


# Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

Quick Links

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

Join Our List

 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

Issue: # 150

August 30, 2017

**Dear David,**

 Ara Norwood

I hope this finds you well.

Thank you for being a loyal reader of *Uncommon Sense*. We've got a lot to cover in this issue.

In the **Self-Development** column, I continue my thoughts about how to best handle the process of being terminated from your job, specifically what to do after being fired.

In the **Elephant in the Room** column, I share my candid thoughts on why I believe that Leftism is a disgrace, a danger, and a cancer on the body politic. Please read it. I don't mince words.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I contemplate music once again, and consider two of the great traditions in music, along with their variant approach and assumptions.

And the **World of Words** column brings you a really great word that you should add to your ever-expanding vocabulary.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood

## Self-Development


### Getting Fired Intelligently, Part 2

Let's pick up where we left off from Issue #149 where I discussed some things to do and not do when you are in the process of getting fired from your job. I will focus here on the aftermath of the event.

Being fired, unpleasant as it is, does have its silver lining. Once you are no longer employed, you have a clean slate and can even reinvent yourself if that is your desire.

The typical thing to do after being fired is to look for a similar job. Fair enough. If you were a waiter and got fired, and you like being a waiter, you go to the myriad restaurants that are out there and try to land your next waiter job. That's obvious. Likewise, if you were in law enforcement, such as the California Highway Patrol, you might try the Sheriff's Department or the Police Department. If that doesn't bear fruit, you might try a private security firm, or work in the Security Department of a corporation, or the Campus Safety Department at a college.

But what if the nature of your being fired puts you in a particularly bad light? If you worked for the California Highway Patrol and got fired for having a reputation of being dangerously aggressive or hot-headed, chances are high that such proclivities will become known by any other law enforcement agency you approach. What then?

This would be a fine time to think outside of the box. It might be the perfect time to reinvent yourself and go in an  Reinvent Yourself entirely new line of work. This takes both courage and some creativity, but the outcome could be wonderful.

Look at your hobbies. Have you always had a thing for photography? If so, it might be the right time to reinvent yourself as a professional photographer. You do this first by self-identifying as a photographer, you get some business cards printed up describing your new line of work, you tell everyone you know that this is what you now do. Then you take baby steps. You put all of your energies on getting that first paid gig. The jobs are out there. You start small. You persist. Eventually, you land that first paid job. Perhaps it's a small paying job. No matter. You do your very best work possible. You start a portfolio. And you absolutely obtain a positive testimonial from your client, which you use on social media and a website and a one-sheet to build credibility.

Then you repeat the process. Relentlessly.

The key thing to remember is that while your past employment situation can certainly be continued in some way, perhaps in a slightly modified way (Highway Patrol to Private Security Firm), it doesn't have to be a continuation. You can begin your career anew with a completely different direction if you so choose. You can go from being a Highway Patrol officer, to a high school coach; from a mechanical engineer to a designer of book covers at a publishing house, or from a truck driver to a watch repairman. The avenues are endless. You just need to be creative enough and bold enough to chart your new path.

## **The Elephant in the Room**


### **The Cancer that is the Progressive Left**

Every age faces formidable enemies that have the potential to destroy the populace and raze civilization as it then stands.

Sometimes the enemy is disease, such as the Black Death that swept through Europe and Asia in the Middle Ages, claiming the lives of over 75 million people. Other times it might be a natural disaster, such as the 1783 Laki Eruption, a volcanic event which took place in Iceland and killed 5 million people. Man-made disasters have done much harm over the years, such as the 1984 Bhopal Gas Leak which took place at a Union Carbide chemical plant in India, and snuffed out the lives of close to 8,000.

Of course, we all know about Islamic terrorism. Virtually anyone reading this knows where they were on September 11, 2001, when Muslim radicals flew planes into buildings, resulting in the death of almost 3,000 innocent people, and over 6,000 injuries, and which adversely affected our economy.

The scope of destruction in all of these situations is obvious. But there are forces at work in our society today -- right now -- that seek to destroy not just people, but Western culture as we know it, forces that are not so obvious. The forces I refer to could loosely fall under the rubric of the labels *Left*, *Leftist*, or *Leftism*. What we are dealing with here is both a political and a social movement that seeks to destroy America, Western Civilization, Christianity, Religion in general (except Islam), and all of the core values that make our culture what it is.

Leftism is a cancer on society. It's a destructive tsunami. Leftism poisons virtually everything it touches. Leftism  Tsunami has a stranglehold on the academy (i.e, our colleges and universities, and, increasingly, our high schools and even elementary schools, where innocent kindergartners are [forcibly exposed](#) to notions of transgenderism by radical Leftist teachers, thus robbing them of their innocence) and Leftism has the same influence on almost all of our news media (the *New York Times*, CNN, MSNBC, the *Washington Post*, NPR, etc.) Leftist thinking pervades the Hollywood culture.

