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Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

In This Issue

[Success in 3s](#)
[Leftist Self-Loathing](#)
[Confronting Evil](#)
[Add Politic to your](#)
[Vocabulary](#)

Quick Links

[Ara's Web Site](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

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Issue: # 081

September 24, 2014

Greetings!

I'll be brief. While some of the content of this issue of *Uncommon Sense* represents issues that I am concerned about, I find it therapeutic to express my concerns through these writings.

Yet it would be wonderful if you took the time to forward this issue to anyone in your address book that you think might find value in such topics -- whether or not they would see me as a kindred spirit.

In fact, let me urge you to do so -- please do forward this to at once contact; it should at least be a conversation-starter.

OK, let's get started.

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Success Does Not Depend On One Thing

Things come in 3's.

Back in 1980, a concert was performed in San Francisco by

3 astounding guitarists - John McLaughlin, Al Di Meola, and Paco De Lucia. This concert took place on a Friday evening. The same show was repeated Saturday evening.

Although both evenings were recorded, an album was made of the Friday concert and not of the Saturday concert. I own both a vinyl LP and a CD of the concert. It's one of my favorite recordings in my vast collection of music. The album is titled, appropriately, *Friday Night in San Francisco*.



John McLaughlin gave an interview some time after that epic concert in which he said that there were three things that made the Friday night show special:

- The guitars stayed in tune.
- All three performers played very well.
- The audience was exceptionally responsive and supportive that night.

McLaughlin went on to note that the same songs were performed the next evening at the Saturday show, but the audience was totally different - far more subdued, far less responsive. The show ended up not being considered for releasing as an album.

I find McLaughlin's commentary instructive. He noted three separate and distinct, but related, elements to the magic that became the recorded album. I suspect that many times in life when we perform brilliantly, whether it be at gymnastics, as a keynote speaker, or as a business manager, there are various elements that came together and worked in concert to produce that brilliance. The

parallels between the Friday night concert and, say, a keynote speech, are profound. Just as McLaughlin stated that he and his fellow guitarists performed well, a speaker would, at a minimum, have to be "on" that day in terms of his or her delivery. A great speech would happen, in part, because there were no distracting "technical" difficulties (parallel to the guitars staying in tune the whole time.) And a great speech would be accented by the fact that the audience was captivated, galvanized, and inspired.

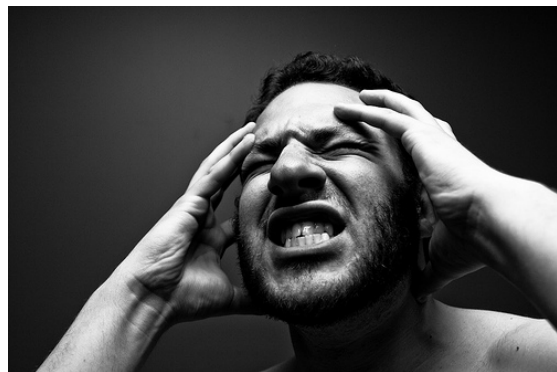
As you undertake greatness, try to imagine what three things must happen to allow for greatness. Maybe one has to do with your own performance. Maybe another has to do with the technical or physical environment. Perhaps a third has to do with others (customers, co-workers, etc.)

Try to get all three aligned and you may find you have performed brilliantly.

The Elephant In The Room Leftist Self-Loathing

This week we were treated to how the Left brainwashes not just college students, but high school students as well. This time, however, the brainwashing smacks of self-loathing -- loathing the very American values that make us American.

High School students and teachers alike in Jefferson County, Colorado went ballistic this week as a school board made a new proposal on how U.S. History should be taught. Unlike California school boards, who not long ago made it mandatory that U.S. History be taught from a perspective that focuses on the contributions of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and the Transgendered, Colorado had a somewhat different paradigm, one which promoted the following:



- Citizenship
- Patriotism

- Essentials
- The Benefits of the Free-Market System
- Respect for Authority
- Respect for Individual Rights

Further, the proposal urged that the content taught in our U.S. History curriculum not do the following:

- Encourage or Condone Civil Disorder
- Encourage or Condone Disregard of the Law

So what was the reaction of the Left? Leftist teachers went on strike, shutting down several high schools, and their brainwashed Leftist students ditched school.

