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Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue #229

December 22nd, 2020

Welcome to the latest issue of *Uncommon Sense*. Here's what you get with this issue.

The **Self-Development** column provides some solid food-for-thought about staying in a developmental mode! Don't overlook it.

The **Elephant in the Room** column shines a light on the indicators we are seeing from Leftist Democrats following the questionable victor of Joe Biden. There's a lot to process, but the indicators do not look promising for our country.

The **From Ara's Journal** column contains some reflections on the topic of our feelings, and why those feelings are sometimes misplaced.

And finally, bringing up the rear is **The World of Words** column, where you can strengthen your power of expression with a nifty word from the English tongue.

On a different note, I am mindful that it seems quite unfashionable to say the words "Merry Christmas" at this time of year. Almost every entity that emails me some sort of holiday greeting prefers the more secular "Happy Holidays" -- an empty phrase that betrays the discomfort many people have of getting anywhere near the name of Christ which is in the word "Christmas." But from the deepest part of my soul, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



## Self-Development

### Recalibrate Your Life!

Take a look at the photo to the right. What you are looking at is a car that is in the process of having its tires aligned. Over time, subtle changes occur with our tires, causing them to get out of alignment slightly, and causing them to tilt a bit. A tire alignment

adjusts the angles of the tires, which then has an impact on how they make contact with the road. We want our tires to meet the road with the greatest amount of tread. But over time, there can be too much inward (or outward) tilt, and this causes the outer (or inner) edges of the tires to receive undue wear and tear.



A similar phenomenon occurs in our everyday lives. We may start out a new year with gusto, and a lot of motivation and drive! We want to make each year a great year! And so when January launches us into the new year, we feel very determined to make something of ourselves.

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A similar phenomenon occurs in our everyday lives. We may start out a new year with gusto, and a lot of motivation and drive! We want to make each year a great year! And so when January launches us into the new year, we feel very determined to make something of ourselves.

But then reality hits. In 2020, it was a pandemic. But it can also be many other things that derail us and cause our best intentions to sour or be misaligned. We might have family members on drugs, which causes havoc in our personal lives. We might become unemployed. We might face other financial or health-related setbacks. We eventually lose our focus. Our goals – our highest aspirations – take a back seat to survival, or the day-to-day noise. And then, December arrives before we know it, and we have little progress to show for ourselves.

We need to take time for periodic recalibration. To recalibrate is to make fresh assessments of our lives and our progress, and then to make the necessary adjustments to get back on track. Sometimes recalibration involves coming to terms with where we have gotten off track, and why – and then getting back on track. Recalibration is a formal, overt event – a process where you push the reset button of your life and you make the necessary readjustments to get back on track. It involves holding an actual meeting – with yourself – to examine your progress, your direction, and the obstacles you face. It requires identifying any roadblocks that are hampering your forward momentum, and the devising ways (often through sheer will power) to overcome such roadblocks.

My recommendation is that you schedule a formal recalibration session with yourself once a quarter, either in the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the quarter (February, May, August, November) or the last month of each quarter. If you actually put it in your calendar or planner, as if it is an appointment with a VIP, you will likely keep that appointment. The result will be a very focused year of productivity and accomplishment.

All due to a very simple adjustment in how you manage your life.

**The Elephant in the Room**

# Elections Have Consequences

As of this writing, it appears Joe Biden will become our 45<sup>th</sup> President – this in spite of the fact that [significant irregularities](#) occurred with the recent election. There is no question the election was rigged, especially considering Big Tech companies such as Twitter buried stories that would not have been helpful to the Biden campaign. The facts are that many ballots were cast on behalf of deceased persons, many ballots were cast from voters with non-existent addresses, many ballots were cast by non-citizens, many ballots that were cast for Donald Trump were actually [credited to Joe Biden](#), and many voters cast more than one ballot – with all of these anomalies being in favor of Joe Biden.



So what can we expect now?

As we look for the indicators, post-election, we shudder. There are two visions of America:

1) The vision of the Founders as America being a "city on a hill," a place of exceptionalism, free market capitalism, self-reliance, adherence to the Constitution, a land of opportunity and entrepreneurship, a land of liberty and a place where religion -- Christianity in particular -- is both respected and protected. This vision is promoted by today's conservatives.

