

# Uncommon Sense

## Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Welcome back to *Uncommon Sense*.

If leadership is a topic that interests you, you will love the **Self-Development** column.

And the **Elephant in the Room** column looks at some recent examples of Leftist rot permeating society and what I recommend we do about it. It's really time We The People fought back.

The **From Ara's Journal** column explores the flaws in the oft-heard "your truth" statements. See if you agree with me.

**The World of Words** column brings up another sensible word that you can utilize immediately to sound more informed and more elegant. I hope you find a way to use this word today.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



## **Self-Development**

### The Second Deadly Sin of Leadership: A Failure To Question

We live in a culture that does not seem to welcome questions. The zeitgeist of the times suggests that people feel threatened – both by asking questions, and by being asked questions.

But true leadership rejects that mental model out of hand for the nonsense that it is.

Questions are what led to the discovery of penicillin. Questions resulted in Columbus discovering a new world. Questions birthed the micro-processor and computing

power. Questions invented ice cream – not bad!

The best leaders formulate and grapple with questions. They know that questions are the most potent tool in their intellectual tool kit. So powerful are questions as a springboard for discovery that leaders understand that asking the right questions is a more important endeavor than even arriving at answers. If the wrong questions are being entertained, we climb the proverbial ladder of success, only to discover upon reaching the top rung that our ladder was leaning against the wrong wall.



So how is it done? How do effective leaders target the right questions?

They do so, ironically, with a question. They ask, *Am I currently asking the right question?* Further, they probe: *Are there other possible questions out there that are not currently on my radar?*

By merely asking such meta-questions – questions about questions – they place themselves in a position where their thinking skills have a fighting chance at happening upon ever better and more relevant questions.

Other forward-thinking leaders surround themselves with thoughtful people and ask them to comment on and critique the questions the leader is pondering. Such individuals can often lend a hand at shaping the questions, or contributing entirely new questions that may be fruitful in the leadership effort.

When exercising the powers of leadership, consider the questions you are entertaining. And ask yourself the meta-question: *Am I currently asking the right questions?*

Do this, and you will bend the odds in your favor that your leadership efforts will bear fruit.

## **The Elephant in the Room**

### *The Warped, Surreal World of the Left*

The perversity and destructiveness inherent in Leftist thought and practice is both breathtaking and bewildering. It is breathtaking in terms of its ability to continually amaze normal Americans at just how sick and how low the Left will go to accomplish their ends. And it is bewildering that the rest of society seems tone-deaf to the Left's destructive antics and seem largely neutered and incapable to take a stand against them. People whose



own best interests are in jeopardy due to Leftist shenanigans continue to vote Democrat, which is essentially tantamount to voting Left.

Here are some recent examples of some real head-scratchers, along with my prescription for a response:

In Houston, a 17-year-old Sudanese man murdered 3 people just this month. His name is Ahmedal Tayeb Elnouman Modawi. Mr. Modawi was working as a valet driver. He thought it would be cute to take a car that was entrusted to his care out in the parking lot where he could drive recklessly in it, at excessive speeds, then slam on the brakes, doing donuts, basically ruining the car's tires. When the police showed up to arrest him, he would have none of it. He tried to drive away and led the police on a chase. After all, what business do the police have in arresting a non-citizen who is ruining other people's cars while on the job? But in attempting to evade the police, Mr. Modawi crashed into 4 other valet co-workers, killing 3 of them instantly, and gravely injuring a 4<sup>th</sup>. So what did the radicalized Left-wing Judge do? [Reduced bail](#) to a manageable amount so that Mr. Modawi could be free. Although a hearing is set for mid-December, Mr. Modawi is out of jail for the time being.

**My solution:** The judge in this case should be recalled. There should be defiant but peaceful protests outside his office until he is forced from his position as judge. The Lawless Left have no place in either law enforcement or our judicial system. This judge has no qualms about putting the public in danger. He cares far more about the murderer and far less about the murdered.

A woman I deeply admire is former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. I've been in the same room with her before and know her to be a lady of dignity, intelligence, and class. She perhaps sullied herself recently by making an appearance on a sleazy television talk show hosted by mostly bitter, angry shrews. During her time there, she was asked about Critical Race Theory. She astutely answered as follows: "One of the worries that I have about the way that we're talking about race is that it either seems so big that somehow White people now have to feel guilty for everything that happened in the past – I don't think that's very productive – or Black people have to feel disempowered by race. I would like Black kids to be completely empowered, to know that they are beautiful in their Blackness, but in order to do that I don't have to make White kids feel bad for being White." This didn't sit well with the Left. Thus, a Leftist foot soldier named Touré Neblett, who, like Dr. Rice, is black, [lambasted her with racist rhetoric](#), claiming her appearance on the show was "offensive and disgusting for many reasons but she was who we thought she was: a soldier for white supremacy. Her thoughts on Critical Race Theory are completely white centric, as in, they revolve around the thoughts and needs of white people."