What should we learn from this? Should we presume:

- The Left does not believe in citizenship?
- The Left does not believe in patriotism?
- The Left has disdain for the free-market system that this country was founded on?
- The Left does not respect authority or individual rights?
- The Left encourages civil disorder?
- The left condones disregard for the law?

It takes just a quick glance towards the Occupy Wall Street movement to see that all of this may well be true.

Listen to the idiocy spewing from the mouth of 17-year-old Tori Leu: "I don't think my education should be censored. We should be able to know what happened in our past," as if patriotism is innately dishonest or given to censoring.

Other students marched around carrying signs that read, "There is nothing more patriotic than protest."

Really? The highest forms of patriotism involve protest? Protest ranks higher than showing support for one's country? Protest ranks higher than defending liberty by serving in the armed forces? Protest is a higher value than honoring the U.S. Constitution, or reciting the Pledge of Allegiance?

Yes, if you're a Leftist; no if you're an American.

Leftist values and American values are irreconcilable.

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

From Ara's Journal

Confronting Evil

The world we live in is a curious place. While any given spot on earth tends to experience predictable patterns of climate during the changing seasons of the year, there doesn't seem to be much predictability in most other dimensions of the human experience. Select a random person from any of the following locations:



- Bhopal, India
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Miami, Florida
- Akureyri, Iceland
- Quesada, Costa Rica

and you will likely find that while they have certain basic things in common (i.e., they eat food, they sleep, they work, they reproduce and raise children) they probably have much that is profoundly different in terms of their life experience.

I suspect that one other thing that is common to mankind wherever they reside is the presence of good and evil. However, the level of good and the level of evil is of profoundly variant quality.

Evil of a profound kind seems to rear its ugly head in various places and times, wreaking havoc on the populace it touches. Western Europe in the 1930s and 1940s experienced the atrocities of Nazi Germany, led by Adolph Hitler. Likewise, if we go back to the 5th century AD, we know that the people who were a part of the Roman Empire were under attack from Attila the Hun. Similarly, much of Eurasia suffered at the hands of Genghis Khan during the 13th century.

Today, however, we find ourselves in a peculiar conundrum. The present day evil that faces the west is Islam. Not Islam as a whole. But large segments of the religion that produces radicalized adherents that are

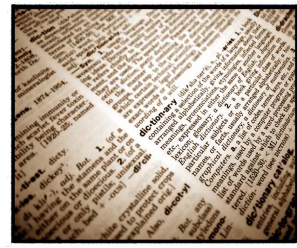
vicious, heartless, and blood-thirsty. The people I am talking about have no qualms with abducting innocent people, and then beheading them on camera before broadcasting the debauchery in an attempt to shock people's sensibilities.

What do they want? They want world domination - a world that is 100% Islamic.

So unlike other movements of evil that were led by one individual (Adolph Hitler, Atilla the Hun, Genghis Khan) this is a movement that has no one person leading it. It is the religious tenets as understood by the radicals that drives this evil forward.

And here is the painful reality: the American Left make it difficult, if not impossible, to have meaningful dialogue in discussing this evil. For reasons that elude me, the Left is bent on not honestly and openly confronting the evil that is radical Islam. For proof of that, one need only recall an episode on The View where Whoopi Goldberg and Joy Behar stormed off their own set after conservative guest Bill O'Reilly put forth the notion that it was "Muslims who killed us on 9/11!" [Click here](#) to see that telling episode.

It's difficult to confront evil if members within your own community will not only disagree that radical Islam is the great evil of our day, but won't even allow reasoned discussion of the topic to take place. Such silence and muzzling of public discussion only serves to allow the evil to fester. But eventually it will be impossible to ignore it, as it will only be a matter of time before members of this perversely evil cabal find their way into our communities, kidnap innocent Americans off of American streets, and then behead them on film in isolated locations on American soil. That day is coming. But whether that will cause the Leftists among us to relinquish their insistence that it is Global Warming, not beheading Americans on American soil, that is the great evil of our day, remains to be seen.



Politic, adj.

Pronunciation: 'pälə,tik

Meaning: When someone is politic, that person is shrewd, prudent, or judicious in practical matters. People who are politic are tactful and diplomatic. Any action that is politic is one that seems sensible under some particular circumstances.

Usage:

- *I did not think it politic to express my reservations.*
- *The remaining question is purely hypothetical, and perhaps it would be politic to refuse to answer it.*
- *In this and in other matters, David found it politic to conciliate him.*

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
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