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Dear David,

Greetings to you!

Lots to cover. Let's get to it.

I profile a female leader in the **Self-Development** column -- one that represents the longest running mentorship in US History.

In my **Elephant in the Room** column, I assess Stormy Daniels and her small role in the anti-Trump movement.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I share a few thoughts about the extreme poverty and homelessness I witnessed recently in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco.

And, as usual, I end with the **World of Words** column with a great new word you can add to your growing pallet of words.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Great Leaders of the Past: Anne Sullivan

Anne Sullivan was a leader of one.

Born April 14th, 1866 in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, her parents were Irish immigrants. Anne was a pioneer in the field of education. Her work with Helen Keller became the blueprint for education of children who were blind, both deaf and blind, or otherwise visually impaired that still continues to this day. Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) dubbed her a "miracle worker."

Anne was the eldest of 5 children, only 2 of whom reached adulthood. She was subject to poverty and abuse by her alcoholic father. Struck by trachoma at age 7 leaving her almost blind, she lost her mother two years later, and her father abandoned Anne and her younger brother, Jimmie, to an orphanage when she was just 10.

Both she and Jimmie were kept in the Women's Ward of the Tewksbury Alms House. Anne recalled: "Very much of what I remember about Tewksbury is indecent, cruel, melancholy, gruesome in the light of grown-up experience; but

nothing corresponding with my present understanding of these ideas entered my child mind. Everything interested me. I was not shocked, pained, grieved or troubled by what happened. Such things happened. People behaved like that -- that was all that there was to it. It was all the life I knew. Things impressed themselves upon me because I had a receptive mind. Curiosity kept me alert and keen to know everything."

Rumors of bad things taking place at Tewksbury prompted inspections. She later reflected on her haunted memories: "Unexpected good has filled the chinks of frustration in my life. But at times melancholy without reason grips me as in a vice [SIC]. A word, an odd inflection, the way somebody crosses the street, brings all the past before me with such amazing clearness and completeness, my heart stops beating for a moment. Then everything around me seems as it was so many years ago. Even the ugly frame-buildings are revived."

"Again I see the unsightly folk who hobbled, cursed, fed and snored like animals. I shiver recalling how I looked upon scenes of vile exposure -- the open heart of a derelict is not a pleasant thing. I doubt if life, or eternity for that matter, is long enough to erase the errors and ugly blots scored upon my brain by those dismal years."

Jimmie died of tuberculosis shortly after their arrival there.

Anne was determined to get out of Tewksbury. She had heard of a school for blind children in Massachusetts and she had also heard that an investigation of Tewksbury was about to take place. In 1880, when Frank B. Sanborn, an official for the State Board of Charities of Massachusetts, came to inspect the school, Anne flung herself at him saying, "Mr. Sanborn! Mr. Sanborn! I want to go to school!"

Her plea was successful. Very soon after she had pleaded with the official, she was sent to the Perkins School for the Blind. Anne found it hard to adapt, as Perkins was a quiet and polite place, unlike the raw and rude environment of Tewksbury that she was used to. The working class men and women at Tewksbury, who were predominantly Irish Catholic, expressed all their emotions out loud and in public. Perkins on the other hand was quiet and sedate, reflective of its prosperous and Protestant patronage. Anne reminisces as follows:

"She [the teacher] had a regular class in Shakespeare, one hour a week, and that hour was Paradise to me. As I look back, it seems as if it contained all that was stimulating and fine in my school days. I used to leave the classroom in a trance. We read *The Tempest*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*."

"The impression these plays made upon me was profound. I literally lived them. For the first time I felt the magic of great poetry, the beauty of words, the romance of life. Through all the vicissitudes of my life, through all the twists and turnings and the cross currents of my extraordinary experiences, poetry has been the noblest and most spiritualizing influence I have known."

A year after her arrival at Perkins, she was sent to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, where she had the first of two operations. The second operation took

place a year later in 1882. These operations changed Anne Sullivan's life. Her sight was greatly improved after ten years of almost no usable sight.

One of the most important skills that Anne learned at the Perkins School for the Blind was the manual alphabet developed for deaf people. Each letter of the alphabet is formed with a different hand sign. For a person who is deaf and blind, words are signed into the palm of the hand. The person feels the movement of the fingers, which are surrounded by the "listener's" hand.



