

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

Quick Links

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

Dear David,

I wish you a most splendid Christmas holiday season! Here is what awaits you in this issue of *Uncommon Sense*:

In the **Self-Development** column we take a new look at mentoring. I think it may expand your horizons a bit.

The **Elephant in the Room** column offers some modest thoughts about Donald Trump and what I believe could be a mistake in judgment he made of immense proportions.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I share some thoughts about musical technology.

And, of course, the **World of Words** column provides you with a word you may have heard but perhaps not have uttered. Now's your chance.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Distant Mentors

Being mentored is a great undertaking because you are entrusting yourself to someone with more experience than you, and that person is likely going to challenge you to change in ways that may not be comfortable. Most mentors notice flaws in your current performance, and they point out those flaws in an effort to get you to move in the right direction. Other times, a mentor might notice a skill or attribute you possess, and they try to help you sharpen that skill, raising a strength to an even greater level of performance. This is also a very good approach.

And while most of the mentoring relationships you will experience involve direct contact with a mentor, usually in a face-to-face encounter, but sometimes through other mediums (i.e., telephone, written correspondence, etc.) mentoring can be had in other ways.

For example, you can be mentored -- albeit at a distance -- from just about anybody, living or dead, who has left a body of accessible work that captures their

views. The raw example of a Churchill or a Gandhi, a Ronald Reagan or a Mother Teresa, can serve to shape and inform your views, actions, and undertakings. Read their writings, and read biographies of such luminaries and you will be well on your way to placing yourself in a position of being able to emulate their courage, their virtue, their leadership, their selflessness, or what have you.



Other opportunities to be mentored indirectly come from the many thought-leaders out there who have something to say. Here are some examples from my own life:

- Almost everything I know about writing persuasive proposals for consulting engagements and the like comes from **Alan Weiss**. He wrote a fairly trim book on proposal writing, made even trimmer by the fact that every other page was left blank (for note-taking.) So while the content of that book covered a fairly small number of actual printed pages, the content was so brilliantly written, so clear, so spot-on, that I quickly realized the \$150 or so that I spent on that thin volume was worth every penny, as Alan would have likely charged me -- justifiably -- several thousand dollars for a face-to-face tutorial on the same content. I have utilized his "mentoring" almost as is, making only a few modest modifications.
- Almost everything I know about time management and life planning comes to me from the late **Stephen R. Covey**, my first boss out of college. Covey opened my eyes to the notions of importance and urgency (and their opposites) and from his personal teachings as well as his writings, I have obtained a systemic process for mapping out how and where I will spend my energies each week.
- While I have never met **Victor Davis Hanson**, I have learned an inordinate amount about the intellect, and how to arrange one's thoughts in a cogent, compelling manner. Hanson is a masterful writer, thinker, and teacher. While he can be a bit cerebral in his demeanor, and he's clearly soft-spoken and not

given to boorish outbursts, the man expresses himself with a learned command of facts, sources, history, and logic. I not only learn important facts from him, but I learn how to express myself in compelling ways.

As the year is winding down, I suggest you consider where you wish to grow in the near future. Find out the names of the thought-leaders who excel in your field of interest. Listen to them. Watch them. Read them. Understand their bias and where they are coming from. Implement what you learn from them.

You can be mentored by the truly great lights of the age or of the past if you make the decision to bring that about. There is nothing stopping you.

Now get out there and make it happen!

The Elephant in the Room

Naïveté About Evil

Today, a dear friend and I were talking on the phone. I had called to wish her a happy birthday. During the course of the conversation, she asked me what I thought of Donald Trump. Interesting question.

Donald Trump is certainly one of the more polarizing figures in recent memory. Many people love him, and many people hate him with a depth of vitriol that is unsettling.

I neither love him nor hate him. I see him as a mixed bag: extremely capable in certain areas, and deeply flawed in other areas.

I have not been particularly critical of the President thus far.

But I will make a prediction here: President Trump's decision to remove our troops from Syria in their fight against ISIS is very likely going to prove to be a terrible mistake.

Permit me the use of an analogy. Some years ago, while in college, I was sick with some sort of illness, perhaps a flu bug or a virus or something similar. I was given antibiotics in tablet form by a doctor and instructed to take all of them according to the dosage prescribed. I started to feel noticeably better after the 2nd day of being on those meds so I disregarded the doctor's instructions and discontinued taking the meds. And the illness came back with a rage, much more virulent than originally experienced, and I became deathly sick! That was my fault because I failed to complete the fight against the illness that was harming me. I essentially beat up on the illness for a couple of days, then walked away. The illness was badly bruised, but not destroyed, and it came back stronger and more violent than ever. I paid a terrible price.

ISIS, that notorious Islamic terrorist group comprised of the world's most savage and deranged psychopaths, has gotten beaten senseless by President Trump's

approach. But while largely eviscerated, they are not destroyed in an absolute sense, and that is what is needed.

Mark my words: President Trump's decision to take his foot off the accelerator in the war against ISIS is going to come back to haunt him, and haunt us. It is a law of nature that the annihilation of the worst evils in this world must be complete. Anything short of total eradication invites greater curses, greater sorrows, and greater suffering down the road.



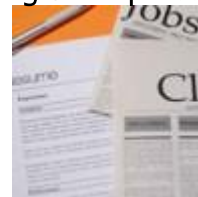
And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

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

Our Good Tools

I love music, particularly jazz.

DB, a dear friend up in Silicon Valley (Northern California) is a pal I've known for over 40 years. I consider him a musician who doesn't play an instrument. But he is a very valuable source of musical education for me, as he is routinely introducing me to the music of various artists and bands that have amazed me and brought me much listening satisfaction.



DB recently exposed me to a band with the odd name of **Snarky Puppy**. Great ensemble! But the experience became even more widespread thanks to the music app known as Pandora. By creating a Pandora Radio Station with the title of Snarky Puppy, I knew I would be able to hear a lot of Snarky Puppy tracks, but in addition, I would get to hear other artists whose music is more or less similar to Snarky Puppy's style. Thus, I got exposure to artists such as **Lettuce, The Funky Knuckles, Matt Dickey, Soulive, Hristo Vitchev Quintet, Damian Ersine, Marcus Miller, The Brand New Heavies,** and **Rock Candy Funk Party,** among many others. With the exception of The Brand New Heavies (whom I had merely heard of, not actually heard) I was completely unfamiliar with all of these artists. Not any longer!

I'm grateful to the entrepreneurs who gave us Pandora and other similar platforms. They make life considerably more elegant.

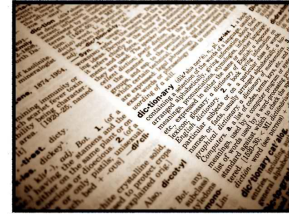
The World of Words

Beholden

Building Your Power of Expression

Beholden, adj.

Pronunciation: bə'hōld(ə)n



Meaning: The word refers to situation when you owe thanks to someone, or you have some sort of duty to someone in return for help or some service or favor they rendered to you earlier. For instance, in politics, a lot of political leaders feel beholden to special interest groups for the cash donations such groups gave to said political leaders.

Usage:

- *I am completely independent, and I'm not beholden to anybody.*
- *Since Keith is the company's president, he feels beholden to his employees and works hard to ensure they are treated fairly.*
- *The notorious rapper said he wasn't beholden to anyone because he made himself famous.*

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, P. O. Box 801681, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1681
Leadership Development Systems
SafeUnsubscribe™ drdorrough@yahoo.com

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

Sent by ara@aranorwood.com in collaboration with



Try it free today