


Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

Quick Links

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

Join Our List

 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

Issue: # 153

October 16, 2017

Dear David,

 Ara Norwood

Great to be with you once again, as we explore together some of the issues of the day.

The **Self-Development** column examines what it means to live your life like an artist. Some important food for thought therein.

In the **Elephant in the Room** column, we will delve into the unhealthy obsession the Left has with POTUS and will explore some possible explanations for this.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I share some views on the Harvey Weinstein fiasco.

And in the **World of Words** column, we jump-start your power of expression with a nifty word you will want to utilize right away.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood


Self-Development

Developing the Artist in You

Western Civilization has categorized higher learning into three major groupings: Arts, Letters, and Sciences.


While studies in science involve observation of the natural world, and studies in the letters involve delving into great literature, be it poetry, prose, or drama, art is the most creative of the three.

Art involves the application of human imagination.

Art can be expressed in myriad ways: a painting or drawing, a dance form, or a work of pottery. Stained glass is in this  category, as is the work of skilled craftsmen who use a blowpipe to inflate molten glass into a thing of beauty. Sculpture is used to bring forth figures of all sizes, using materials as diverse as clay, bronze, marble, wood, and even ice or sand. Music, which is, at its core, sound organized in time, is often called the first art, and involves the creative use of rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, and color, weaved together to produce a sonata, or a symphony; a concerto, or a chant; a ballad or a blues; funk or flamenco; ragtime or reggae; or any number of esoteric forms, such as 12-tone, chance music, free-form, or *Musique Concrète*.

With art, whether it involves jewelry-making, or weaving baskets, or crafting tapestries and rugs, or working within the realm of photography, the approaches are vast and the outcomes are innumerable.

Whether or not you are, technically speaking, an artist, you can certainly draw upon the notion of art and live your very life as if it were a work of art. Consider the following:

Imagine a person you know who exudes grace. With this proclivity, such a person is living the life of the artist. Grace could  refer to the way one walks or sits, as in the grace of a ballerina, or the nimbleness and agility of a person of strong athleticism, as opposed to someone who carries him- or herself in the slouchy, rumbling manner of a troglodyte. People who move with finesse, who carry themselves with a degree of suppleness, are literally using movement and gestures and posture as an artist would.

Who do you know who personifies class? Such persons are sometimes thought of as chic, sophisticated, or given to refinement and good taste. What can you do, starting today, to emulate such characteristics? Perhaps it involves your choice of words. Perhaps it involves what you order at a restaurant. Perhaps it involves how you treat an opponent. Give some thought to how you can behave with greater class, and an artist you will be.

Have you considered the element of style? Though hard to define, style can come through on our clothing, if it is of high quality, well-made, and with a bit of dash. Perhaps it involves the accessories we carry, whether a wallet, a handbag, the earrings worn by a lady, the wristwatch worn by a man, or other jewelry such as a ring or a pin. The late Michael Jackson sometimes wore a type of hat, a Fedora, to great effect. I have seen women carry off a fire-engine red dress magnificently that seemed to boost their confidence, and personified a measure of panache that was quite impressive. Likewise, I have seen men who clearly put some thought (and money) into their shoes, showing discriminating taste in footwear that was rather admirable. I recently held a financial planning meeting at the [offices of Michael Sears](#), one of the most valuable wealth and retirement planners in the state of California, and the only person with whom I trust my money. I was escorted into his personal office and offered a chair. On the table in front of me, just to my left, was a tray. On that tray was a bottle of high-end water, a metal bowl of mixed nuts, some napkins, and four freshly baked, just-out-of-the-oven, chocolate chip cookies! That's style!

I believe people can move like an artist through how they handle themselves in tough situations. These pressure-cooker moments can cause many of us to be reactive, but the artist in us can render us poised, graceful, and composed. Dealing with an angry customer, an irate co-worker, or an irrational protester we encounter on the street may demand of us a presence of mind to handle things with a calm, self-assured demeanor. When this happens, we are worthy of receiving praise for our artistic response.

The elegance that we can choose to embrace in how we carry ourselves, how we speak, how we interact, and how we produce results in the work we do, can be a thing of beauty. And it is a choice. It's a choice I intend to put front and center in my own life and work and relationships, and one I encourage you to make as well.

Be an artist!

The Elephant in the Room

The Left's Strange Obsession with President Trump

Leftists have always held contemptuous views for Republican Presidents, even if those presidents were not particularly conservative.

