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Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 106

October 26, 2015

Greetings!

Great to be back in front of you with some compelling commentary on the great issues of the day.

I offer some broad, generalized musings in the **Ara's Journal** column about the phenomenon of both laughter and its counterpart, crying.

I also address a perplexing and disturbing trend the Left is taking currently with respect to law in the **Elephant in the Room** column. It is getting to the point that clear thinking people are no longer going to be attracted to the Democratic Party as it is careening ever Leftward and putting our very society in danger with their radical ideology.

But I lead off with a pep talk aimed at managers or those who would become in a management role some day. Read it carefully and try to implement the principles contained therein.

Some additional content adorns this issue of *Uncommon Sense*. Sink your teeth into it and come away empowered.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



[Self-Development](#)

Management Pep Talk: Timing

Timing is everything.

We've all heard that cliché, but it has much truth to it. Far too often we cannot resist the need to blurt out whatever comes into our head. In doing so, we show that we lack discipline. Sometimes - perhaps oftentimes - we should be more circumspect. We should consider whether the timing is right in saying what it is we wish to say.

I manage several professionals. One of them, RM, is in the midst of working on a major project that is taxing, and that demands her total focus and concentration. The other

day I made the decision to give her three new assignments to work on for next year that I knew she would be pleased



with. I was

ready to tell her about it immediately. But then I saw that she had cloistered herself in a private conference room with her laptop and all her materials so she could be uninterrupted as she worked on banging out this deadline-driven project.

I decided to withhold the information about the new and exciting projects until a later time. Why? Because although RM would receive the news gladly, it would also take her mind off her current project. While good news, it would derail her momentum on the work at hand. It would be like a football coach telling his quarterback during a game his team is losing by six points that the quarterback just got nominated for the Heisman Trophy award. While very good news, it would be very bad timing. The immediate game being played is where that quarterback needs to keep his focus.

The same holds true for bad news. Say you have made the determination to terminate someone from employment. Many times the circumstances demand that you separate with that employee immediately. But many other instances do not demand such decisiveness. One must consider many factors on the timing of termination, such as how it

will affect the morale of the team, how it will impact productivity, and even whether it shows consideration for the person about to be fired. (Terminating someone right before Christmas has always struck me as callous.)

The bottom line: whenever you have some news to share - especially consequential news - ask yourself if the timing is right to share such news. Try to conceive of the best and most apropos moment to share the news. True, there will be occasions where there is no better time than the present. Many other instances will dictate a later hour. Good judgment will dictate the best course.

Timing *is* everything. Be mindful of your timing and you will be a better manager.

The Elephant in the Room

The Left and the Law

In my entire life, I have never seen anything quite like it.

Here's the back story: our society is governed by something called the rule of law. Law is the system of justice or standards by which our society recognizes as regulating the conduct of its members. Violating the law is grounds for penalties such as fines, incarceration, and in cases of a capital offense, the loss of our very life. Law has always been seen as something that is sacrosanct, meaning something that is too important to be tampered with. Law is what gives order and structure to our very existence as a people. Legislative bodies enact laws; police enforce laws; and judges determine whether laws have been violated, and impose penalties if they have.

What happens to a society that decides they no longer believe in upholding the law?

Usually, this happens on an individual basis. A person decides to steal, or to rob, or to engage in libel, or to assault, or to commit arson. Whatever the law in question, be it relatively minor (jay walking) or major (murder), an individual decides to break the law. We call that person a criminal, meaning that person is operating outside the accepted standards of society. And we have systems in place to respond effectively to individuals who break the law (arrest, court trial, incarceration).

But what happens if an entire body of people - a large,

significant population from within the body politic - make the decision, wantonly and openly, not in secret, to simply not uphold the law? What if an entire political party comes out and says, "*We will not obey certain laws - we will boldly defy the law*"?

Let me try to draw an analogy to the absurdity of what is happening today. Imagine a family man, a father, who is married and has four young children. What would you think if that father said he didn't care at all if bullies from another town came into his own backyard where his children were playing and assaulted the children? Worse, imagine such bullies did come into his backyard and actually assault that man's children, and the father took the position that he would not only not protect his children, he would go even further: he would not prosecute the bullies, but instead protect the bullies from any sort of penalty. We would find that father unfit for fatherhood.

