

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue #242

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Great to be back with you for another dose of *Uncommon Sense*.

In our **Self-Development** column, I provide some bite-sized advice about developing an often overlooked aspect of your performance.

The **Elephant in the Room** column finds me at it again, dissecting what the secular Left managed to pull off this month to harm society.

The **From Ara's Journal** column address the God question.

The World of Words serves you another word that is sure to make you sound smarter.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Discovering Your Strengths

You've got weakness. So does everybody. But you also have strengths.

Do you know what your weaknesses are?

More importantly, do you know what your strengths are?

Certainly we should be mindful of our weaknesses, whether they involve personality issues, lack of technological prowess, physical or health limitations, or a limited vocabulary. And candidly, we should address those



weaknesses. Commitment and consistent focus could result in turning weaknesses into assets over time.

Yet far too often, we are not even aware of our strengths in the least. Even the very few of us who are cognizant of our strengths tend to coast, to ride on our own coattails, imagining that we can thrive tomorrow on yesterday's assets.

I would suggest that you have every reason to put work into further developing and refining your strengths. It may prove more important than addressing your weaknesses. Imagine you have a strength at a 7 on a 10-point scale. Perhaps it involves your understanding of spreadsheets. Perhaps it involves your ability to give a good presentation. Or your ability to manage a budget. Or motivate people. Or give sound advice.

Now imagine you working on that strength to the point that you move it from a 7 to a 9. . . What might that do for your career, your reputation, or your ability to produce results?

If you can evolve your strengths to a point of near-invincibility, you will stand out, and you will stand tall.

So carve out time to systematically work on your strengths.

You can thank me later.

The Elephant in the Room

How Much Damage Can Be Done in One Month?

Earlier this month I wrote a very important piece I called "The Leftist Hydra." The basic premise of that piece was to summarize some of the macro-areas where the Progressive Left target their efforts to undermine Western Civilization in general and the United States in particular.



In this piece, I will take a more granular, micro-approach and examine a hodgepodge of random examples of the Secular Left to demonstrate who they are and why they are destructive to American values. Leftists are emboldened; they are always showing us who they are by their words and, especially, by their actions. All of these examples come from sources published in the month of August 2021.

1. The Left admonishes all of us to do things they themselves feel don't apply to them. Thus, Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser mandates we all wear masks indoors, but as soon as she attends a wedding reception, [she is caught](#) indoors maskless. Similarly, the extreme radical Democrat Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib was caught at an indoor gathering where she was dancing [without a mask](#), even though she has repeatedly condemned Conservatives who do not wish to wear a mask. Likewise, Left-wing radical Cori Bush, a Democrat Congresswoman, demands we defund the police, a boneheaded act that will make the law-abiding less safe, while she herself [spends lavishly](#) on a private security detail made up of the very cops she wants defunded. And then there's CNN firebrand Jim Acosta, who routinely mocked Conservatives whenever they called for "thoughts and prayers" following a tragedy, [now called upon others](#) to offer "thoughts and prayers" for those suffering during the Afghanistan withdrawal.