At Perkins, Anne's hard work and keen mind resulted in her being chosen as the valedictorian of her class in 1886. The graduation speech she delivered at the commencement ceremony included these words:

"All the wondrous physical, intellectual and moral endowments, with which man is blessed, will, by inevitable law, become useless, unless he uses and improves them...If a love for truth and beauty and goodness is not cultivated, the mind loses the strength which comes from truth, the refinement which comes from beauty, and the happiness which comes from goodness."

In August of 1886, Michael Anagnos, Director of the Perkins School for the Blind, asked his star pupil, Anne, if she was interested in working for the Keller family in Tuscumbia, Alabama. He told her that their six-year-old daughter, Helen, had been deaf and blind since the age of 19 months because of a severe illness. Since that time the baby had grown into a wild and increasingly uncontrollable child. The parents, Kate and Arthur Keller, had contacted the famous inventor and educator of the deaf, Alexander Graham Bell, in Washington, D.C. for help. He, in turn, had put them in touch with the Perkins School for the Blind.

At age 21, Anne began teaching Helen Keller in Alabama when Helen was 7 (and highly undisciplined.) From the moment she arrived she began to sign words into Helen's hand, trying to help her understand the idea that everything has a name.

"As I began to teach her, I was beset by many difficulties. She wouldn't yield a point without contesting it to the bitter end. I couldn't coax her or compromise with her. To get her to do the simplest thing, such as combing her hair or washing her hands or buttoning her boots, it was necessary to use force, and, of



course, a distressing scene followed..."

"I saw clearly that it was useless to try to teach her language or anything else until she learned to obey me. I have thought about it a great deal, and the more I think, the more certain I am that obedience is the gateway through which knowledge, yes, and love, too, enter the mind of the child."

She taught her to spell "Doll" by writing the letters into Helen's hand. But Helen didn't make the connection that she was spelling a word or that words existed. She finally made the connection when Anne Sullivan took Helen outside one day to the water pump. As Anne drew water from the pump, she placed Helen's hand under the water and then spelled the word "water" into Helen's other hand. All of a sudden the lights went on for Helen and she made the connection that everything had a name and that the manual alphabet was the key to everything she wanted to know. That one symbol, water, became the lodestar for Helen Keller, and the single thing that connected all the dots for her. Within three weeks, she had learned more than 100 words.

For the next 26 years, Anne's life with Helen was a whirlwind of activity with travel, lectures, meetings, etc.

In 1932, Temple University conferred an honorary degree on Anne. Helen spoke at the ceremony of how Anne had led her into the world of the hearing and seeing. Anne was embarrassed by the praise but full of pride in her pupil. In 1927, Nella Braddy was commissioned to write Anne's biography. Anne told Nella of her childhood and her ordeal at the Tewksbury Alms House, something she'd kept from Helen for a long time. This biography was published in 1933.

In total, they were together almost non-stop for the better part of 50 years -- the most impressive act of mentoring perhaps in all of U.S. history. On October 20th, 1936, at age 70, Anne Sullivan died in Forest Hills, New York. In June 1960, a fountain was dedicated at Radcliffe College in memory of Anne Sullivan. Helen Keller was there for the dedication, and was asked to give a speech. In this speech, Helen Keller approached the microphone, hesitated a moment, and then, haltingly, said one single word before sitting back down.

That one word: water.

She remembered.

* * * * *

There is a beautiful depiction of the relationship between Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller on YouTube. Unfortunately, the video cuts off before the actual ending. It's a training video, courtesy of the Covey Leadership Center. You can view it by [clicking here](#).

If Looks Could Kill

Take a good look at the photo below:



This is a photo of a woman who goes by the name of Stormy Daniels. Ms. Daniels (whose real name is Stephanie Clifford) made the decision to pursue a career doing the very commendable work of a porn actress and stripper. I'm sure her parents are very proud.

