

# Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

Quick Links

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

**Dear David,**

Great to have you back during these challenging times.

In this issue's **Self-Development** column we focus on the concept of elegance, always a fun topic.

In the **Elephant in the Room** column I turn the reigns over to Fin McCool, who will begin the first of four parts of an important piece on Mitt Romney and why his vote to impeach President Trump was an error of colossal magnitude. His contribution in this issue sets up a context for what's to come.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column I share some of my observations on how memories fade based on my recent reading of two autobiographies written by members of the rock band The Who.

The **World of Words** column rounds out our time together by giving you a lovely word you can begin utilizing immediately.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



## **Self-Development**

### **Elegance**

I should like to point out that elegance is one of those novelties that raises humankind from the base, to the average, and on to the sublime. There are so many aspects of our human experience that can support this charming phenomenon, as we move from the coarse, to the normative, to the elegant.

Elegance is the quality of being graceful or stylish in one's way of being. It is often applied to one's attire or general mannerisms. Elegance is about being refined in one's graces, or dignified in one's propriety. It is about the tasteful richness one employs in the moment. It is about restrained beauty. It is about polish. It is about style. And there are so many facets of our life that could benefit from our striving for elegance in that area.

Let's start with music. Rap music (which, technically, doesn't even qualify as music) is not elegant. It is largely degrading. Its themes are often immoral,

violent, and nonsensical. Those who subject themselves to it do themselves no favors. They become less humane, less bright, less decent. Moving up one notch, from rap to, say, most country music, and we have a sort of mid-range reality in terms of taste. The themes in country music are a step up or two (or three) from the themes in most rap music. Same with hip-hop, which is a sort of de-fanged version of rap. Think of it as average in terms of the degree to which it ennoble the human spirit and lifts a person to new heights of vision and a sense of possibilities. By contrast, elegant music doesn't have to be classical, baroque, or Gregorian Chant. There is some pop/rock music that can be elegant. Steely Dan has occasionally produced such art. So has Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, Amy Grant, Carole King, The Carpenters, Joni Mitchell, Focus, and on rare occasions, even Jimi Hendrix has astounded with some blues he played at Woodstock that could only be called elegant. Likewise, jazz musicians sometimes produce elegant tunes that elevate the human heart. John McLaughlin, who often sounds a bit on the rough, if not overly complex, side has produced many elegant, wonderful pieces, such as *When Love Is Far Away*. Japanese pianist Keiko Matsui, along with keyboard players such as Keith Jarrett, Sam Cardon, Liz Story, and Mark Sloniker have all shown they can be elegant in their craft. And not just instrumentalists, but vocalists such as Lorraine Feather, Basia, and vocal groups such as Rare Silk and the New York Voices have demonstrated a knack for elegance quite often. Further, can anyone deny that the Manhattan Transfer's [rendition of "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square"](#) was the epitome of sheer elegance and class?



What about elegance in our attire? Those who wear jeans with large rips in the fabric, exposing their flesh are at one end of the spectrum. The clothing in such cases is defective - deliberately so. The wearer has opted for something ragged, something flawed. Elegant clothing speaks volumes of its wearer. Women who dress elegantly are lovely to look at. They exude a kind of class that commands respect. Men who know how to be fitted with just the right suit, or even business casual attire that suggests an attention to detail, also command respect. Wearing, for instance, a French Cuff-style shirt that is monogrammed with one's initials, with sharp looking cufflinks can set one apart as a person of taste and class. And even casual clothing can be elegant if one puts some attention and effort into that outcome.



We could address the notion of elegance in our choice of words, from giving great speeches, to writing great essays, to having great conversations. The drab, dark expressions of street talk, profanity, vulgarity, or simply sophomoric nonsense that comes out of the mouths of many people, is mind-numbing. Vanessa Hudgens, a stunningly gorgeous actress with some degree of talent recently used the word "like" five separate times in a short, 39-sentence [blast of incoherence](#). The ability to speak at even an average level is becoming less and less common for many people. Yet, elegance can adorn the language we use. There is a richness in the English tongue that lends itself to elegance. Consider which sounds more elegant to your ears:

*"Let me chew on this idea for a moment and get back to you."*

*"I'd like to let this idea percolate in my mind for a bit before I respond."*

The simple use of the word *percolate*, borrowed from its common use in matters of coffee or tea making, turns a coarse sentence into an elegant one, and it's pleasing both to the ear and to the imagination.