Leftism is trying to seep into our military, and our churches, and is seeing some success in both arenas. Leftism has completely taken over the Democratic Party, and Leftism has even begun to politicize things that formerly were never political,

such as the arts and sports (ESPN, the premier broadcasting company of athletics, is now unabashedly Leftist in their thinking and has managed to politicize sports.)

But does it matter?

Some of you reading this may be thinking, "So what? Who cares?"

Here are some recent examples of how the Left is a cancer on our culture, examples that are either absurd or downright totalitarian. Ponder the implications of the following examples and then decide if it matters.

- Leftist California State Senator Scott Wiener is [busy passing legislation](#) (Senate Bill 219) that would force people who work in senior living facilities to use certain pronouns when addressing transgender patients or they would be arrested and sent to prison.
- Leftist ESPN [recently prevented](#) one of their own employees from fulfilling his assignment to be the announcer at a football game simply because his name is Robert Lee. The name matches the Confederate War General who was the source of recent controversy in Charlottesville that led to rioting and vandalism. What was ESPN afraid of? That fellow Leftists hearing the game being called by Robert Lee (who is Asian) would think that the Civil War General had come back from the dead, sparking further rioting?
- Leftist *Huffington Post* raised the question in a [July 10th](#) piece whether Liberal Professor Bret Weinstein, who teaches at Evergreen College, put students in danger by merely having a conversation with conservative TV Host Tucker Carlson. Further, the *Huffington Post* raised the question of whether having had such a conversation with a conservative should be a punishable offense for the professor. (This is the same professor who [refused to comply](#) with a demand by campus radicals that all white students and faculty leave the campus for a day.)
- Leftist members of a theater's board of directors, who are hypersensitive about being called racist, have [decided to end](#) a 34-year tradition of showing ***Gone with the Wind***, one of the greatest movies of all time. Censorship is alive and well among the Left, and thus, people who would otherwise enjoy a classic movie can no longer do so at that theater because of Leftist political correctness.
- Leftist lawmakers in Australia have [pulled the plug](#) on a planned Jewish Synagogue from being built on the grounds that it might become a terrorist target, thus caving into Islamic extremism. The Muslim Terrorists are the winners here. (Perhaps Australia should not build any more banks, since bank robbers may target them.)
- Leftist politician Howard Dean [now declares](#) that if you vote Republican in 2018, you are, by definition, a racist. Echoing Mr. Dean, a Leftist who teaches at Clemson [ranted on social media](#) that all Republicans are, by definition, racist, and that violent opposition to Republicans is an option.

- Leftist members of the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra [tried to prevent](#) a conservative talk show host from guest conducting a benefit concert to raise funds for the orchestra. Because Dennis Prager is a conservative, four Leftist members of the orchestra started a campaign to try to prevent Mr. Prager from conducting, urging fellow orchestra members to refuse to play, and urging the public not to attend the concert. The *Los Angeles Times*, a Leftist paper, wrote two stories prior to the concert, both stories viciously attacking Mr. Prager and trying to cast him in as bad a light as possible. When the concert was a huge success with a supportive sell-out crowd in attendance, the *Los Angeles Times* reporters, who were the only persons to receive free tickets to the event, never wrote a story of any kind following the concert. They just pretended it didn't happen because had they told the truth about this very successful and positive event, it would have gone against the Leftist narrative they were seeking to hoodwink the public into believing. Fake news by omission.
- A Leftist state senator [openly states](#), and without subsequent regret or apology, that she hopes the President of the United States is assassinated.
- Leftist radical groups such as the Women's March and Black Lives Matter [openly fawn](#) over domestic terrorists (i.e., cop-killers) such as Joanne Chesimard (AKA Shakur).
- Leftist Democrats in the state of Louisiana have [officially censored](#) the Founding Father who made Louisiana possible. Thomas Jefferson's name has now been officially expunged from an annual gala event that bears his name. We can plan on hearing ideas to blow up Mount Rushmore next.
- Leftist hate groups like Antifa not only unleash unabashed physical violence against those they imagine they oppose, but they even [openly chant disdain](#) for the very existence of the country they live in -- the United States ("No Trump, no wall, no USA at all." -- Well, at least it rhymes.)
- And finally, Leftist LGBTQIA Rights Activist Tim Gill, a man with a lot of money and a lot of hatred, claims he is going to [target Christians](#) who do not wish to compromise their religious ideals by not participating in same-sex weddings. In a perverse reversal of terms, Mr. Gill claims he is going to "punish the wicked." Thus, a California bakery is probably [going to be shut down](#), after the owner, Cathy Miller, gets her fair share of Leftist verbal violence. Her crime? She's a Christian and is unwilling to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple. She isn't standing in the way of their wedding. In fact, she referred them to her competitor. But that isn't important to the Leftist lesbians. Nothing short of a guilty verdict in court, a hefty fine, and being forced to shut down her business will satisfy Eileen Del Rio, the Leftist activist who targeted Cathy Miller's bakery upon finding out Ms. Miller was a committed Christian.