She and her co-conspirators claim that she had a tryst with Donald Trump prior to his being elected President of the United States. If this is true, it shines a light on an extremely poor decision on Mr. Trump's part (not to mention the poor character of Ms. Daniels spanning her entire adult life) but has no bearing on Mr. Trump's presidency, which is the whole point of this circus. She is one of many weapons the Left is using -- and I really do mean *using* -- to try to bludgeon the President, as their hope is that somehow this news will be grounds for impeachment and then Hilary Clinton (not Vice President Pence for some reason) will somehow sweep into the White House and reclaim the presidency they believe is rightly hers.

Looking at her photo, one could be forgiven for not envisioning a woman of towering intellect. Although she is attempting to look sexy, she looks to me as if she has just awoken from an overdose of sleeping pills, or has recently suffered a severe brain injury. I would imagine, in that photo, that the only intelligible word coming out of her mouth would not be a word at all, but a sound approximating "Gooooooohhh!" Note the tilted head. Note the unfocused gaze. Note the tongue, which appears to be ready to slide, involuntarily, from her open, gaping mouth, where drool seems to be gathering.

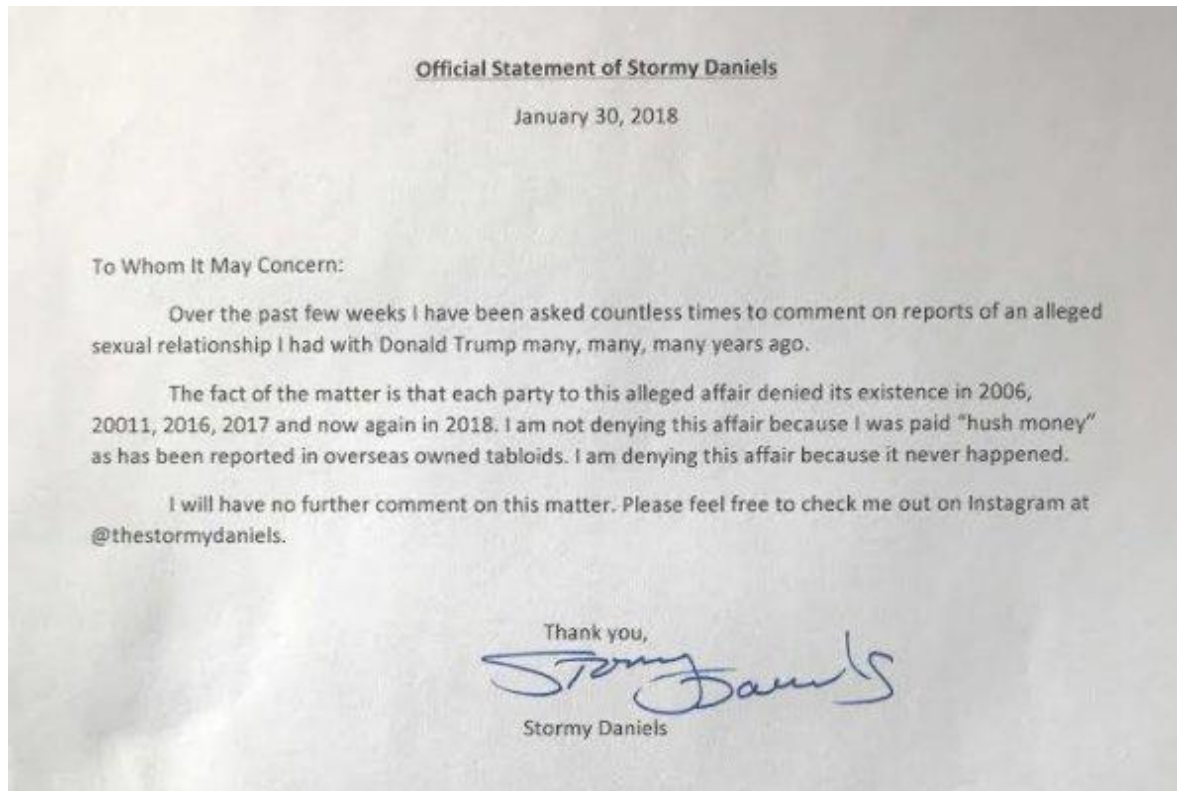
True to character, Leftist haven West Hollywood has recently declared May 23rd "Stormy Daniels Day" and has presented her with a key to the city (which, when you really understand West Hollywood, is like being given the key to an outhouse filled with spirochetes that hasn't been disinfected for years).