What about elegant food? The photos on the packaging of many a food item often includes the words "Serving suggestion." That is that brand's attempt to make an elegant presentation. Fine restaurants give about as much attention to how the food is presented, how it is arranged, as they do to the recipes of the food itself. Why? Because it is more pleasant to receive good food that is presented in an elegant fashion than in a mediocre fashion.



There are so many other areas of life we could explore to try to imagine how uplifting they would be if done with elegance (i.e., dance, massage therapy, dog grooming, performing magic, arranging your office, etc.)

I'm not suggesting we have to strive for elegance at all times and in all places. But I am suggesting that embracing the ideal of elegance is often very much called for and should not be forgotten.

## **The Elephant in the Room**

Guest Editorial: Mitt Romney, The Left, and the Impeachment Vote, Part 1 of 4 by Fin McCool

*"When opposite basic principles are clearly and openly defined,  
it works to the advantage of the rational side;  
when they are not clearly defined, but are hidden or evaded,  
it works to the advantage of the irrational side."*

--Ayn Rand

President Trump's superior domestic, economic and foreign policy leadership is to be lauded, easily ranking among the very best this country has seen since its founding. But the most important of Trump's achievements is, by simply being himself, his thorough undressing of the members of the Democratic Party for what they truly are - mostly Socialists, but some Communists masquerading as so-called Democratic Socialists.

The Left's veneer has vanished leaving the unvarnished reality of what the rest of us have always known or sensed, that they've really always been Socialists masquerading as Democrats. From the origins of our great country they were laid bare when sides had to be chosen in 1775 for one of the great reckonings of Western Civilization. New York, of course, comprised the largest gang of "Loyalists" in the land, opposed to independence, wanting to continue to bow to a King. But today they have devolved into a toxic mix of hard left-leaning Socialists and Communists gunning for your freedoms, privacy and hard-earned dollars. Many of them would quickly bow to Sanders.

Sanders had achieved virtually nothing in his life apart from a career in politics.

It's immoral and unprincipled for Sanders to masquerade as something other than what he really is - a Communist. Yet he knows full well if he had run as a

Communist - or even as a Socialist - he never would have come close to getting elected in America today (and, thankfully, recent Primary results demonstrate he has no real path to the nomination.) So he falsely calls himself a Democratic-Socialist to avoid jarring the sensibilities of the electorate since getting elected is more important than truth-telling. The Left (think "the Squad," Schiff, Nadler, Pelosi, Schumer, Booker) is complicit in this charade because for the Left, winning at all costs supersedes truth.



This leads to the main point of this article: *Mitt Romney's betrayal of the Republican Party and his enabling of the enemy - the Left - with his recent verdict of "guilty" against Trump during the Senate impeachment vote.* More on that to come.

In the fiction turned horror show called the Once and Future Impeachment Trial of Trump ("once and future" because they will never stop), I intend to bring to light the harsh reality of life and the difficult decisions we are at times called to make, including when they go against our "morals" and "principles."

Let's start with this premise: *the Left never operates in the full light of day.* Whatever they're showing you is always only half a hand.

Our country is in deep, serious trouble. The Democratic Party has morphed into a horrifying cadre full of super-Leftists, uber-progressives, Socialists and Communists - really an all-in-one group leaning hard to the Socialist Left, and even bordering on Communism. And one of them - Sanders - is a Communist outright. There is no greater threat to the country today than this current crop of Leftists, the "Squad" chief among them. Their totalitarian reflexes result in their seeking total government control over your life. They are anti-Semitic, anti-Caucasian, anti-male, anti-capitalist, pro-concentration of centralized power. One of them running for office, Sanders, is an unabashed Communist who has lauded the likes of Cuba's Castro, Venezuela's Ortega, the leaders of Communist Russia, and quite frankly, anyone not presiding over a Capitalist country. The one bright light in all of this is it appears, this time, that a Communist is not going to be on the ballot in November.

