

# Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

Quick Links

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

Issue: # 180

November 30, 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for continuing to be a loyal reading of *Uncommon Sense*. Let's unpack this issue:

In the **Self-Development** column you will find my argument as to why reading a book a 2nd time is a smart endeavor.

The **Elephant in the Room** column I do a repeat of the same analysis of last month, examining what the American Left is doing to our society that is harmful. It's depressing stuff, but we have to remain aware of what is going on and remain vigilant.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I address why it's important to be accommodating.

The **World of Words** column continues to not disappoint, with another colorful word to add to your vocabulary.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



## **Self-Development**

### Reading a Second Time

*We shall not cease from exploration.  
And the end of all our exploring  
will be to arrive where we began  
and to know the place for the first time.*

T. S. Eliot

Perhaps you've had this experience: You go to a movie in the theater. You enjoy the movie. Then, for whatever reason, you go see the movie a second time and you find it makes more sense. You noticed things in the second go-round you missed the first time you saw it. You pick up on subtleties and sub-themes that eluded you. Your eyes are opened wider. Your understanding is deeper. You are glad you saw the movie twice.

The same thing happens with books.

Think of the important books you have read in the past that had an impact on your thinking. For me, this would include books like:

- The Fifth Discipline by Peter Senge
- The Great Reckoning by James Dale Davidson and Lord William Rees-Mogg
- Abundance by Peter H. Diamandis and Steven Kotler
- The Black Swan by Nassim Nicholas Taleb
- Thinking Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman
- Principles by Ray Dalio

All of these were profound the first time around. But what I am discovering as I read them a second time is that my grasp of the concepts presented are deepened. My learning is enhanced. And my understanding of how to utilize the things I have learned is intensified.



After all, we should be reading not merely for intellectual development, but also to pragmatically develop our capabilities. It's one thing to understand what creative thinking is about; it's a whole different thing to engage in creative thinking. It is one thing to know about what makes a meeting effective; it's an entirely different thing to use what you know to run an effective meeting. The list could go on.

My advice to you: Make a list of the most important books you have read. Then retrieve one of them and start the process of reading it a second time. Pay attention to what becomes clearer to you. And above all, internalize and utilize what you learn this second time around.

## **The Elephant in the Room**

### **The Insidious Progressives go Marching On**

One month ago (*Uncommon Sense* #178) I outlined 15 examples of where the so-called Progressive Left have behaved in ways that were anything but progressive. The stories I highlighted involved drugs, intolerance, threats of harassment, arson, verbal and physical assault, phony crimes perpetuated to bring condemnation on innocent conservatives, calls for the murder of an innocent man (Brett Kavanaugh), and other such shenanigans.

So I got to wondering: Was October an unusually toxic month for the "Progressive" Left? Or was November just as bad?

Here is what I made note of for the month of November:

- David Sirota, a Left-Wing political commentator based out of Denver (where recreational pot smoking is legal) gave us his take on the differences between the Left and the Right. Here it is:



- Left-wing: 'Everyone should have healthcare and be able to go to college.'
- Right -wing: 'All Jews must die.'

I have to wonder if Mr. Sirota has ever heard of a fellow Leftist named Marc Lamont Hill. He was fired from CNN as the month closed out due to his anti-Semitic ideas he delivered in a speech to the United Nations that essentially translated into the notion that "All Jews must die." Perhaps Mr. Sirota merely had a momentary memory lapse on who the real anti-Semites were.

- Don Lemon, from CNN, who is black (which I mention for reasons that will soon be clear), had this to say: "We have to stop demonizing people, . . ."

For a moment, I was beginning to wonder if a renaissance was taking place at CNN. But alas, my hopes were short-lived, for in the next breath Mr. Lemon continued with his version of what it means to discontinue the demonization of people: ". . . and realize the biggest terror threat in this country is white men. . . and we have to start doing something about them."