Ms. Daniels is an interesting case study in contradictions.

What contradictions?

For someone who claims to have signed a non-disclosure agreement that she would not speak about the alleged affair she had with then private citizen Donald Trump, she's doing a lot of disclosing, even after collecting \$130,000 for her silence.

Yet in January 2018, she signed a letter that read, "I am not denying this affair because I was paid 'hush money,' as has been reported in overseas-owned tabloids. I am denying this affair because it never happened." Here's that letter:



Is she lying now when she claims she had an affair with Donald Trump? Or was she lying when she wrote the January 30th letter above? Either way, it appears Ms. Daniels is lying somewhere. . .

Stormy Daniels is one small element in the overall swamp composed of people suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome. The hatred of the Left towards Donald Trump is actually hatred towards American values, which are conservative values. Mr. Trump is merely a symbol. Were he replaced by Mike Pence or any other conservative, the Left would ignore Trump and unleash their unbridled fury on whoever is preventing them from destroying America and Western Civilization with their aberrant values of late-term abortion-on-demand, anti-Christianity, hatred of the Boy Scouts, hatred of normal heterosexual relations, hatred of white males, love of big government, hatred of free market capitalism, hatred of American Exceptionalism, hatred of gender distinctions of male-female, hatred of the American Flag, hatred of black conservatives, hatred of Free Speech Rights for conservatives, love of high taxes, love of illegal drugs, hatred of incarcerating criminals, love of illegal aliens, hatred of traditional marriage, love of safe spaces, hatred of halloween costumes, hatred of cultural appropriation, hatred of pumpkin spice lattes, hatred of standards, love of tolerating perversity.

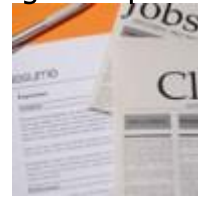
And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

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

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* * * * *

"I purchased Norwood's résumé guide last month and it's amazing! He goes through the processes step-by-step and you end up with not only a résumé that will get you that interview, but the skills necessary to be confident so you succeed in your interviews resulting in you receiving job offers (yes, offers)." -- D Smith, Santa Clarita, California

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considered important until you got me thinking about it. Thanks for a great product!" -- R. Espana, Valencia, California

From Ara's Journal

On Homelessness

I was in San Francisco this week. Driving around the Tenderloin District, I saw lots of people living out on the streets. On one particular street, the entire block was littered with people who had nowhere to go -- the street was their home. There was the stench of urine, there were piles of feces, there were lots of needles on the ground. In a nearby area there were lots of



signs warning drivers not to leave valuables in their car, as the area was rampant with car break-ins. In fact, I saw the police speaking to a couple whose car had been broken into moments earlier, with broken glass from their SUV's rear window strewn all over the pavement behind their car.

I do not pretend to have any answers.

But I do have some questions:

- What principals are these people failing to adhere to that keeps them in this predicament?
- Can these people be reached? Can they be reasoned with?
- How many of these people suffer from mental illness, and thus cannot be reasoned with in conventional ways?
- Do these people accept their current plight as inevitable? Do they not want to change their circumstances? Have they given up?
- Will there come an eventual breaking point? Will it cause the homeless to rebel en masse, and wreak anarchy among the general populace of San Francisco? Or will it come from everyday residents of San Francisco who will no longer tolerate the filth and squalor?
- Will government leaders make the problem better? Will they make the problem worse?

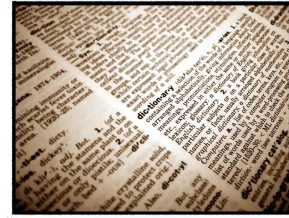
The World of Words

Vestige

Building Your Power of Expression

Vestige, n.

Pronunciation: vĕstij



Meaning: A vestige is a trace of something that is disappearing or that no longer exists. It can also refer to the smallest amount of something (usually used to emphasize the absence of something.) I often use it in the plural.

Usage:

- *He waited patiently, but without a vestige of sympathy.*
- *As I explored Stonehenge, I sensed that I was among the vestiges of a people steeped in mysticism and symbolism.*
- *Due to how he conducted himself once out of office, he seemed to lose whatever vestiges of power he had formerly carried with 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).

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