The Left is selling their soul to gain your trust through blatant virtue-signaling, offering free everything, social justice, economic justice, and "equality" to the unthinking, non-listening, low-information segments of the populace. They speak to the "listen and repeat" mindless news gazers of the so-called virtues of robbing from the producers and redistributing to the plunderers. Can anyone explain to me what's fair about robbing from the successful and handing over their hard-earned wealth to someone who most definitely did not produce a penny of that production? For all their blathering about justice, there is absolutely no justice in that.

Sanders is a man who at the very height of the Cold War with communist Russia felt comfortable enough - at the height of the coldest hostilities - to go to Russia on a government trip that coincided with his honeymoon! We all know that when it comes to honeymoons, location matters. People generally choose locations for their honeymoon that have significant meaning to them. Venice. Hawaii. Cancun. Sanders chose Russia as the backdrop for one of the most important days in his life - not Socialist Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Switzerland or any other true Socialist country to signal his political alliances. Is anyone paying attention? Are you starting to understand what is at stake here?

When is the conservative party going to call out Sanders as an all-in Communist? What's the problem here? Where in God's name are the conservatives on this? Sanders is a man who lauds and exalts all things communist while masquerading as a "Democratic Socialist."

Mao Zedong taught Ho Chi Minh that if he really wanted Communism that the first thing to do was to crush public dissent. Notice how irate Bernie gets when confronted about his Communist proclivities? He refuses to hear you any further and simply waves you off. That is what could have been our future had more states followed California and voted for him in droves.

James Carville, himself Left of Left, was seriously worried, yelling at any Democrat who would listen about the current state of their party. When a man like Carville is

worried about the Left, all of us need to take note. Carville is horrified by what is happening to his own party, one he now feels disenfranchised from.

When your stars include such "luminaries" as Sanders, Warren, Buttigieg, Schiff, Nadler, Pelosi, Obama, and, especially, "The Squad," look folks, we're up against it hard. These are people who will, without hesitation, take from you what's yours for their own power, over-tax you while padding their own pockets with your dollars, thus making you a slave to their agenda all while calling you a racist, a bigot, and a misogynist along the way to keep you in line. That's the end game for them.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

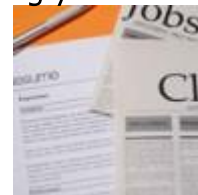
Check out [my website](#) for tools to help you with your career, your presentations, and other matters.

## **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**

### Fading Memories: What I Learned from The Who

I began my foray into guitar playing in my early teens by learning how to play a song called Behind Blue Eyes. It was a hit song by a rock band called The Who. While I have learned hundreds of songs since that first song, I have forgotten how to play most of them. But I can still play Behind Blue Eyes without missing a note.



As I entered high school, The Who soon became my favorite rock band. I purchased most of their albums and have seen them in concert on 4 occasions, the most recently last October at the Hollywood Bowl with my childhood pal (and *musician extraordinaire*) George Black.

In 2012 Pete Townshend, the prolific and imaginative songwriter and guitarist of The Who, published his autobiography which he titled *Who I Am*. Six years later, Roger Daltrey, The Who's lead vocalist and front man, published his own memoirs, which he titled *Thanks A Lot, Mr. Kibblewhite*. When one of my daughters asked me last December what I wanted for Christmas, after giving her the usual answer "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men," she persisted, so I told her I would be pleased to receive both autobiographies from those two members of The Who.

She came through. And I decided to read them in tandem, simultaneously, so I could become cognizant of those occasions where Pete and Roger discussed the same episodes of their past, how they presented their narratives, and where they may have differed on the details. Here are a few of the more interesting examples of what I discovered.



