

You're receiving this email because of your relationship with Ara Norwood of Leadership Development Systems. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us. To ensure that you continue to receive emails from us, add ara@aranorwood.com to your address book today.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

In This Issue

[Cleaning House](#)
[The Great Debate, Part 4](#)
[The Obliteration of Standards](#)
[Add Bulwark to your Vocabulary](#)

Quick Links

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

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Issue: # 098

June 29, 2015

Greetings!

Welcome to another installment of my eZine. Although everything I write about in this issue of *Uncommon Sense* is critically important, I think in some ways my opening piece in the Self-Development column, though succinct, is perhaps the most critical of all.



In this issue, I bring you the 4th and final installment of my debate with Dr. J, so take a look at that, and feel free to tell me what you thought of the debate in total.

Finally, I offer some very personal thoughts about the recent Supreme Court case on gay marriage.

And if nothing else, you'll learn a new word.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood

Self-Development

Cleaning House

We all have books in our possession that we have outgrown. We should get rid of them.

We all have clothes in our closets that are no longer a part of who we are. They don't fit, or they are out of style, or they are frayed. These should be cleared from our closets.

We all have people in our lives that weigh us down. These are "high-maintenance" people. Or they are toxic in some way. Perhaps they are time-wasters. Perhaps they



use us but contribute nothing. Perhaps they are lacking in ethics or integrity. Perhaps their personal beliefs reflect values we simply cannot tolerate.

Check your contact list. See if anyone fits that description. Then get rid of them. Now.

When you clear the deadwood from your life, you make room for all sorts of productive and exciting possibilities.

Do it. Trust me on that.

The Elephant in the Room The Great Debate, Part 4 of 4

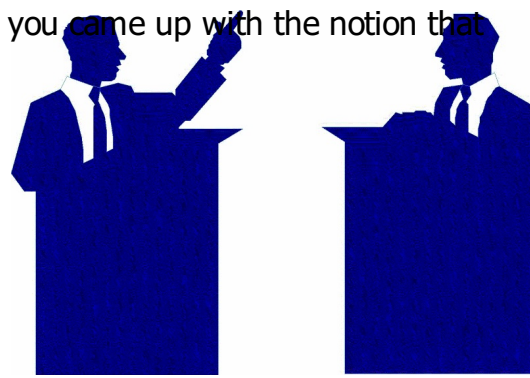
Dr. J's Fourth Statement:

Another point here, 97% of Climate Scientists agree human caused atmospheric warming is taking place. So Fox and other off-kilter organizations claim that the 3% makes a compelling argument, supported by money from the Koch brothers who represent a narrow petrochemical industry view. Which side makes a better argument? Well, follow the money. If you only need 18% in your news reporting, you are probably content with 3% in your consideration of scientific matters. In other words, you are bought and paid for, as is Fox "need."

My response:

The fact is, Dr. J, both you and I know nothing -- absolutely nothing -- about climatology. Very few people do. So we have to rely on others who do know something about it. Allow me a few quick observations on this matter:

- I wonder where you came up with the notion that 97% of climate scientists support global warming. I'd like to see the data on that. Forgive my skepticism, but I don't just believe it is so because you put it out there. And even were it true that 97% of climate scientists support a position, that fact alone does not validate the position. It's the actual science that matters, not the number of people who have jumped on a particular bandwagon.