2) The vision of today's so-called "Progressives" who wish to move away from the vision of the Founding Fathers. These people hate the notion of what America was intended to be, so they wish to change it, bastardize it beyond recognition. These are the people who insist America is systemically racist, which is a lie. These are the people who are race-hustlers and who don the garb of the victim. These are the people who hate capitalism but love socialism. These are the people who insist that government be bigger and more dominant in our lives. These are the people who hate liberty and hate entrepreneurship. These are the people who imagine they are wiser -- much wiser -- than our Founders.

So what are the indicators that the Progressives are gaining ground? Consider the following:

- Oregon became the first state to [decriminalize hard drugs](#) like heroin and cocaine. We can expect additional states to follow suit. It will soon become normative for a sizable part of our population to be walking into the grocery store completely intoxicated on hard drugs, do their shopping, then get into cars and drive off, putting lives at risk. This will become normal soon, thanks to Democrats.
- Today's journalists and members of the media are [simply not doing their job](#) of reporting the news. Instead, they are engaging in blatant partisanship. News anchors at CNN, who are supposed to be balanced and detached, [describe the sitting president](#) as an "obese turtle on his back flailing in the hot sun realizing his time is over," and they call that objective journalism. They also, at the direction of their CEO Jeff Zucker, [refuse to cover](#) the Hunter Biden scandal. President Trump delivers a news conference about the election and all of the Big 3 TV networks, in unison, [cut away from it](#) and do not air it. A former MSNBC news host voiced the view of all of the mainstream media by calling for President Trump [to be arrested](#) (and calling all 74 million citizens who voted for him "morons.") Indeed, some in the media are calling for both public [humiliation and incarceration](#) for the crime of

having been a Trump supporter. And other media stars like Paul Krugman from the *New York Times* are engaging in revisionist history [by claiming](#) that Dems never called President Trump an illegitimate president. And the *New York Times* simply [will not cover](#) the brewing scandal about a Democrat who sits on the House Intelligence Committee and was compromised years ago by a Chinese spy (with whom he likely had intimate relations with). And the Left-Wing, Fake News, Mainstream media completely [downplays or ignores](#) credible allegations of sexual harassment by New York's Governor, Andrew Cuomo, while going hog wild on absurd allegations of now Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. And the *New York Times*, which won a Peabody Award for their utterly fake podcast called "Caliphate" now openly admits it was fake -- and yet [shamelessly continues](#) to run it! All of this suggests that we cannot trust the mainstream media to report truth.

- Former First Lady Michelle Obama made the statement that radicalized Leftist Democrats must "reach out [to Trump voters] in the years ahead and connect with them on what unites us." Noble sentiment, until one realizes she said this immediately [after calling Trump voters](#) people who "support lies, hate, chaos, and division." I'm sure that characterization warmed the hearts of her opponents. Likewise, a Biden aide named Jen O'Malley Dillon praised the notion of seeking unity, and then proceeded to call Trump voters -- all of them -- "a bunch of f\*ckers." Perhaps she never read *How To Win Friends and Influence People*.
- How did the Antifa thugs and Black Lives Matter rioters and looters respond when it appeared Joe Biden won the election? Simple: with [more looting and rioting](#). And what happened when MAGA supporters held their own rally? Antifa thugs and BLM hooligans [physically assaulted them](#) -- even if the MAGA marchers were parents with small children accompanying them. Further [mayhem ensued](#) when Biden supports attacked Trump supporters who were merely sitting in a restaurant and enjoying a meal, with the Biden supporters shooting off fireworks at the Trump supporters in an effort to blind and maim them. And the mainstream media [would not report](#) on this.
- Speaking of Black Lives Matter, they are busy working to [free dangerous felons](#) from prison to roam our streets and create more chaos. If you think that is far-fetched, think again. We The People just voted into Congress one of the founding leaders of Black Lives Matter, and she will now be [serving on the Judiciary Committee](#). God help us!
- Similarly, when Senate hearings revealed that Big Tech companies colluded to rig the election, the mainstream media [refused to cover](#) it. And it appears that executives from Big Tech (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) gave donations generously to the Biden campaign while the Trump campaign received from these same executives [exactly zero](#) -- not a penny! This suggests Leftism is actually a cult.
- The media, even at this late date, [still clings desperately](#) to the completely discredited Russian Collusion hoax.
- Cable news media (MSNBC in this case) hires political shills masquerading as eminent historians who secretly work as speech writers for Joe Biden. The speech writers then go on MSNBC and [give fawning praise](#) of Biden speeches [they themselves](#) are the authors of!
- The Biden victory, though highly suspect, has emboldened the more radical element of the Dems in Congress who are now [demanding a complete defunding](#) of the [police](#). Of course, given that one of the radicals has [paid her husband's](#) political consulting firm over \$2 million from her campaign, money that ends up in her own pocket, it is understandable she would want to defund the police so she doesn't get arrested.