I never viewed George W. Bush as deeply conservative, yet the Left vilified him relentlessly for 8 solid years. Most of the time the Regressive Left tried to fashion Mr. Bush a dolt -- a complete nitwit who presumably had to have his diapers changed and have drool wiped away from his mouth. I sometimes wondered about the younger Mr. Bush's intellectual capabilities, as I had heard him speak a number of times and it wasn't what I would call impressive, that is, until I read his book, [Decision Points](#), which came out after he left office. The man is, in fact, quite sharp, in spite of his lack of commanding oratorical skills.

Going back to Ronald Reagan, who was, actually, a true conservative, the Left hated him. Clark Clifford, who had served as Defense Secretary in the Johnson

Administration, and as an advisor to Democratic Presidents Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, and Carter, referred to Mr. Reagan as an "amiable dunce." The *modus operandi* of the Left has routinely been to try to smear Republicans as bumbling nincompoops who lack the intellectual firepower to add 5 + 5. This is the only play in their playbook, and they use it consistently -- every time a Republican is elected President. (One would think those Dems, who fancy themselves as possessing an incalculable intellect, would be able to muster up something new to hurl at their opponents, but we wait in vain.)

Leftist hatred of Donald Trump, however, is of a different order and scale entirely.

Yes, the Left claims Mr. Trump is just as much a simpleton as was "W" or the Gipper. But the Left has never been more animated in their rage than they are with our current president, rage that brings them into the realm of the unhinged. It's almost as if no matter what the topic, and no matter how removed that topic may be from Mr. Trump, the Left has to find a way to slip in some sort of insult aimed at him. It has become a Leftist obsession. An obligatory smack-down. A secular rite of religious devotion.

Harvey Weinstein, a man of the Left, has been in the news lately. He is accused of decades of sexual harassment of many Hollywood women. The accusations include several instances of rape. He has been fired by his own production company, which he co-founded, and it appears that his reputation has gone the way of Bill Cosby, which is to say, his reputation appears to be irredeemable.

But this article is not specifically about Mr. Weinstein. See the column below (**From Ara's Journal**) for more on him. Instead this column is about something easily noticed among the Hollywood elites who are busy distancing themselves from Mr. Weinstein.

Exhibit A: Lena Dunham is an actress, producer, director, and writer most famous for the HBO series, *Girls*. In tweeting about the Harvey Weinstein debacle, she praised the two *New York Times* reporters who broke the story as follows:

"Grateful for remarkable reporting of @jodikantor & @mega2e. Because of them the facts could no longer be denied. Now, about the president. ."


Exhibit B: Veteran actor Michael Keaton tweeted as follows:


"H Weinstein -yikes! Disgusting and creepy. So is 'leader of the free world' btw."

One wonders what it is about the Leftist obsession with Mr. Trump that renders some of them powerless to resist the urge to smear him at every turn.

Here are my theories:

- When the Left is confronted by American values (i.e., conservative values) it is somewhat akin to when Dracula is confronted with the rising sun, or a

cross. The spasmodic recoiling, the  Dracula histrionics, the erratic, lurching twitches, while entertaining, are things that seem to be almost Pavlovian in their predictability. Today's Left hates America in the same degree that the British hated the notion of America back in 1776. And while Donald Trump is not particularly ideological himself, in other words, while Donald Trump is not particularly conservative himself, he has made a number of decisions that would please conservatives, most notably selecting Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S Supreme Court, and by rolling back or reversing many of the more Leftist policies of Barack Obama. This has the Left in convulsive fits.

- When Donald Trump began his presidential campaign, he made it clear that he was going to fix the illegal immigration problem. He spoke of building a wall, he spoke of ending DACA (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals act), and he intends to wage war against sanctuary cities and states. This causes Leftists to foam at the mouth. Why? Because Leftists do not wish to enforce the law when it comes to immigration. Leftists want open borders. Why do they want this? Because Leftists believe that by promising all sorts of "free stuff" to illegal immigrants, such immigrants will vote for Democrats and keep them in power. The Left views illegal immigrants as their oxygen supply.
- The Left really expected their candidate, Hilary Clinton, to soundly defeat Donald Trump in the 2016  Presidential election. They really wanted the next president to be a woman, regardless of how unlikable, corrupt, or incompetent she was, and, more than that, they wanted a continuation of Leftist policy to blanket our republic. They didn't get what they wanted or expected. Add to that the fact that Mrs. Clinton won the popular vote, Leftists felt the agony of being so close to victory, yet still not getting the ball over the goal line. As Leftists are often childlike in their maturity level, many of them are still sniveling, howling, and blubbing -- even 11 months later. The bitterness of defeat is something many Leftists cannot stomach, cannot come to terms with, and so, their vexation, which is enough to burst a spleen, causes them to trash their President with a knee-jerk consistency.
- The Left expects the powerful (and that includes Donald Trump) to fawn all over them with adulation and deference. And most people, including most politicians, oblige. So many among the elites show deferential reverence towards Hollywood, and the Mainstream Media, and the Academy, that it is rare to find a politician who is not judicious and circumspect (i.e., gutless) in how they reckon with such Leftist entities. But Donald Trump truly does not care about pleasing the media. He is unimpressed with Hollywood. He holds disdain for Leftist institutions. And since Mr. Trump is relentless in the hard-hitting salvos he fires off regularly in their direction, and since he cannot be intimidated by their bluster, they go a little crazy.