This is precisely what is happening with the Democratic Party today with respect to illegal aliens. We have laws that make it illegal for people to enter our country by crossing the border in remote locations, avoiding facing the proper authorities who govern and control such crossings. All of the individuals who enter our country in such a manner are, by definition, illegal aliens. They have broken the law.

Worse, some of these individuals who enter our country illegally are violent felons. They commit rape and murder. Listen carefully to what I am saying: some of these illegal aliens rape innocent American citizens. Some of them murder innocent American citizens. And the Democratic Party leadership is largely OK with this. They do not wish to prosecute such individuals. Instead, they wish to protect such thugs.

Why? What causes a large body of American citizens to tolerate and even welcome foreigners who entered this country illegally, and then commit rape or murder of its citizens? I will tell you: political power.

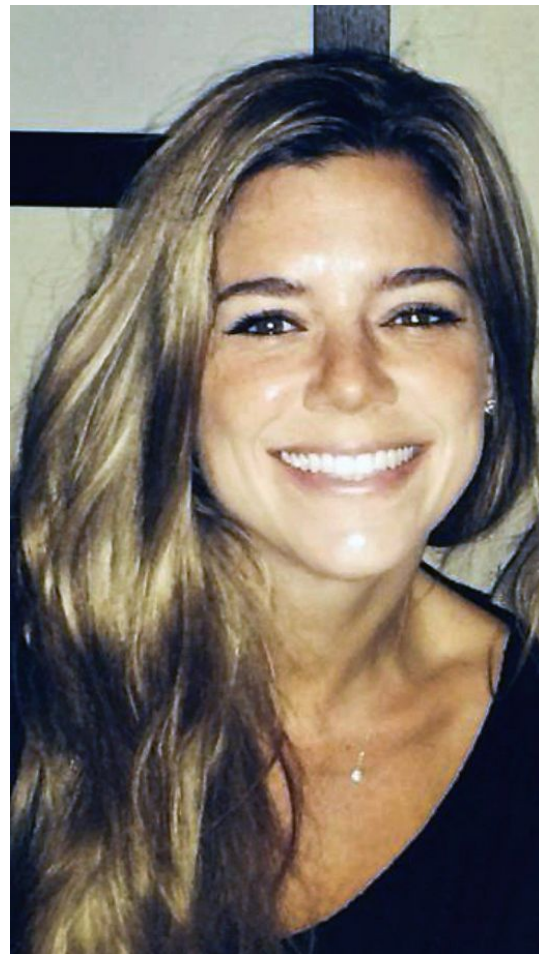
Democratic leaders believe, rightly or wrongly, that illegal aliens, when they eventually get the right to vote (itself an absurdity of colossal proportions) will vote Democrat, not Republican. And why do they vote Democrat? Because the leadership of the Democratic Party holds out various "carrots" - telling such persons that it is the Democrats, not the Republicans, who will give them all sorts of free

stuff (i.e., healthcare, college scholarships, food stamps, daycare, etc). The Democratic Party leadership essentially is saying the following: *"Look, you illegal aliens, here's the deal: We will make sure you are not prosecuted for entering the U.S. illegally, and even if you kill or rape some of our people, we will still protect you. We will set up Sanctuary Cities like San Francisco where you will be safe from Republicans who actually wish to uphold the rule of law. We won't let them. All we ask for in return is that you vote Democrat at every opportunity so that we can maintain our power and ram our radical agenda down the throats of the American people, enabling us to transform America from what its Founders envisioned into something unrecognizable. Do we have a deal?"*

Lest some of you think I am overstating the issue, allow me to present the evidence.

