

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Dear David,

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of *Uncommon Sense*. It's an important one.

Happy Halloween to all, and happy birthday to my brother Michael.

Check out the **Self-Development** column for a quick read on why you should say "No" at times.

And review carefully the hard-hitting **Elephant in the Room** column, where I examine what it means to be a Progressive today.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I give you some thoughts on taking care of yourself before you take care of others.

And I simply love the word choice in the **World of Words** column! I hope you do, too.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The Power of "No."

We tend to be very polite and accommodating, especially in the workplace. So when someone reaches out to us and asks us to get involved in something, or be on a committee, or meet them for coffee, or review their work on a project, we often are agreeable. And many times that is the appropriate stance.

However, we have to be discerning. In my own experience, I have noticed that many times I am asked to do something that really isn't necessary. It's not something that I personally have to be involved with, yet the person making the request seems to think my participation is necessary. If I agree to get involved, I find that my involvement only provides marginal value, yet my participation derails me from the things I wish to accomplish.

Occasionally such circumstances are appropriate from the standpoint that my assistance contributed to building an important relationship. And there is absolute value in that.

However, often, I find that no such relationship building was realized, and the resulting opportunity-costs were immense.

Here is what I take from that: sometimes we have to have the courage to say "No thank you" to the myriad requests we receive. Doing so will often go against the grain of how we

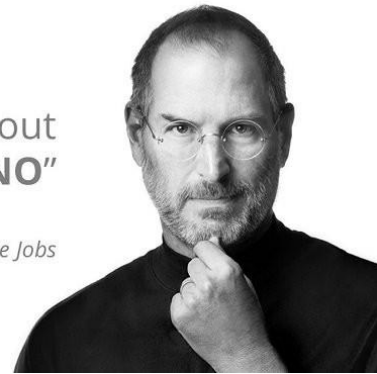
usually respond, but with practice, and if done politely and elegantly, others will come to see that we value our time, and they may come to respect us for that.

More importantly, we will forge the discipline to stay focused on our top priorities, and we will find great satisfaction in accomplishment.

Not a bad outcome.

"Focusing is about saying **NO**"

- Steve Jobs



The Elephant in the Room

The Insidious "Progressives"

Yes, I put the word progressives in quotation marks deliberately.

The Leftists among us like to think of themselves as Progressive. That is how they self-describe their movement. They imagine that they are very wonderful human beings, forward-thinking, on the right side of history, and simply brilliant. They are also very cock-sure of their agenda, and believe they are making the world a finer place.

But are they?

You decide. Here are some happenings that took place on the part of the Progressive Left in just the current month of October 2018. See if these examples cause you to see such persons as the Progressives they claim they are.



- Senator Cory Booker, the Democratic Senator from New Jersey, believes very strongly in his progressive bona fides. Many people believe Senator Booker will one day run for President. In early October, during the Brett Kavanaugh hearings which ultimately found Judge Kavanaugh innocent of all charges, [Senator Booker indicated](#) that Judge Kavanaugh should be removed from consideration for

the U.S. Supreme Court regardless of his guilt or innocence. In other words, the mere accusations against Kavanaugh, regardless of how absurd they were, and no matter how false they were, was enough to disqualify Kavanaugh. Due process was not something that should be extended to a conservative American citizen, in the mind of Senator Booker.

- In early October, two politicians who are running for Governor and Attorney General for the state of Rhode Island, [were busted](#) for having over 48 pounds of marijuana. This pair of pot-heads have actually set up a religious sect that is largely based on the practice of smoking marijuana. They consider themselves not only progressive, but enlightened as well.
- An NBC reporter wore a Make America Great Again hat while covering a Trump Rally, a move that evidently violated network policy. Rather than receiving a warning from the Human Resources office, he was [summarily fired](#). I wonder if they would have fired him had he worn a Hope and Change hat while covering an Obama Rally a few years earlier. . .
- After Mr. Kavanaugh was confirmed to be on the Supreme Court, Progressives decided to [target Susan Collins](#), the Republican Senator from Maine, whom Progressives were counting on to support them in their irrational hatred of Mr. Kavanaugh. Instead, Senator Collins gave a compelling statement for her reasons for supporting Mr. Kavanaugh. So what did Progressives do? Kat Calvin, of the supposed non-partisan activist group "Spread the Vote," urged the public to be relentless in their harassment of Senator Collins, stating, "Never let Collins have a moment of peace in public again." Is that progressive? Not content with public vilification of Senator Collins, a group of Progressives demanded that an institute of higher learning [rescind the honorary doctorate](#) they had earlier bestowed on Ms. Collins.
- Not content to harass those who spoke out in defense of Mr. Kavanaugh, a special education teacher in Minnesota used Twitter to ask this question: "So whose gonna take one for the team and kill Kavanaugh?" This is not a typo. She really felt that some progressive out there [should murder](#) an innocent man.
- Eric Holder, former Attorney General in the Obama Administration, a position that is supposedly about maintaining law and order, [suggested physical violence](#) towards Republicans, and that "When [Republicans] go low, we kick 'em. That's what this new Democratic Party is about."