I, for one, see no problem with this. In fact, I find it rather entertaining. Yes, I admit that seeing Leftists experience paroxysms of psychopathic lunacy to be a thing of amusement, along the lines of a classic Laurel and Hardy clip, or something involving Inspector Clouseau from the Pink Panther flicks of the 1970s.

Thus, while their ideas and policies are invariably nothing to laugh about, their mannerisms in the face of defeat can provide a measure of comic relief.

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

Power and Sex: The Fall of Harvey Weinstein

What I find noteworthy concerning the week-long media blitz featuring the downfall of a Leftist Hollywood Producer is the large delay between cause and effect, or action and reaction. This was apparent in other notable celebrities who have recently fallen, particularly Bill Cosby.



Journal
Writing

The delay is interesting for several reasons.

First, one wonders, if Mr. Weinstein was groping women for many years, why is this coming out now? Why did the many women not come forward in, say, 2003, if he was pawing at them like a self-conscious mongrel? Did they fear his power? Did they not wish to risk alienating him on the assumption that he was their ticket to stardom? (And, parenthetically, I would ask, if he is being destroyed now, why could he not have been destroyed then?)

And that leads to another disturbing question: if there were young women who were vulnerable, and just as insecure as Mr. Weinstein appears to be, and desperate for stardom, did they submit to his perverse demands for sexual romps as a sort of immoral trade-off ("I will watch you shower, and more, if you will cast me in a big role")? And if the two of them did such a "deal," does that suggest that there may be women who never would come forward, perhaps out of raw shame, or perhaps out of a sense of honor that a deal is a deal?

Mr. Weinstein strikes me as someone who is not just obsessed with sex, but desperately addicted to it the same way a cocaine addict needs their next fix within 24 hours. This may have been a daily, or near-daily, obsession for Mr. Weinstein. I wonder if the quality of his work as a movie producer might have been improved had he been thinking more about producing excellence rather than producing his one-man burlesque show for the next woman that, unfortunately, crossed his path.

Bill Cosby, who seems to have had his own unusual proclivities (i.e., desiring women who were unconscious at the time of his escapades) probably, by the very

nature of such strange preferences, had to be much more calculating, and engage in much more planning and preparation. Weinstein's out-of-control impulses enabled him to harass women with reckless abandon, using the same, tired, unwanted lines, probably multiple times a day, in an effort to see which victims would submit due to being worn down by his adolescent-like persistence.

And that leads us to the second interesting observation. Both Cosby and Weinstein did their deeds over the course of many years, and got away with it for a very long time. Eventually, they both probably surmised that their recipe for success was working, as they had received minimal flack for it. This emboldened them.

But, as we have seen, they had set up a rickety moral house of cards, an unstable structure that seemed secure, but was not. Now their houses are crashing down around them, and even if they do not end up in prison, their reputations are irreparably in tatters.

Not only do men need to come to the realization that bad behavior that occurred 3, or 5, or 10 years ago may eventually come back to bite them, but they have to come to realize that a perverse paradigm of sex has destroyed many families, many careers, many reputations, and many relationships. It is way past time we clean up our thinking, and our behavior, when it comes to sexual intimacy.

The World of Words

Triangulate

Building Your Power of Expression



Dictionary

Triangulate, v.

Pronunciation: trīàNGgyəĵāt

Meaning: Used in an ideological setting, the word triangulate refers to the strategic aim to position oneself in such a way as to appeal to "both sides" -- for example, to try to satisfy both left-wing and right-wing demands.

Usage:

- *Will the president decide to triangulate?*
- *We are constantly trying to triangulate and confirm what we hear or see elsewhere.*
- *We may be forced to triangulate ourselves to a new policy position.*

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

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ drdorough@yahoo.com](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_drdorough@yahoo.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by ara@aranorwood.com in collaboration with



[Constant Contact](#)

Try it free today