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Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 076

June 30, 2014

Greetings!

Well, I truly have never been busier in my entire professional life. No exaggeration.

In fact, although the last issue of Uncommon Sense came out on my birthday on June 10th, I never even took the time to thank the dozens of people who sent their well-wishes on Facebook or similar forums. Shame on me.



That's the challenge of allowing oneself to get too busy. On the other hand, I am in the midst of some incredible projects with some incredible people.

Oh balance, where art thou?

OK, let's get started.

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood

Self-Development

A Sure-Fire Way to Get Ahead

It dawns on me that it really doesn't take all that much to get smarter, and thus, to get ahead. Just reading for 30 minutes a day in an area of interest to you will work wonders.

Want to raise the stakes a bit? Figure out not what you

want to know now, but what you will need to know tomorrow. If you prepare yourself to read in fields you do not need at the present time but will need in the future, you will position yourself to seize the day when that day does come.



So what are you waiting for? Look at your calendar and carve out when you will do that 30 minutes of reading. I recommend you do it earlier in the day. In fact, do it first. Otherwise, you won't likely do it at all.

Next: plan carefully what you will read. Acquire those publications right away. Do not put it off.

Finally, just do it.

The Elephant In The Room **Leftist Integrity or Insanity: You Decide**

When it comes to Left-wing educators, you either have to admire them for their integrity, or you have to question their sanity.

I recently came across [a story](#) concerning the School of Business at Brooklyn College (CUNY). They were offered what is probably the largest grant in their history -- \$10 million - and they told the donors they were not interested in their money.

How could this be possible?

Well, the college is run by Leftists, and the donors were conservatives (Charles and David Koch). The Koch brothers are so loathed by the Left for their support of conservative causes, that Leftists at Brooklyn College would rather not expand their educational programs for their students than accept the \$10 million.

To illustrate the absurdity of such a position, I offer an

illustration. Imagine a commercial airline flying from New York to Los Angeles and every seat but two are taken by Leftists. The two seats not occupied by Leftists happen to be occupied by the Koch brothers. Now imagine that the Koch Brothers just happened to be accomplished commercial airline pilots.

Further, imagine both the regular pilot and copilot of that flight suddenly died at the same time, having suffered fatal, simultaneous heart attacks.

Finally, imagine that when the Koch brothers attempted to enter the cockpit to take over the flying of the plane, they were physically stopped by a number of the Leftists on board, who

would not countenance them landing the plane safely and receiving a hero's welcome.

Those Leftists would prefer

certain death than risk allowing the Koch brothers to do something that might earn them any accolades.



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

Shameless Plug **New Speech Coming in July**

While the six-week management course I was set to deliver was cancelled due to low-enrollment, I wanted to mention that I have a new upcoming speaking engagement.

I am teaming up with the fabulous Venessa Woolley, vocalist extraordinaire, to deliver a musical-oriented speech to a group of young adults from Santa Clarita and North Hollywood.



We will open our program, which is titled "Navigating The Storms of Life," with a tune from Joni Mitchell. I'll be accompanying Venessa on guitar. After we deliver our message, we will close with a moving piece by Amy Grant, who remains a favorite of mine. Venessa sings it

beautifully, and I consider her such a wonderful asset to the work I am doing.

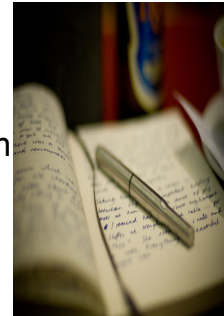
If you'd like to attend, the event will be held in Saugus on Sunday July 20th at 7:00 PM and will last about an hour. The event is free of charge. Just drop me a note if you are interested.

From Ara's Journal

Cycles of Good Fortune

Life is a mixture of good fortune and bad.

So the next time you see someone who seems to have it made, pause and reflect on the fact that at some place in their life, either past, present, or future, they will have their fair share - possibly even more than their fair share - of heartache, failure, disappointment, or loss.



No one goes undefeated every season.

Not me. Not you. Not anyone.

Likewise, the next time you feel you are consistently on the losing end of life, please remember that bad luck also runs its course and is replaced by good luck, as predictably as the changing of winter to spring.

No one loses every game every season.

Not me. Not you. Not anyone.

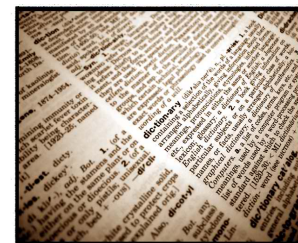
The World of Words

Palpable

Building Your Power of Expression

Palpable, adj.

Pronunciation: 'palpəbəl



Meaning: I use the term palpable to describe something that is so deeply felt (in a non-literal way, the way one feels a strong emotion like fear or anticipation) as to be said to be literally felt, as if it's physical, even though it is

not.

Usage:

- *We had to admit her departure brought all of us a palpable sense of loss.*
- *The last two quarters' sales have been so disappointing as to bring about a palpable feeling of uncertainty about our future.*
- *The tension in the room is palpable.*

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