Last week, the U.S. Senate voted on a bill that combined two related laws: Kate's Law and Sanctuary Cities. Kate's

Law is named after a beautiful woman named Kate Steinle (seen to the right) who was enjoying an outing with her family in San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf area, when she was shot dead by an illegal alien from Mexico. The piece of human excrement who shot her did so for no reason whatsoever: no robbery, no attempted rape, nothing but an unprovoked bullet wound to the back which traveled to her



heart, piercing her aorta, and bringing about a slow, agonizingly horrific death some two tortuous hours later. What is damning about the incident is that the shooter was a repeat felony offender who had been deported five separate times, but continued to return to the U.S. illegally. The shooter had not one, not two, not three, not four, not

five, not six, but seven felony convictions on his record. Kate's Law would impose a mandatory five-year prison sentence on any illegal alien who has previous felonies on his record, is deported, and then returns to the U.S. illegally.

100% of the Democrats in the U.S. Senate did not agree to pass that bill. They are seemingly in favor of allowing illegal alien felons who murder innocent Americans back in the country illegally after being deported. However, the Kate's Law bill was coupled with another bill involving the defunding of [Sanctuary Cities](#). Sanctuary Cities are cities (like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Berkeley, along with dozens of others in California alone) that have decided to deliberately ignore federal law passed in 1996 that requires local governments to cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and to notify the federal government of the presence of illegal aliens living in their communities. Sanctuary Cities basically say: "*Hey all you illegal aliens, we Leftist Democrats believe that you should have a safe place to hide out, even if you are criminals. Your illegal status, which we will protect, trumps any criminal activity you commit on our soil. We need your votes when the time comes. Kate Steinle? She is less important than the votes we are expecting from you which will keep us in power.*"

Again, [100% of the Democrats](#) in the U.S. Senate, along with a lone Republican Senator, blocked the legislation last week that would have protected people like Kate Steinle and punished illegal felons. The Left has taken over the Democratic Party, and the Left stands for lawlessness.

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

Shameless Plug **Interview Guide To Go Live This Week**

My new eBook: *Your Interview Roadmap* is set to be up on my website within the next two or three days.

As I mentioned in the previous issue of *Uncommon Sense*, at over 12,000 words and with six appendices, this guide book will open your eyes to what really goes on in the

world of interviewing from both sides of the desk, and will prepare job seekers to hit it out of the park 90% of the time.

If you are interested in purchasing the product, visit my website later this week. I estimate it will be there by Thursday,



(10/29/15) but probably even earlier in the week.

You can click on [this link](#) to access the page where it will be housed.

From Ara's Journal **On Laughing, . . . and Crying**

"One minute she's so happy then she's crying on someone's knee saying 'Laughing and crying, you know it's the same release.'"

Joni Mitchell
People's Parties



I am fascinated by the human body.

Both the structure and the function of these machines of physicality that grant us animation and movement hold my attention. Why are our bodies designed precisely as they are?

Also interesting to me is the various reactions and involuntary phenomenon that comes from our bodies. For instance, when our nasal cavity is irritated, we sneeze. When certain stimulus converges on our mind and body

when we are fatigued, we yawn. Sometimes we shiver or twitch. Men and women experience a radical reaction at the peak of our more amorous moments. Even the movement of our eyes is sometimes reactionary and uncontrollable (i.e., although the outcome is the same, there is a world of difference between a wink, and a blink.) And then there is the distinctly human phenomenon of laughter, and also of crying - two distinctly human reactionary shows which have some things in common and also some things that are profoundly different from each other.

Laughter is such an interesting reaction. I have in mind authentic laughter - not the counterfeit varieties of laughter such as sarcastic laughter, or laughter that is done as a show of mockery. It is intriguing to ponder why some humorous things make us laugh, and other humorous things leave us with nothing more than a deadpan expression. I am trying to give some thought to that question when I find myself laughing hard about something. It is also interesting to consider how our minds work when we ourselves come up with something very funny to say at a moment's notice, with no forethought.