## **How did the band, who had been calling themselves The Detours at that point in time, land on the name The Who?**

Here is Pete's take: "That February, John Entwistle [the bass guitar player] heard that another band was also called The Detours, so we came back to Sunnyside Road after a local show and brainstormed band names for hours. Barney suggested The Who; I suggested The Hair. For a while I hung on to my choice. . . Then, on Valentine's Day 1964 we made our choice. We became The Who."

Roger has a slightly different recollection: "I can't remember exactly who came up with 'The Who' in the first place. We were round at Pete's mate Barney's flat chucking around all sorts of silly names. The Group. No One. The Hair. Pete liked that one. I think someone made a suggestion that Barney didn't hear. He said, 'The Who?' Someone else said, 'That's good. The Who.' And that was that."

## **How did Roger (or Pete) first learn of the death of their iconic drummer, Keith Moon in 1978?**

According to Roger: "On Thursday, September 7, 1978, Jackie Curbishley, [band manager] Bill's wife, called Pete, and Pete called me. 'He's gone and done it,' said Pete. 'Who's done what?' 'Moon.' Keith Moon died in his sleep sometime after breakfast, the morning after he and Annette briefly attended a party in Covent Garden hosted by Paul McCartney to mark the start of Buddy Holly Week."

According to Pete: "In September 1978 Roger called me at my studio. He was succinct. 'He's done it.'"

Now, I am the first to acknowledge that as far as the narrative goes, it doesn't really matter who placed the call to whom to inform the other that their drummer was now deceased. But it is interesting to note the irreconcilable contradiction in the two accounts. Either Pete called Roger with the sad news, or Roger called Pete. Someone is remembering it incorrectly.

## **How did Roger and Pete first encounter each other?**

According to Pete: "I'd first met him after he won a playground fight with a Chinese boy. I'd witnessed the fight, and I'd thought Roger's tactics were dirty. When I'd shouted as much, he had come over and forced me to retract."

According to Roger: "I never actively looked for trouble. Pete seems to think I did. It fits his narrative of what happened farther down the line. So he claims to remember me fighting a Chinese guy in the year below me at Acton. I swear there wasn't a Chinese guy in the whole school."

It could be that Roger simply can't remember the Chinese student he fought, as he was in a number of fights (although I think I can clearly recall the fights I was in, going back to my first fight, an unprovoked beating I took at the hands of Chris Long when we were both about 5 or 6 years old and I didn't even know the concept of defending myself - I just stood there with my hands down and got throttled!) It could also be that Pete is incorrectly recalling the boy as being

Chinese when in fact he was of some other nationality, and that Roger is locked onto the detail in Pete's account that his opponent was Chinese when Roger believes there were no Chinese boys at his school. Either way, it is interesting how the stories diverge.

What does all of this tell me?

It tells me that my own accounts, my own narratives, my own stories are likely fraught with misinformation, muddled details, and murky, perhaps misleading particulars. The problem is when we believe our own faulty accounts and accept them at face value as the pure, unfiltered, unbridled truth. They may not be. I would do well to remain humble and open to the possibility that I may be inadvertently incorrect in my pronouncements. Depending on the audience, the nature of the interaction, whether I am under oath, etc., may well govern just how strong I am in my assertions. Much of the time, it may not matter. But there will be times when accuracy and precision will be paramount.

## The World of Words

### Lament

#### Building Your Power of Expression

**Lament** v, n.

**Pronunciation:** læmənt



**Meaning:** The word can be used either as a verb, as in *I decided to lament openly rather than keep a stiff upper lip*, or as a noun, as in *My mother's lament for the loss of my father fill the house with loud sobs and shrieks*. Any expression of deep sorrow or mourning is a lament. It can also be an expression of disappointment, regret, or grief. The Old Testament has a book titled Lamentations, which are the sorrows expressed for Israel and her impending doom by the prophet Jeremiah.

#### Usage:

- *I deeply lament the fact that, in missing my connecting flight, I missed the entire event.*
- *This is very good news, and my only lament is that we had not met each other sooner.*
- *I need time to get through this process of lamentation; I need time to grieve this profoundly deep setback.*

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  
Leadership Development Systems

[SafeUnsubscribe™ drdorough@yahoo.com](#)

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!