- When the media get that rare opportunity to question the former Vice President, they lob softball question after softball question, with [virtually all of their questions](#) being some version of, "Isn't it amazing how utterly despicable Donald Trump is?" [This passes](#) for serious journalism.
- With regard the to upcoming Georgia Senate races, which will decide if Biden wins a super-majority, Democrats are trying to [bring in people](#) from outside the state to [illegally vote](#). Democrats are so certain of the "rightness" of their causes that [cheating to win](#) is a non-issue. Even a group founded by Stacey Abrams is under investigation [for cheating](#) in the Georgia election.
- The Democrats now wish to abolish the Electoral College. And the mainstream media is [leading the charge](#). For a quick tutorial on why the Electoral College is essential, [click here](#) for several videos that address the question.
- In San Diego, teachers are [forced to attend](#) White Privilege workshops where the goal is to shame them into hating their own "whiteness."
- Left-wing politicians cancel pay raises ([except for themselves](#)), demand outdoor dining be banned completely ([while going to restaurants themselves](#)), insist the public adhere to holiday travel warnings ([while flaunting those very warnings](#) themselves), demand others wear masks ([while not wearing masks](#) themselves), insist that people stay home (just before they [board a plane to Cabo](#) or [go to a wine bar](#)), and demand people engage in enforced social distancing (while [flaunting the very rules](#) they mandate).
- Thanks to radicalized Leftists within the Democratic Party, we can expect to see greater levels of anti-Semitic violence taking place. Rashida Tlaib, the radicalized Democratic Congresswoman from Michigan, stated that when she thinks of the Holocaust, she [experiences a "calm" feeling](#). I supposed we should be grateful she did not say she feels giddy, or euphoric, when she ponders the Holocaust.
- The radical Left continue to establish and fortify the lunacy of sanctuary cities and overtly protect criminals and murderers. It remains to be seen what they will do during a Biden Administration, but the likelihood is that ICE will be effectively neutered. To cite [but one case](#), in late November 5 American citizens attending church services were accosted and stabbed, with two of them dying from their wounds. And who was the stabber? A 32-year-old illegal alien named Fernando De Jesus Lopez-Garcia. Mr. Lopez-Garcia has been deported 3 times but never turned over to federal officials by local law enforcement due to Sanctuary City policies which favor illegal alien murderers and disregard U.S. citizens. We can expect a spike in these travesties over the next four years thanks to the Biden Administration.
- The LGBTQIA+ activists are emboldened. A Starbucks employee working in New Jersey evidently [was fired](#) for her refusal to wear a Pride shirt, showing allegiance to that movement. She would not wear it because of deeply held religious beliefs. So they fired her, deeming her worthy of starvation and homelessness for refusal to embrace secularism. And the Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBTQIA+ activist organization, is actively trying to cause religious schools to [lose their accreditation](#) unless they abandon their religious beliefs.
- Wide-eyed radicals on the Left, with no coherent message or purpose, went on a rampage in late November, toppling or [defacing statues](#) and other monuments depicting our past. Even Abraham Lincoln, one of our most celebrated presidents, did not escape the wrath of the radicals. And in San Francisco, there are plans by radicalized Leftists to [remove Abraham Lincoln's name](#) from a high school. Apparently the radicals have convinced themselves that Lincoln, who freed the slaves, wasn't "woke" enough.

- The people of Los Angeles voted in a radical from San Francisco as their new DA. Unfortunately for Los Angeles, this man, George Gascon, believes many crimes should [simply go unpunished](#), including resisting arrest. Imagine a bank robbery is underway and the police corner the perpetrator. The perp throws a knife at one officer, and then punches the other officer in the eye. DA George Gascon doesn't see the harm in such things. He's fine with it.

Each of these examples is a travesty in its own right. And yet, taken together, such examples demonstrate that America is on a precipice. We are in grave danger of losing our country. The odds are very high that America is going to be transformed from a beacon of liberty to a cesspool of rot and filth and anarchy. Yes, folks, elections do have consequences.

