grooming a person within your sphere of influence to become a leader in their own right. Teach them to not be too dependent on you, but give them the tools and the opportunities to practice the high art of leadership. Doing so will ensure leadership continuity when you are gone. And your example and contributions will be remembered and treasured.

## **The Elephant In The Room** **Leftist DNA**

Too many people out there appear oblivious to the intolerance inherent in those who have a history of demanding tolerance. In the previous issue of Uncommon Sense, I detailed the ousting of Brendan Eich from the CEO post at Mozilla due to his having donated to California's

Proposition 8 back in 2008, which would have defined marriage the way marriage has always been defined -- as a male/female union. Even with that travesty before our eyes, some people, virtually all Left-of-center, insist that nothing was done in that instance that wasn't good and proper.



Only those on the Left seem blinded to what the Left is actually about: destroying those who hold differing views, forcing conformity to their secular vision, persecuting those who dare to differ, etc. Granted, Leftism often does things that are harmful and even foolish, but in this column I am going to zero in on several concrete examples of how the Left uses their means to actually punish and destroy their opponents, not merely express disagreement with them.

Three years ago, in April 2011, Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant used the word "faggot" towards a referee during a game. The ref in question is not gay. Mr. Bryant was incensed by what he felt was a bad call on the part of the ref, and in the heat of the moment, let loose with the offending word. The Leftist response to this was to pressure the NBA to impose the largest monetary fine possible towards an individual player -- \$100,000. The NBA caved and Mr. Bryant was taught an expensive lesson: use any word you wish when venting towards a ref, provided the word is in no way derogatory towards homosexuals, otherwise prepare to pay the steepest price imaginable. In addition to the monetary fine, the Lakers had to produce a video committing the team to a position of acceptance of all types of ideologies as a PR gesture. Not to be outdone, when NBA basketball player Roy Hibbert, announced during a press conference that he was not gay (using the slang phrase "no homo" in a humorous vein to mean something he had just said should not be construed to mean he is gay) the outcry by Leftist activists resulted in Hibbert being fined \$75,000 - again, not for saying disparaging things against gays, but for merely stating that he himself was not gay. Had he announced he was gay he would likely have received a phone call of congratulations from the President of the United States, as fellow NBA player Jason Collins received when he made the same announcement. *The message is clear: in the*

***NBA, which has been taken over by the Left, if you say anything about the Leftist ideology known as homosexuality this is not glowing in its praise, you will face severe penalties. You don't have to be anti-gay; just making it known that you are not pro-gay is enough to incur Leftist wrath which is substantive and savage.***

A similar story involves a fellow I know quite well (whom I will call Peter) was accepted to Pepperdine University and given a scholarship to pursue a graduate degree in business. The particular program was not the typical MBA track, but was focused on organizational development and was run almost exclusively by Leftist professors who instructed the students that they were in a safe environment and they were thus expected to honestly and openly share their views about a whole host of issues with absolute candor. Finding himself in a strange, touchy-feely session at a remote off-site resort some 6 hours north of the campus, where everyone was expected to bare their souls and share their deepest, darkest secrets to total strangers, with a large number of students openly breaking down and crying as they shared their traumas and phobias of the past, Peter wondered whether he had accidentally ventured into a program on Behavioral Psychology. Out of the blue, he was asked, point blank, for his own personal views on homosexuality. He replied that he considered homosexuality immoral and a perversion. A female student in the group immediately announced that she was a lesbian, and then proceeded to launch an openly hostile campaign to have Peter expelled from the program. She succeeded. Peter lost his scholarship and was booted out of graduate school at Pepperdine for answering a question he was instructed to answer honestly. ***Leftism has taken over even Christian-based universities such as Pepperdine, and students who dare to hold to non-secular, non-Leftist views are to be stripped of their scholarship and stripped of their enrollment in degree programs they were otherwise deemed worthy candidates for.***