- There are competent scientists who specialize in climatology who claim that the global warming crowd is scientifically wrong. You should read [*The Great Global Warming Blunder*](#) by Professor Roy Spencer, Principle Research Scientist at one of the premier institutions in the field of climate study (the University of Alabama), and a former senior NASA climatologist. His book is subtitled *How Mother Nature Fooled the World's Top Climate Scientists*.
- Some scientists who believe in global warming are not very scientific. That is to say, these scientists believe in their global warming agenda more than they believe in science. In other words, they cheat, as their agenda is of higher value to them than is the truth. For instance, until last month, government data on climate change indicated that the earth has warmed over the last century, but that the warming slowed dramatically ***and even stopped at points*** over the last 17 years. But in a paper released May 28, researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ***readjusted the data*** in a way that makes the reduction in warming disappear, indicating a steady increase in temperature instead. Yet the study's readjusted data conflict with many other climate measurements, including data taken by satellites, and some climate scientists aren't buying the new claim. You can read the story by [clicking here](#). Other climatologists [readily admit](#) that the case for global warming has been overstated. For a more recent update the latest scientific data, but unfortunately written by a journalist and not a scientist, [click here](#) and then you

may have to click "Continue to site."

- But it gets worse. There is out-and-out cheating on the part of some scientists who put forth doctored data that gives a completely false picture of the nature of the threat. Careful analysts have come up with hundreds of examples of how the original data recorded by 3,000-odd weather stations has been "adjusted", to exaggerate the degree to which the earth has actually been warming. Figures from earlier decades have repeatedly been adjusted downwards and more recent data adjusted upwards, to show the earth having warmed much more dramatically than the original data justified. You can [read the story here](#) if you are interested.
- Finally, I will say that there is a growing number of articles and studies -- over 90 -- that present very chilling (pun intended) evidence against the entire global warming hysteria. You can access these articles by [clicking here](#).

Hopefully you can see my point: if the climate scientists have valid data to report, there should be no need to tamper with, or manipulate, the data to support their case. They should simply present the scientific data, without their doctoring, and let the facts speak for themselves. Only a person who is more invested in a particular agenda than in the facts would resort to such shenanigans. And in doing so, such "scientists" are losing all credibility.

Dr. J, I have enjoyed this respectful exchange of viewpoints on the various matters you have brought up. I still respect you and look forward to the next time our paths cross, where we can chat about music and other important subjects. In the meantime, I hope my replies to your attacks on Fox News, Bill O'Reilly, Roger Ailes, and your global warming prognostics, have given you reason to pause and perhaps reconsider.

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

Shameless Plug **Radio Show Opportunity**

I was recently approached by a colleague and dear friend whom I've known for 15 years. He himself has been

approached by a businessman who is encouraging him to launch a radio show that will focus on American values and how the Left is bringing harm



to America. The show is meant to be a talk show that will be very hard-hitting, very no-nonsense, and very debate-oriented. People from the secular Left will be encouraged to call in and defend their positions. And knowing my friend, who is both very smart, very principled, and very outspoken, it will be the rare Leftist that survives the exchange that my friend would dish out.

Oh, and my friend needs a co-host, a partner. And he has asked me if I would do this radio show with him.

I haven't decided yet. But I am thinking about it. And I'd like you to help me decide. Would you find it interesting to tune in to a radio broadcast that confronted Leftism in a very bold and direct way, and that also articulated core American/conservative values? Send me a note with your thoughts. Please.

From Ara's Journal

The Supreme Court and the Obliteration of Standards

One of the most monumental Supreme Court decisions was offered this past week. In a narrow 5-4 decision, the high court decided that this nation - in all 50 states - must recognize as legitimate, gay marriage. The decision was lambasted by the Chief Justice, John Roberts, probably the most agile legal mind on the bench, who said that



"Judges have power to say what the law is, not what it should be." He went on to say, "Supporters of same-sex marriage have achieved considerable success persuading their fellow citizens - through the democratic process - to adopt their view. That ends today. . . Five lawyers have closed the debate and enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law. Stealing this issue from

the people will for many cast a cloud over same-sex marriage, making a dramatic social change that much more difficult to accept." He is correct.

What the 5 justices who voted for this change were saying was essentially as follows: "We do not care about tradition, and we don't care about what God or the Bible has to say on the matter, and we do not care about what the states themselves wish. We want to legislate from the bench, even though doing so is not our job, because we five are smarter, finer, wiser, more compassionate people, than all the philosophers, religious leaders, and politicians of the last 6,000 years." That is how strongly the 5 liberal justices feel about a cause that has become a Leftist rallying cry.