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

## **Shameless Plug** Want to Succeed at your Next Job Interview?

With the COVID-19 pandemic going into its 6<sup>th</sup> month, many people have become displaced in their jobs. You may have lost your job, or perhaps you may be vulnerable to losing your job in the near future.

While you will be scrambling to start interviewing with prospective employers, it may have been some time since your last interview, and you may be rusty.

You may well benefit from my Special Report, [Your Interview Roadmap](#).



Let's face it: if you hired me to coach you through the process of an effective interview, the fee would run into the hundreds of dollars. And spending hundreds of dollars when you are unemployed (or about to become unemployed) is a difficult thing to do. I wrote this Special Report so that for less than \$100, **in fact, less than \$50**, you would have access to the golden nuggets that, if followed, would greatly put the odds in your favor that you'll perform brilliantly at your next interview. And every interview after that.

Just ask D. Smith of Santa Clarita who bought my Interview Guide and successfully landed a job soon thereafter:

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

At over 12,000 words and with six appendices, this guide book will open your eyes to what really goes on in the world of interviewing from both sides of the table, and will prepare job seekers to hit it out of the park 80% of the time. (OK, more like 90%, but I prefer to be understated.)

If you've done poorly in job interviews in the past, you can turn it around. The answers are there. Take action! [Click here to get started](#). You won't regret it!

## From Ara's Journal

### On Feelings and Expressing Them

We all have feelings about things, impressions we carry around with us. Some are positive. Some are bitter or angry. Some feelings reflect frustration. Some feelings put us into the realm of the humorous. Our feelings can be focused on curiosity, and interest, as when we are listening to someone we find riveting.



Sometimes we have feelings that turn out to be very accurate. Perhaps we have a feeling that we can trust someone, and over time, we come to see this is so.

However, there are occasions where our feelings turn out to be misplaced. We might at first be very taken by a person and believe them to be something it turns out they are not.

I find there is wisdom, however, in giving people the benefit of the doubt, even when our feelings are suspicious, or angry, or frustrated.

I was in a conversation some months ago with a young lady who was upset. A mutual friend had died of cancer, and this young lady had not been informed of the mutual friend's passing. The person who died had been somewhat of a mentor to this young lady years earlier. When I received a phone call from this young lady, she began complaining as to why no one bothered to inform her of the death of this mutual friend. I felt myself growing a bit angry, as this young lady gave me the impression that she was supposed to be the center of all of this, as if the death of our mutual friend was actually all about the young lady and her grievances. My feelings descended into deep anger and I was about to respond with a fair amount of rage. My feelings spawned thoughts such as, "Why does this have to be about you? Why do you have to take center stage here? A family lost their mother! A good man lost his wife! Could you take yourself out of the equation and consider the hurt and pain of others for once?"

But instead I just listened.

And over time, I came to realize this young lady really *was* hurting at the passing of this mutual friend. She may not have had the skills to express herself properly, or in a clear manner, but she really *was* grieving. She was sad she missed the funeral altogether. She was sad that a close mentor-figure was no longer here. She was feeling a deep sense of loss.

I was glad I had not allowed my initial feelings to take control and cause me to say things that, in reality, would have been like throwing acid on a very real wound. Instead, I kept my feelings in check, and as I softened, I was able to see clearly, and offer words of comfort and condolence and support. I was able to facilitate her healing, rather than exacerbate her pain.

I am actually glad I did not act on my initial feelings. I am grateful that I kept quiet long enough to allow time to teach me truths I was not initially prepared to understand.

## The World of Words

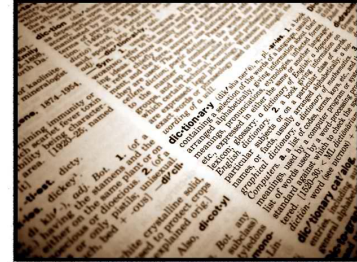
# Calculus

### Building Your Power of Expression

**Calculus**, n.

**Pronunciation:** kalkyələs

**Meaning:** Most of us are familiar with this word as it pertains to the mathematical sciences, where one might study either differential calculus or integral calculus. However, here I am focused on the broader concept of a particular method of calculation or reasoning.



#### Usage:

- *No carefully devised calculus can take the place of insight, observation, and experience.*
- *The calculus behind such a plan is wanting.*
- *As a general rule, my approach is to engage in an appropriate amount of calculus to govern my strategy.*

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