Lest some of my readers missed it, two issues ago in the "From Ara's Journal" column, I described how a friend of more than 30 years, MJ, summarily ended our friendship for one simple reason: she realized I held conservative views, and, being a Leftist, she simply could not continue the friendship. This is not unique. A colleague of mine whom I call "Judith" demonstrated the same unwillingness to tolerate so much as a conversation on such matters, and

ended the relationship as well once my conservative stance became apparent. The same with another life-long friend named Karen. In fact, I cannot come up with a single Leftist I've encountered who was capable of sustaining a conversation of differences without imploding in a rant of obscenities or otherwise taking their marbles and going home. ***The lesson is unmistakable: the average person Left-of-center may have the deepest friendship with another person, until the Leftist learns that otherwise lovely human being is a conservative, at which point the relationship is irredeemable to the Leftist.***

In another example of Leftist intolerance, a gay man by the name of Antonio Darden, who is a hair stylist in New Mexico, refused to grant an appointment to the Governor of New Mexico, Susana Martinez, after she committed the unforgiveable crime of daring to state that she supports the traditional ideal of marriage as being a union between one man and one woman. Not content to simply deny Governor Martinez his services, Mr. Darden also left harassing messages in Governor Martinez's voice mail system, and threatened to persuade other gay people to withhold their services from the Governor. ***In the mind of Leftist activists such as Antonio Darden, unless you adopt their radical views, you should be harmed in very substantial ways - denied hair appointments, denied a seat at a table in a restaurant, denied gardening or pool cleaning services, denied pet grooming services, denied massage therapy, denied an appointment with a dentist, etc.***

Totally in harmony with the above of Leftist intolerance was the temporary cancellation of the very popular television program Duck Dynasty when it was learned that one of the stars of the show expressed the view that marriage is between a man and a woman. Likewise, the treatment that boxer Manny Pacquiao received when he stated that he believes in the traditional definition of marriage. It did not matter to the Left that Mr. Pacquiao made it clear he loves all people, including those in the gay community. Since he would not embrace their desires to redefine the institution of marriage, he was personally targeted by the Left and banned from setting foot on a popular Los Angeles shopping center known as The Grove. That bears repeating: for the crime of believing in a definition of marriage that has been around from time immemorial, Manny Pacquiao is not allowed to spend his money at The



Grove or even set foot on their property. (I wonder why the Leftist management team at The Grove does not simply put up a sign banning all practicing Jews, Christians, and Muslims from setting foot on their property.) Further, the Leftist activist group known as Gay Marriage USA began a petition to have Nike drop their sponsorship of Mr. Pacquiao. ***Again, to the Left, it is not enough to express disagreement or even disdain for such traditional views; holders of these traditional views must be silenced, punished, and destroyed. Do you see a pattern here?***

And then there is the Leftist tendency to force, by legal fiat, those who wish not to provide services based on religious grounds. **Thus, Elaine Huguenin who runs Elane Photography in Albuquerque was forced, by legal mandate,** to photograph the same-sex wedding of Vanessa Willock and Misti Collinsworth, even though doing so was a violation of the religious convictions of Ms. Huguenin. In a similar story I reported on earlier, Melissa Klein, co-owner of a Portland, Oregon bakery, opted not to provide her wedding cake services for a same-sex wedding due to her deeply-held Christian beliefs. The Leftist response was fierce and dramatic: nonstop picketing outside the bakery, threats to vendors who delivered supplies to the bakery, death threats to the children of the owners, and the eventual shutting down of the retail shop. In addition, a lawsuit was levied against the owners with the outcome being that they must renounce their Christian ideals on this matter or be hit with fines in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, which will effectively bankrupt them. ***The lesson is clear: hold beliefs that clash with Leftist beliefs and you will have to forfeit either your livelihood or your deepest ideals.***

Recently 110,000 people signed a petition delivered to the Washington Post. The petition demanded that anyone who writes articles which question global warming should not be published. ***Again, notice the Leftist tendency to squelch dissent and control thought.***