It is very revealing to see the brazen lack of meekness and humility on the part of Leftists following this decision. Just yesterday, while watching civil rights activist Van Jones on CNN, I noticed that he boldly opined that "the Republican party has a big problem now. They now seem to be a party that is so out of touch with the basic humanity that was on full display in front of the Supreme Court, and they seem to be more concerned now with hiding behind the old 'states rights' rhetoric, that was [the] anti-civil rights rhetoric of the past, than in embracing the future.

Full display? It barely passed, winning by one crucial vote, the Kennedy swing vote. But Mr. Jones went on, outlining what passes as acceptable discourse in his view: "[Gay marriage] is a fundamental human right. . . [On] marriage equality, people can hide behind judicial activism, states rights, the Bible, [but] the country is ready for a different conversation." In other words, bringing up the Bible is now relegated to irrelevancy to the Left. In fact, bringing up the Bible is not allowed, in Mr. Jones' world.

Unfortunately for Mr. Jones, his jaundiced view is not universally shared. The one force that prevents him and other Leftists from steamrolling over his opponents is the conservative movement. Conservatives hold to American values and also to Judeo-Christian values. These are not going away, in spite of the radicals on the Supreme Court. He may wish to close the door to any and all discussion of religious matters, making them inadmissible to the Great

Conversation on what he labels "Marriage Equality," but people who do not follow his secular, radicalized worldview are going to confront him, and confront him hard. I don't think he or his ilk are equipped to debate the matter effectively without resulting to name-calling, ad hominem attacks, character assassination, and straw man arguments.

* * * *

In the Book of Mormon (which Latter-day Saints consider to be scripture), we learn about two nations who lived anciently in the Americas, and how they alternatively evolved or devolved as a society over the course of a millennium. Ultimately, one of those two groups, which had usually promoted religious values, forsook those very values. In fact, their end as a civilization was hastened precisely because they became unhinged from their religious moorings.

Is the United States now on the precipice of devolution, decline, and destruction?

Quite possibly. The Leftist march will not be satisfied with the recent Supreme Court decision. Next, they will unleash their fury and demand more and more concessions. Because they are emboldened, perhaps the day will come when gay rights activists push to make it illegal for Churches to deny performing gay weddings. It wouldn't surprise me in the least if the more radicalized activists among them will one day try to make it illegal for heterosexuals to marry at all. In fact, they probably dream of the day when it will be illegal to *be* heterosexual. If you think it laughably far-fetched, just think back to 30 years ago. In 1985, it would have been equally laughable and far-fetched to conceive of the notion of legalizing same-sex marriage. President Obama himself, during his first term in office just a few short years ago, was opposed to it.

As we learn in the Book of Mormon, the slide to oblivion occurs with a swiftness and a rapidity that is staggering.

But I have a feeling that things are not over just yet. I sense a strong backlash is in the works.

Game on!

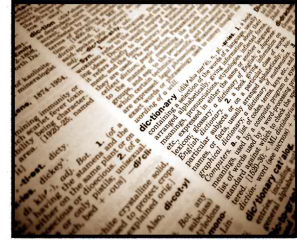
The World of Words

Bulwark

Building Your Power of Expression

Bulwark, n.

Pronunciation: 'būl,wərk



Meaning: Anything that functions as a defense or a shield of protection could be said to be a bulwark. A person could effectively function as a bulwark. An institution could be a bulwark. A guiding principle could be said to be a bulwark.

Usage:

- *The family, as an institution, is a bulwark against the tendencies toward anarchy.*
- *Twelve-step groups have served as a bulwark against the ravages of chemical dependency.*
- *Churches play the dual role of providing a place for spiritual repose, and also as a bulwark against the cruel harshness of society.*

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