2. The Fake News Mainstream Media is no longer engaged in their job of objective, fair, and honest reporting. Media people are Leftist Activists who brazenly twist the news to conform to their political bias. Thus, at National Public Radio, they have changed their policy so that straight news reporters no longer have to even pretend they are objective reporters of truth; instead, they now are permitted to engage in [outright political activism](#). And the Fake News *New York Times* has no problem with publishing a piece about Osama bin Laden that [slathers on respectability](#) to the mastermind behind 9/11, calling him a "devout family man."
3. St. Louis Circuit Attorney (think "District Attorney") Kim Gardner loves criminals so much that she [won't prosecute them](#) much of the time. One can commit a felony, including murder, and if Kim Gardner has her way, the criminal will walk. No jail time. Felony cases are routinely thrown out, just because. In New Jersey, the effort to release dangerous felons is done on a whim by Leftist radicals. Thus, Jerry Crawford was released from a New Jersey prison, not because he had served his sentence, but because of the existence of Covid-19. Two day later [he murdered](#) an 18-year-old. Too bad he isn't being held in New York, since outgoing Democrat Governor Andrew Cuomo just finished [commuting the sentence](#) of several murderers. And in New Orleans, justice officials who are as radical as they come decided to free two very dangerous felons from prison, both of whom immediately went out and [murdered a cop](#) who was having dinner. This officer was a husband and a father to two sons who will never see their father again. And the effort to indoctrinate children to hate the police is quickening, as a radical aptly named Ki Gross (who uses the pronouns "they" and "them," perhaps suggestive of multiple personality disorder) somehow got some anti-cop videos into a Virginia elementary school [to brainwash kids](#) as young as second grade. In fact, the evidence suggests this video was actually made for kindergarteners.
4. The Left has an unhealthy obsession with racism, imagining all whites are racist, and believing, to the point of absurdity, that inanimate objects have racist elements built into them. This causes such persons to insist that such objects must be removed and/or destroyed, lest their tender little feelings get hurt. Thus, students at the University of Wisconsin decided that a large boulder that had stood for close to a century on the campus as a monument had to go, because the giant rock was racist. And true to form, the Administration at this university instantly capitulated and spent the money and resources to have the massive rock removed. A student representative claimed that now they could ["begin healing."](#) I have to wonder: What kind of delicate little glass figurines do we have attending our colleges, where they imagine that the presence of a giant rock is cause for emotional trauma? It bears pointing out that many white Leftist Democrats are thoroughly racist towards people of color, imagining that young black people cannot do math or reading the way white people can, therefore they lower the standards in an effort to help the black students pass without really showing proficiency in anything. Yet Kate Brown, the Democrat Governor of Oregon, went one step further and simply [suspended any and all standards](#) involving math or reading to ensure black students graduate. She did this because she believes black students are incapable to perform as well as white students. Then there's the black civil rights attorney, Ben Crump, who is so sure the plague of racism is permeating every inch of the solar system, that [he is convinced](#) the term "master bedroom" must refer to the racist practice of owning slaves. (Hey Ben, while we are at it, why don't we put the Master Lock Company out of business, along with the credit card company known as MasterCard, since they clearly want to bring slavery back, right?) But black radicals are not alone; white radicals are engaged in a bit of self-loathing by making it clear [they, too, hate white people](#) (presumably including themselves.)
5. Many non-political organizations have become radically Leftist in their leanings, and their work then veers towards dishonestly smearing conservatives, as happened to the conservative governor of the state of Florida when the CDC [deliberately lied](#) about their Covid-19 numbers, grossly distorting them to look worse than they actually were. Yet Left-wing news organizations go much farther, as an MSNBC host recently did when she morally equated what she calls "the religious right" [with the](#)

- [Taliban](#). Similarly, Obama's education secretary, Arne Duncan, [compared Conservatives](#) who question the need to wear a mask to Isis, the most brutal of the radicalized Islamic terrorists who routinely decapitate their enemies.
6. Leftists pays particular attention to aberrations with respect to sex, which is why they have taken hold of the comic books industry and decided to have Batman's sidekick, Robin, [come out as bisexual](#). The propensity to sexualize innocent children is breathtaking among the Left. Children cannot simply enjoy the sense of adventure inherent in super hero comic books. They must be confronted with bisexuality at a young age. But it doesn't stop there: radicalized educators and administrators no longer want to educate young students about math, science, history, or English, but instead want students to become acquainted with a myriad of strange notions of sexual identity, all the while [hiding this dark agenda](#) from parents.
 7. In the strange world of trans-sexuality, the Democrat Governor of California has decided that any male prisoner serving time need only claim he is a female and he will be transported immediately to an all-female prison. There, such men posing as women will rape other actual female prisoners wantonly. Many of these male prisoners pretending to be women [have HIV](#) which they transmit to the women prisoners. And Governor Gavin Newsom could not care less about any of that. His top priority is to accommodate anyone claiming to be trans, regardless of whether it's true.
 8. Naturally, the Secular Left, being secular, are very uncomfortable with the notion of God, even when such Leftists go into the ministry. Thus, Harvard University, supposedly our nation's most elite academy of higher learning, decided to [appoint an atheist](#) as the new Chief Chaplain there. Those who go to this man for spiritual nourishment will leave starved.
 9. Hatred of America is a staple of the Left. Thus, a radical lesbian activist who poses as a school teacher had the [America Flag removed](#) from the classroom, but replaced it with a Gay Pride flag and suggested the students pledge allegiance to that.