Interesting to note that the one American institution that has historically been known as a haven of free expression has, ever since it was taken over by the Left, become a Gulag that destroys inquiry and demands conformity to one way of thinking. I am, of course, speaking of the American University. Thus, the rare time a conservative such as Condoleezza Rice is invited to speak at a major university (Rutgers), the Leftist students froth at the

mouth and attempt to have the invitation reversed. Ayaan Hirsi Ali - no advocate for religion (as she's an atheist) - is singled out to receive an honorary doctorate from Brandeis University, until the Left, in an unholy alliance with an Islamic PR group with terrorist sympathies, bullies the university's president to withdraw the honor. Similarly, last fall, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, who was invited to give a speech at Brown University, was shouted down by Leftist students bent on mayhem. Kelly had to leave the stage without finishing his speech and University officials and security did nothing to put a stop to the anarchy of the Leftist students. ***The message is clear: if you represent traditional American (i.e., Conservative) values and ideal, you are to be silenced and booed off the stage, not debated, listened to, or considered.***

All of this suggests a strange but willful attack on basic freedoms, usually by those who claim they themselves are the victims.

Now there is a word for such tendencies as today's secular Left in America governs themselves by. I have not used that word in this article, at least, not directly, but he who has ears to hear and eyes to perceive can probably readily figure it out.

## **Shameless Plug** **Successful Speech Given to Santa Monica Rotary**

It was my great honor recently to speak to an audience of over 100 professional men and women.

Members of the Santa Monica Rotary Club met at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades on April 11th to hear my presentation titled "Six Great Men" which is an overview of the Founding Fathers (Franklin, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton.)



It was a splendid venue with a great buffet luncheon

served, and a wonderful and attentive group of people who are dedicated to service and the improvement of society. Chapter President Nat Trives ran a very well organized meeting, and I was honored to have met some many fine individuals.



Meeting Chapter President Nat Trives

## From Ara's Journal The Broken Moral Compass

A compass, as we all know, is a wonderful invention. This device has for centuries provided guidance to mariners and other travelers, enabling them to get their bearings as the spindle points north.



In an analogous way, "True North" (or, if you prefer, "Magnetic North") is symbolic of reality, of truth, of goodness, of the right path. As most people are theists, we could think of True North as a metaphor for God if we so chose. Others have coined the term moral compass to describe having good values and a virtuous temperament.

We sometimes hear of individuals who are said to have a "broken moral compass." What this usually means is that the person in question leaves something to be desired in the area of ethics and morality.

Granted, all of us fall short to one degree or another, (as there is only One person who ever walked this earth whose moral compass was working to perfection each and every moment of His life) and it is true that we as individuals may shine at one moment and may behave deplorably at another moment. Any given snapshot in time may not represent the overall picture of who we are.

But a person who is said to have a broken moral compass is a person who's conscience is marred by poor choices. This person has a flawed character, a bad heart. This is a person who, more often than not, behaves immorally and



recklessly. They might show occasional signs of goodness, but the typical default position for such persons is one where their character is blemished and defective.

The good news is that while old habits die hard, they can die if we choose to deprive them of life. A broken moral compass can be repaired. It's not easy, but it is possible. It takes a serious commitment, and a willingness to try again when setbacks occur.

Repairing a broken moral compass is a choice.

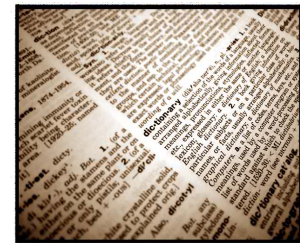
## The World of Words

### Glean

#### Building Your Power of Expression

Glean, v.

Pronunciation: glēn



**Meaning:** When you glean something, you essentially extract information or meaning from some source (a speech you listened to, a conversation you overheard or participated in, a book you read, etc.) To glean is to acquire, gradually, the essence or significance or gist of the matter.

#### Usage:

- *The information I provided in my report was gleaned from press clippings.*
- *If you listen carefully to his syntax, you might glean a hint of sarcasm and a sense of irony in his outlook.*
- *What did you glean from the three-day convention you attended in Boston?*

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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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