I wonder what Mr. Lemon has in mind with how he and like-minded Leftists should "deal with" white men. . . Assault them? Imprison them? But certainly not demonize them.

- Judge Brett Kavanaugh dominated much of the news in October. But it came out in early November that another accuser, a woman, had leveled the charge of having been raped several times by Mr. Kavanaugh. This woman's name is Judy Munro-Leighton. I hadn't heard of her during the Kavanaugh hearings. However, it turns out that Ms. Munro-Leighton's claims of rape were 100% fabricated, something she later admitted. Turns out she is a Left-wing activist who hated the idea of a conservative being appointed to the Supreme Court, so she made up a vile allegation out of whole cloth. I wonder if she was the sole accuser to do such a thing.
- While Leftists get light-headed with euphoria whenever someone fires shots in their direction, as it emboldens them in their knee-jerk condemnation of President Trump (as if President Trump is somehow responsible for what a deranged lunatic does), the Mainstream Media (which is almost entirely Left-wing in its perspective) rarely gives equal airtime to stories involving Conservative establishments getting shot up. Hence, when shots were fired into a satellite office of the Republican Party located in Volusia County,

Florida, the mainstream media was largely silent on the matter, the exceptions being the *Washington Post* and NBC News which each ran a single story on the incident. The rest of the coverage was by smaller, mostly local news media offices.

- While it's old news that Leftists tend to hate God, Jesus, Religion, and Christianity, they don't usually broadcast such proclivities in a blatant manner. But Chris Matthews did on his cable news program while interviewing Jackie Speier. In discussing a horrific mass shooting that took place in Thousand Oaks, California, Mr. Matthews opined that those who offer their "thoughts and prayers" for the victims and their families were wrong-headed. They should evidently do something else, though Mr. Matthews did not provide any specifics. Jackie Speier, the radically-Left-leaning Congresswoman from California, was even more strident in her rhetoric disdaining those who offer thoughts and prayers. Although Mr. Matthews conceded that there could be good intentions behind the impulse of some to offer such prayers, Ms. Speier contradicted him and denied that anyone could have good intentions who turn to prayer during a crisis of this sort. Speier claimed that victims "don't give a bloody you-know-what" about moments of silence, prayers, etc. I am impressed she didn't utter the expletive that was bouncing around inside her cranial cavity, but it's obvious that matters involving holiness, God, the sacred, etc, are very bothersome to this woman. Similarly, in the previous issue of *Uncommon Sense* (#179) I documented the Left-wing harassment received by a truly remarkable student at UC Berkeley, Isabella Chow who is a devout Christian.. Because she would not sign a student senate bill that would suggest she endorses the LGBTQ+ lifestyle, she has been mercilessly persecuted by the Left, who claim they stand for tolerance.
- During the mid-term elections, it appears that some illegal aliens were casting votes in the Florida Democratic gubernatorial and Senate candidates. This is blatantly illegal. Yet lawyers for the two Democratic candidates actually objected to such votes not being counted. Democrats feel they must cheat to win.
- An illegal immigrant from Mexico named Luis Rodrigo Perez was in jail in New Jersey. Apart from being in the country illegally, he was being held on domestic violence charges. But the Lawless Left who believe in Sanctuary Cities more than they believe in the protection of their own population released him, ignoring a detainer from ICE in the process. And what happened? This illegal alien thug went out and murdered three innocent people. And the Lawless Left who released him? They blame ICE, even though they ignored the detainer issued by ICE.
- Disney World permanently banned a man from entering their gates ever again. His crime? He is a supporter of Donald Trump and, while on rides, held up signs bearing this out.
- The prestigious science journal *Nature* publishes refereed, peer-reviewed papers covering a wide range of scientific inquiry. They recently published a major paper on global warming. That paper claimed that ocean temperatures had spiked much more dramatically than previously



thought. But even though this peer-reviewed paper was signed off by experts as accurate, it was not accurate. An amateur follower of science named Nic Lewis read the paper, spotted what he felt were inconsistencies in the data, and did the necessary research to show that the data was bogus. So much for scientific rigor. This shows that the Progressive Left is more interested in publishing papers that support a narrative than they are in publishing papers based on objective, bias-free science. It also shows that some scientists behave very unscientifically.