**My solution:** Mr. Neblett, who is a white-hating black supremacist in possession of some cosmically ugly tendencies, needs to be shamed mercilessly on social media for the barely articulate bigot that he is. He needs to learn that when you say foolish things in an effort to disparage decent people like Condoleezza Rice, there are consequences. He may not be employed currently at MSNBC, but his employer, whomever that may be, should know that they have a loathsome individual working for them and perhaps rethink their decision to have hired such a person.

Christina Parlee is at least two things: a Left-wing radical who likes to sow contention among the populace, and horrifically nutty. She recently was invited to speak at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her topic was another form of race-baiting, as it was a variation on a theme involving what is often referred to as "White

Privilege.” Usually, when Leftists speak of White Privilege, what they are trying to convey is that white people automatically have certain benefits bestowed upon them, unfairly, for no other reason than that their skin is white, and that black people, also unfairly, have automatic disadvantages because their skin is black. Thus, goes the thinking, there never could be a black president, and there never could be a black supreme court justice, nor could any black person ever win any Oscars or be invited to perform at the half-time show of the Super Bowl, nor could any black people become famous TV and media personalities, or be paid lots of money to play football or basketball. It just cannot happen, all due to white privilege. (You probably readily see the absurdity of such notions from my examples above.) Further, the idea is that since white people are unfairly privileged, they are cheaters who should be punished, or ostracized, or somehow marginalized, for such would represent “social justice” and payback time. It’s all a way of stoking hate and resentment, as well as absolving certain people from taking responsibility for their own lives. Yet in Christina Parlees’ case, she has [targeted right-handed people](#). Folks, you can’t make this stuff up. Christina Parlees believes that if you are right-handed (and, presumably white) you have an unfair advantage. THIS.... is the result of Left-Wing thought (to the degree that it can be characterized as “thought” and not primordial ooze). Leftism is a contagion that makes one intellectually sickly and cognitively lame. Soon we will be hearing about Blue-Eyed Privilege, Clear-Complexion Privilege, Articulate-Privilege, or 20-20 Eye-Sight Privilege, with the obvious implication that such people should be ostracized, hated, and unemployed.

**My solution:** Conservative speakers everywhere should draw attention to Mr. Parlees’ silly notions and publicly crush such nonsense. In addition, informed and articulate Conservatives everywhere should invite Ms. Parlees to the nearest major university campus to formally debate her silly proposition. After the second or third debate in which Mr. Parlees is shown to be the dunderhead that she is, she will quiet down and stop spouting nonsense.

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

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## **Shameless Plug** Is Your Résumé Overdue For an Overhaul?

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## **From Ara's Journal**

### The "Your Truth" Fallacy

Recently our Vice President was at George Mason University, and during a Q&A with some students, she had a young lady step up to the microphone and say a variety of vicious, anti-Semitic falsehoods about Israel. The student, who as not an American, either ideologically nor in terms of citizenship (she was a radicalized woman from the Middle East), was furious the United States (which again, is not her country even though she is taking up space in one of our universities) would dare support Israel's right to defend itself from terrorists. She also pulled out the old chestnuts of Israel practicing genocide and of displacing people – pure falsehoods.



Rather than correcting this young lady, Vice President Harris praised her. But she also did something else: she said "[Your truth](#) cannot be suppressed and it must be heard."

That's it? It must be heard? Even if it is a vile lie? And it must be allowed to stand, unchallenged, uncorrected, even if it is a baseless lie?

Evidently so.

But more to the point: people don't have "their truth". They either have "the truth" or they have "their opinion," however flawed and ill-informed it may be.

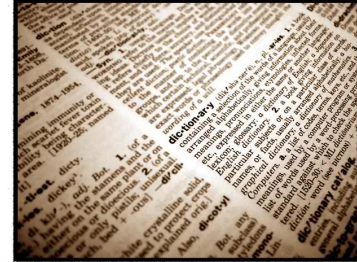
And far too many public figures are spouting off about "your truth," or "my truth," or "her truth," or "their truth." But if this was a valid construct, then when I clash with Kamala Harris on a matter, then my truth conflicts with her truth. But truth doesn't conflict with truth. So what we really have here is my opinion conflicts with her opinion and it is

impossible that both conflicting statements represent "truth." Perhaps both are incorrect. Perhaps one or the other is incorrect. But both cannot be "truth" if they are mutually exclusive.

## The World of Words

### Acuity

#### Building Your Power of Expression



**Acuity**, n.

**Pronunciation:** əkyooədē

**Meaning:** Sharpness or keenness of thought, vision, or hearing.

#### Usage:

- *His intellectual acuity is simply staggering!*
- *He doesn't possess the necessary acuity to figure out this complex problem.*
- *A sniper's visual acuity has to be exceptional because he must be able to clearly see his targets.*

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