Now, I have identified a dozen separate instances where Leftists are doing things to harm the society and Western Civilization as we know it. I could have identified 20 instances, or 50 instances, or hundreds of instances, for these examples are not aberrations, but are standard Leftist fare. Leftists hate America and its values. Leftists hate Christians. Leftists hate law, but will use law to harm others who

don't follow their radical agenda. Leftists labels their opponents "haters" all the while Leftists spew out hatred in unbridled fashion.

What should decent people do? Decent people should run for office, should seek to be judges, and should serve on school boards. Decent people should write editorials, should become highly informed on the issues of the day, and should confront, boldly, the Leftist agitators that live among us and who seek to harm society. Decent people should stigmatize Leftist behavior in very public ways and bring shame on those who promote Leftist ideals. Decent people should try to win over those who are still salvageable, and should boldly debate those who are not.

For the enemy of our age is not Communism or Nazism. It's Leftism.

There's simply no time for complacency, folks.

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

Check out [my website](#) for tools to help you with your career, your presentations, and other matters.

## From Ara's Journal

### Two Great Traditions

In music, there are a number of approaches to the art -- we could think of them as traditions, which are replete with assumptions, rules, and paradigms. One of my favorite traditions in music comes from India, which utilizes quarter-tones as their smallest notational denomination rather than the half-tones as is the case with the West. The music of Japan, the music of the Andees, and the strange conceptual constructs called The Music of the Spheres are all quite interesting. Even primitive cultures such as the flute-playing Mafa tribes, who live in the remote northern regions of Cameroon in the Mandara mountains, have their own unique approach to music that is very different from what we know.



Journal  
Writing

Here in the West, there is the presence of two great traditions. Although these two traditions approach the art form with diametrically opposing assumptions, they both have legitimacy.

The two traditions are Europe and Africa.

The European tradition gave us classical music (and music of similar genres and periods, such as Baroque, Rococo, Romantic, Impressionism, etc.) The African tradition gave us jazz (and music of related genres, such as Blues, Rock, Afro-Cuban, etc.) Some would argue that Jazz is America's unique art form, and,

therefore, not African but American. While there is much truth to that, it does not negate the fact that, even though a uniquely American contribution, its precursors are African in origin.

The European tradition is based on precision. The African tradition is based on imprecision.

The European tradition fosters tight discipline and exactness. The African tradition fosters loose discipline and inexactness.

The musician in the European tradition is often conservatory-trained. The musician in the African tradition is often self-taught.

The musician steeped in the European tradition is taught to become musically literate, to read music, even to sight-read music. The musician steeped in the African tradition is taught to become musically sensitive, to feel music, to improvise.

There is nothing more beautiful, to the European-trained musician, than to play a difficult piece with perfection, exactly as it was scored. There is nothing more beautiful, to the African-trained musician, than to play something remarkable, off the cuff, that they've never played before.

Both of these approaches to music have resulted in amazing works of musical expression written by some real musical titans. The European tradition gave us Bach, Brahms, Chopin, Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Handel, Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Verdi, Schubert, Wagner, Satie, Debussy, and Copeland. The African Tradition gave us Armstrong, Davis, Coltrane, McLaughlin, Ellington, Kenton, Corea, Monk, Brubeck, Gillespie, Parker, Goodman, Metheny, Basie, Zawinul, and Evans.

Both traditions have much to learn from one another. Both traditions provide gifts of unparalleled magnificence. Both traditions bring immense contentment.

## **The World of Words**

### Galvanize

#### Building Your Power of Expression



Dictionary

Galvanize, v.

Pronunciation: 'galvəˌnɪz

Meaning: To galvanize a person is to induce the person to take immediate action, to motivate them, to make them come alive.

Usage:

- *The urgency of his voice galvanized them into action.*

- *What I am about to tell you will almost certainly galvanize you in ways you may not be prepared for.*
  
- *By holding a rally, the mayor hoped to galvanize young people to vote.*

---

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,**  
Leadership Development Systems, P. O. Box 801681, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1681

Ara Norwood [SafeUnsubscribe™ drdorrough@yahoo.com](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_drdorrough@yahoo.com)  
Leadership Development Systems [Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [ara@aranorwood.com](mailto:ara@aranorwood.com) in collaboration with



[Constant Contact](#)

Try it free today