- Some among the Progressive Left in San Francisco have taken to trying their hand at graffiti art, using their own feces. Now that's progressive!
- Left-wing Progressives at major universities have also decided that certain sounds, like cheering or clapping, could trigger anxiety among students. So they insist that students do not clap, replacing clapping with "jazz hands" (where students wave their hands in the air, silently.) In addition, at Leeds Trinity University, Journalism Professors have been told not to use capital letters (later changed to not using ALL CAPS), or to utter words like "do" or "don't" lest it frighten students. You have to be a Leftist college administrator (forgive the redundancy) to think this makes sense.
- Jon S. Tigar, a Lawless Leftist Judge from San Francisco, does not believe in the sovereignty of the United States, and has, with a wave of the hand, barred the Trump Administration from refusing asylum to immigrants who cross the southern border illegally. This lawless judge wants as many illegal aliens as possible to enter the country so that they will some day vote Democrat and keep Leftists in power.
- A Conservative Dean at Catholic University was forced to resign as Dean after he had tweeted various challenging questions re. Judge Kavanaugh's accusers back in September. The Tweets he posted consisted of the following: he pointed out that Julie Swetnick is four years older than Brett Kavanaugh and then questioned why a girl who is a senior in high school would be hanging around a boy who is a freshman. He then postulated that if the alleged crimes took place when Kavanaugh was a senior, Swetnick would have been an adult who was then having sex with underage boys, making her the perp and Kavanaugh the victim. In a separate Tweet he wondered why Christine Blasey Ford took a polygraph which was paid for by someone else and administered by a private investigator in early August if she intended to remain anonymous. And what did the President of Catholic University have to say about all of this? He called the Tweets "unacceptable," not reflective of the values of Catholic University (although he failed to say what those values were), and that the Tweets were the result of a "serious lack of judgment and insensitivity."
- In October, we had our usual accusations from the Left of racism, a theme they never seem to tire of. The Charlie Brown Thanksgiving special was labeled racist, as were license plates in the state of Kansas that contain the 3 letters "JAP" -- which, of course, could only be a deliberate poke in the eye at people from Japan. And not to be left out, President Trump posthumously bestows the Medal of Freedom on Elvis Presley, and what do the Progressive Left do? Call it a racist act.

- But my favorite story involving a "Progressive" Leftist involved a state senator from Illinois, Stephanie Kifowit, who openly and unabashedly stated, on the senate floor, that she wished suffering and death for the family of a fellow senator, Republican Peter Breen, merely because Mr. Breen was questioning a bill that Senator Kifowit had co-sponsored, and wanted to understand the financial implications of the bill. Senator Kifowit denied she said such things, claiming her words were taken out of context. But that was a profound lie. [The video of the meeting](#) shows her saying exactly the things she now denies having said. You can see her remarks at about 11:50. So in essence, a radical Leftist Senator openly stated she wished suffering and death to befall a fellow Senator (and his entire family) who failed to give instant and unmitigated support for a bill that a Democrat Senator endorsed. Nothing like a little unhinged behavior when you don't get what you want when you want it.

It appears to me that the so-called Progressive Left has continued their downward spiral into cruelty, self-contradiction, demonizing the innocent, lying, ignoring relevant news that doesn't fit the Leftist narrative, misstating science, denigrating the holy, cheating, favoring illegal aliens over citizens, claiming racism where none exists, openly wishing for the death of a colleague and his family, and abject foolishness. Sounds like another typical month of "progressivism."