I remember some years ago, I was having a conversation with a man I didn't know well, but whom I had some cautious feelings toward. We were discussing some of the deeper questions of life, such as whether there is a Divine Creator, or whether there was life after death. Somehow the conversation moved towards the question of evolution. I remember he said something like, "A key consideration is to comprehend at what point in time apes became man." I replied, without ever having even pondered this quip, let alone having uttered it, "Actually, I think the bigger consideration is to comprehend at what point in time men became apes." As I said it in a tone of voice that suggested a wry and slightly acerbic wit, everyone in the room who heard the comment burst into laughter. On another more recent occasion, I was MC-ing a wedding reception. Near the end of the event, a distant relative sat down with me and said he had recently lost his job and was seeking some advice from me regarding his resume. We decided that the reception was not the right place to discuss the matter, so I suggested he send me an email message in the coming weeks when he was ready to discuss it. He asked for my email address, but I saw that he had no pen or paper to capture my email address. So I said, just listen carefully and I'll tell you my email address

as it is easy to remember. Here it is: Capital L. Small g. Small x. Capital K. Nine. Four. Small u. . ." Of course, it was a fake email address and we both burst into laughter at about that point. What possessed me to suddenly come up with such a spoof? I have no idea. But it was both fun and funny.

I suspect that one element of humor is the element of surprise. It appears to me that it is the unexpected that helps propel us toward a state of levity.

Crying, like laughing, can be the outcome of more than one set of stimuli. Just as laughter can be based on humor, or sarcasm, or anger, or expediency (i.e., the "fake" laugh), crying can come from grief and sorrow, but it can also come from deep joy, or a sense of the sacred. Sometimes we cry due to the remorse we feel based on the suffering we ourselves experience, be it physical, mental, social, or some other area of life. Other times we weep due to the anguish we feel on behalf of the suffering of others - both people we know, and occasionally people we do not know. It is fascinating that both deep sorrow and deep joy can produce tears. Another emotion that can bring tears is the emotion of fear. If the fear is of a sufficient amount, we might cry (as when a small child cries at the realization they are about to undergo an injection at the doctor's office, or when people realize their life is about to end as the commercial aircraft they are on experiences total mechanical failure and is now on a vertical descent into the ocean below).

As with laughter, it is interesting to ponder what makes us weep. I am mindful of the fact that I cry far less often than I laugh, but I do cry once or twice a year. I know this because the phenomenon of crying fascinates me enough to make it a habit to record in my personal journal each instance I cry. For instance, in January of this year, while contemplating the speech given by John Adams to King George III on June 1st, 1785, and the monumental nature of that speech, its outcome, and how deeply both men were moved by that speech, I myself was moved to tears. I remember thinking at the time that America truly is a great and good nation and God had a hand in his formation. In an entirely different setting, just last month, I wept about the drowning death of a little Syrian boy I didn't even know. But his story, which I wrote about in Uncommon Sense #103, affected me deeply. Previous years have found me in tears for a variety of reasons:

- At the decision of a friend who decided since she is now Left of center, she simply cannot remain friends with a conservative, and so she ended our 39-year friendship on ideological grounds.
- After watching a very touching video that featured the reactions of family members who were the recipients of a surprise visit of their husband/father/son who had come home from military duty overseas.
- In July of 2013, saying goodbye to one of my dearest friends who was moving out of the country, and whom I may never see again in this life.
- While pondering the challenges one of my children is facing, placing that child in a very uphill battle.

One thing about laughing and crying that is similar, is that we feel different after the episode is over. With laughter, we often feel upbeat and jubilant. With crying, we often (though not always) feel cleansed and filled with a renewed sense of hope; we feel more humane.

Worth pondering.

The World of Words

Effervescent

Building Your Power of Expression

Effervescent, adj.

Pronunciation: ,efər'vesənt



Meaning: This charming word brings to mind a beverage that is very fizzy or bubbly. But in addition to that particular meaning, I use the term to describe anyone who is vivacious, spirited, or enthusiastic.

Usage:

- *I like this gal; her persona is as effervescent as the seltzer waters of Manitoba.*

- *David is a man of two personalities: stoic and sullen in the morning hours, then becoming increasingly chipper and effervescent as the evening hours pass.*
- *Leigh is a rare combination of pragmatic realism and effervescent energy.*

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