- Johnny MacKay of Vancouver, Washington, and an unabashed Trump supporter, lost his truck to Progressives who [set his truck ablaze](#). Mr. MacKay's crime? He had Trump bumper stickers on his truck. This was done by people who think of themselves as progressive.
- A female student named Anna Ayers, a senior at Ohio University, reported having received several threatening notes from someone who despised her for being a lesbian. The police investigated and were prepared to bring the perpetrator to justice. Only one problem: this progressive lesbian had [made the threats](#) against herself. It was all a clumsily hatched hoax, in an effort to garner sympathy for her self-perceived victim status, and to sow unwarranted hostility towards religious conservatives.
- In Minnesota, two Republican candidates were physically [assaulted by Progressives](#). Republican state representative Sarah Anderson was punched in the arm after confronting a man who was destroying yard signs promoting Republican candidates. And Shane Mekeland, a first-time Republican candidate for the state legislature, suffered a concussion after he was sucker-punched while meeting with constituents at a local restaurant. Again, these physical assaults were carried out by Progressives.
- Back to Brett Kavanaugh. Ariel Dumas, a writer for Progressive TV icon Stephen Colbert, tweeted this gem: "Whatever happens, [I'm just glad we ruined](#) Brett Kavanaugh's life." This is the kind of thinking engaged in by people who fantasize that they are part of a Progressive movement.
- A Progressive activist in Portland, Oregon, upon learning that a defenseless widow had lost her husband in 9/11, [screamed the following](#) at her: "Good for him! Good. Good. . . Your husband should probably f___ing rot in the grave." This constitutes meaningful dialogue in the mind of the typical Leftist Progressive.
- President Trump called himself a Nationalist, and the Progressive media (CNN in this instance) opined that Mr. Trump had [essentially admitted](#) he is a Nazi.
- NBC News had information that would have made Kavanaugh accuser Julie Swetnick and her attorney, Michael Avenatti, look very foolish and not credible at all. But NBC News [failed to report](#) that information when it mattered, preferring instead to allow a knowingly false narrative against Mr. Kavanaugh be put forth as true when it was not true. The progressive news

media no longer does their job of simply reporting the news. Instead, they imagine their job is to destroy conservatives at all cost.

- Julie Ioffe, a far-Left Progressive who had once accused President Trump of incest, recently accused the President of having [radicalized more people](#) than ISIS has. This woman possesses a certitude of the "rightness" of her progressive positions that few people have ever been endowed with.
- Actor James Cromwell, a committed Progressive, [threatened the public](#) that if Democrats don't win the elections taking place on November 6th, there will be "blood in the streets." In other words, this Progressive is claiming that violence will take place against YOU if you vote Republican.

In the month of October alone we've witnessed drugs, intolerance, threats of harassment, arson, physical assault, verbal assault, phony crimes in an effort to frame one's opponents, sitting on evidence that would exonerate an innocent man, the denial of due process to an innocent man, gloating over ruining an innocent man's life, calls for an innocent man's murder, falsely claiming the President of the United States admits he's a Nazi and has done more harm than the worst and most murderous Islamic terrorist organizations, and threatening the voting public with physical mayhem if they don't vote Democrat.

These 15 examples should give you a fairly good sense of how Progressives both think and behave. The question is, are they truly Progressive? Or could they actually be Regressive?

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.

Shameless Plug

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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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From Ara's Journal

Looking Out For #1

It sounds counter-intuitive but I am realizing more and more that unless I take care of myself first, I am not really equipped to help others.

The examples are legion: if I deprive myself of sleep in an effort to help someone, I will mentally crumble, and then I am of no use to anyone. If I starve myself unnecessarily, I then become too weak to help others. If I run out of money, then I have no financial resources to help others with my finances.

Sometimes I find myself so eroded, so worn down (mentally, emotionally, spiritually) that I simply have to extricate myself from society for a while, avoiding people altogether, until I have adequately recharged my own mental, emotional, or spiritual batteries. Once the batteries are sufficiently recharged, I can again serve others, be there for others, advise others, lift others.



Far from being selfish, caring for oneself can actually be an act of selflessness, in the sense that such periods of withdrawal enable one to be there best in the service of their fellow brothers and sisters. This is an irony worth pondering. . .

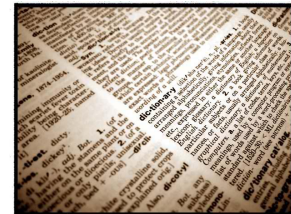
The World of Words

Legerdemain

Building Your Power of Expression

Legerdemain n.

Pronunciation: fōment, fōmentiNG



Meaning: While this word, taken from the French language, generally refers to the skillful use of one's hands when performing conjuring tricks, the term also refers to the sort of trickery we think of as deception.

Usage:

- *We have heard enough of your verbal legerdemain, and now we are going to dismiss you without further argument.*
- *This particular car salesman used all sorts of mental gymnastics and legerdemain to deceive his would-be customers.*
- *I want straight-talk; I insist on transparency. Please dispense with the legerdemain.*

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

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