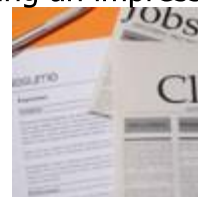
And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

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

**Shameless Plug**

**Is Your Résumé Overdue For an Overhaul?**

You may be gainfully employed, you may be unemployed, or you may (knowingly or unknowingly) be heading for a layoff. Having an impressive résumé can set you apart from the competition and position you for your next job.



Don't wait for the crisis. Get ahead of the game by whipping your résumé into shape now!

If you are in need of a quantum improvement of your résumé, you will benefit from my eBook, *Crafting a Winning Résumé*, which you can order by [clicking](#)

[here](#).

Your résumé is your marketing brochure, and you do not get a second chance to make a first impression. Make an investment in yourself!

\* \* \* \* \*

"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

"I could not have gotten my first job without your expertise. Thank you so much! I learned that I had to reword and improve my résumé in order to be taken seriously in the workforce. I had been given tips from my professors in Health Science and other professionals but your advice was just what I needed. It took weeks of frustration waiting for interview calls when I happened to stumble across your website and discovered that I needed help. Your publication enlightened me with your knowledge on the wording and format needed to attract an employer. Furthermore, your booklet helped me recognize certain skills and work experience that I would have never considered important until you got me thinking about it. Thanks for a great product!" -- R. Espana, Valencia, California

## From Ara's Journal

### Accommodation

I was walking into the locker room of Gold's Gym early yesterday morning to get in a workout. As I saw a locker at one end of a row without a lock on it, I instinctively moved in that direction for the purpose of storing my street clothes and other belongings. Right before I got to that locker I heard a booming voice behind me call out, "Not over there! Not over there!" I had no idea what that meant or who it was addressed to, but I turned around and looked in the direction of that voice and saw a man who appeared to have just completed his own workout. And he was speaking to me. I was a bit perplexed. He then said to me, sternly, "I have my stuff over there!" (Actually, he used a different word than "stuff.") His facial expression appeared to me to be both demanding and adamant.





I suddenly understood the meaning he was trying to convey. He was ordering me not to put my belongings in a particular locker because it was too close to his locker and he wanted his space.

Mind you, neither he nor any other patron of Gold's Gym has any claim on "space." Thus, he really was out of line to make such a demand. But I made the immediate mental calculation that informing him of this would only escalate a problem and probably not end well. (Yes, this fellow was much bigger and stronger than me, and he didn't strike me as particularly rational.) Although I had no fear of this man, I recognized that whatever his issue was, it was not worth reasoning with him, arguing with him, defying him, or ignoring him.

I simply said, "OK" and walked around the corner to the next bank of lockers to find a vacant one.

As I reflected on this encounter, many thoughts entered my mind. But the one that stands out is the notion that being accommodating to others has its place. I do not understand what this man's issue was (a sense of entitlement; selfishness; a disdain for people in general; paranoia; all of the above; none of the above) but whatever it was, taking an accommodating posture defused that issue. I am not out anything -- I certainly didn't have to have the initial locker I spotted. And this man's anxieties, whatever their source, were not exacerbated.

Accommodating others strikes me as an antidote to many problems we encounter when dealing with challenging people. I hope I can maintain an accommodating persona more often than not.

## The World of Words

### Corrosive

#### Building Your Power of Expression

**Corrosive**, adj., n.

**Pronunciation:** kə'ɒsɪv



**Meaning:** As an adjective, this word refers to anything that tends to cause corrosion, which is damage to a metal, or stone, or other materials. As a noun, the word refers to a corrosive substance. I tend to use the term figuratively.

#### Usage:

- *We ended our partnership; I found working with him too corrosive.*

- *She may be brilliant on matters of strategy and innovation, but her nails-on-a-chalkboard persona is both toxic and corrosive to team harmony.*
- *I'm discontinuing this particular medication, as the huge amounts of zinc it contains is proving corrosive to your pancreas.*

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,**

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ drdorrough@yahoo.com](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_drdorrough@yahoo.com)

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

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



Try it free today