So as you can see, radicalized Leftist Democrats had a pretty successful month undermining goodness, decency, safety, and normalcy.

* * * * *

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

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

The "God" Complex

*"Pray as if everything depended upon God,
and work as if everything depended on you."
-- Brigham Young*



In the ongoing battles between those who believe in God (the theists) and those who mock the very notion of God's existence (the atheists) I find myself proudly, defiantly, and eternally in the camp of those who affirm the existence of God.

In my discussions with atheists, I often find them explaining to me that they see themselves as morally superior to theists because they (the atheists) take personal responsibility for their lives and their outcomes rather than putting their faith in a make-believe fairy-tale.

What atheists who proffer such thinking fail to realize is that they assume a false dichotomy, namely that if one believes in God, one cannot possibly take personal responsibility here on earth. The smug, moral superiority of the atheist turns out to be a facade, oblivious to the fact that they have set up a flimsy Straw Man argument. While it may be true that there are among the believers in God are those who naively imagine a God who will do everything for them, offering "cheap grace" (to use Bonhoeffer's term), and giving the believer a free ride, those with a robust faith recognize that dependence on God's blessings in no way absolves the believer from doing his part. As Brigham Young articulated it in the epigraph above, we who exercise deep faith in God have every reason to believe we are called to work the works of righteousness, goodness, justice, etc., all the

while placing our faith and our deepest, yearning prayers in the hands of the Almighty, hoping He will hear our petitions and our pleas for mercy. One does not negate the other.

And, in fact, most believers in God -- both Jews and Christians -- assume that God *wants* His followers to do His work here on earth. The Bible is replete with commands to do good on this earth, and even ties salvation itself to such admonitions. St. James wrote that faith without works is dead (see James 2:14-26); St. Paul urged the saints to "work out their salvation with fear and trembling" (see Philippians 2:12); the Book of Revelation suggests that it is our works that will be judged at the great judgment day (Revelation 20:12-13); and even Jesus Christ declared that simply giving lip service to one's religion doesn't cut it, but that true disciples must "do" the will of the Father in order to enter into heaven (see Matthew 7:21). Thus, a believer in God is far more likely to work righteousness and goodness on the earth precisely *because* he or she believes in a moral God. Is it hard to imagine an atheist, who sees no purpose in life, thinking in terms of "What's the point?" and living a life of bitter complacency as a result?

Back to the Brigham Young quote above: perhaps an individual theist and an individual atheist could both work hard to do good on this earth. Still, if there is no God, neither the theist nor the atheist have an advantage over the other in terms of the depth of the work that they accomplish.

But what if it turns out there really is a God?

It's hard to escape the thought that the believer in God, the one who prays and pleads with God, may garner special blessings and favors from a divine source that the atheist may not be able to tap into precisely *because* the atheist turns his gaze away from the light.

Even were I unsure of the existence of God, I would throw my hat in with the believers, and take a leap of faith that perhaps God does live, perhaps He is mindful of us, his children, and perhaps He could show mercy, or otherwise provide gentle nudges on how we should conduct our lives.

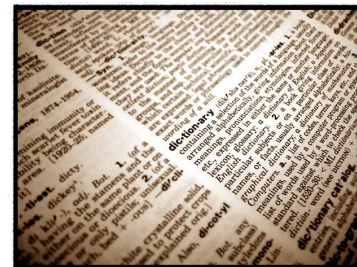
The World of Words

Teeming

Building Your Power of Expression

Teeming, adj.

Pronunciation: tēmiNG



Meaning: When something is overflowing, or bursting at the seams, or overly crowded, we could say that thing is teeming. There is a sense of abundance when employing that word.

Usage:

- *In an earlier era, however, Mesopotamia was teeming with life.*

- *They put her on a stretcher and carried her into a hallway teeming with the sick and injured.*
- *I have never seen him so spirited; he was simply teeming with delight!*

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