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Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue #246

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Welcome back to *Uncommon Sense*.

The **Self-Development** column outlines the core of leadership thought and practice.

An ongoing news story that involves the world of comic books, LGBT ideology, and an American university, coalesce to show the Left, who have the temerity to demand civility and eschew "haters" need to look in the mirror. The **Elephant in the Room** column lays it out.

The **From Ara's Journal** column explores some of the silliness that many engage in with respect to science.

The **World of Words** column highlights a wonderfully expressive term that you will gain much traction with.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The Third Deadly Sin of Leadership: A Failure To Craft a Compelling Vision

Vision is really the core of leadership. The first two deadly sins, a failure to think and a failure to question, set the stage for leadership.

Crafting a compelling vision is the engine of enlightened leadership.

A vision is a *desired future state*. It is your mental picture of what you believe a team, or a department, or an organization, or a country could and should aspire to. A lot of creative thought goes into crafting a compelling vision. It has to be grounded in reality, of

course. But it should also be lofty, and cause the hearts of men and women everywhere to burn with desire to attain that new reality.

Leadership truly does stand or fall on how effectively a leader is able to articulate the vision. And such visions are never easy.

Think of George Washington trying to inspire his ragtag and under-supplied soldiers to courageously face up to the British Red Coats – the best trained army at the time. American independence was achieved.



Think of JFK imagining the unimaginable – putting a man on the moon and bringing him back to earth safely before the end of the decade, and the subsequent focus and determination to achieve heretofore unrealized breakthroughs in engineering by NASA. Moon exploration was attained.

Or think of Dan Gable, perhaps the greatest wrestler ever produced on American soil, going into the 1972 Munich Olympics so amped up with adrenaline that he not only went unbeaten in six intense matches, but *unscored on!* The vision of winning gold in Munich was realized in spectacular and decisive fashion.

You want to be a leader? Ask yourself what kind of a future do you want? What do you want to eventuate in the months or years ahead? What opportunities do you see to make your team, your department, or your world a better place? Then sleep on it. Mull it over. Allow details and specifics to percolate in your mind. Ask yourself, *Why not?* Ask, *Why haven't we done this sooner?* And then start to create the details of your blueprint in your mind.

Once you have a clear desired future state in mind and can articulate it, you have to be prepared to express it in compelling ways to others. Once you do that, you are well on your way to refined and elegant leadership.

And the world will be better off for your efforts.

The Elephant in the Room

The Leftist Propensity for Cruelty, Hatred, and Imbecility

It is difficult to find many examples of both cruelty and inanity in the same person or movement, unless you study the American Left who wield large measures of both.

This case study in cruel-buffoonishness begins in the world of comic books for kids. Someone named Tom Taylor who works at DC Comics thought it would be “progressive” if he turned the new Superman into a sexual guy who is allegedly bi-sexual, but of course, being bi-sexual, it would never occur to Tom Taylor to have the bi-sexual Superman get involved with a female, but only a male.

But wait! Why is the theme of sexuality entering into comic books at all?

Answer: Because Tom Taylor wants it that way. Tom Taylor believes in two things: 1) robbing children of their innocence by sexualizing them, the younger the better, and 2) not promoting normal, traditional, male-female sexual expression. It has to be homosexual disguised as bi-sexual. Anything else is, in his words, a "lost opportunity."



Enter Professor Sophia Nelson, the beautiful and brilliant scholar in residence at a Virginia university.

Professor Nelson heard about the move to make Superman a sexually active homosexual (again, under the guise of being bi-sexual) and she tweeted the following:

I just don't get why this is necessary. I don't! What if Christian parents of children reading comic books don't want their kids exposed to bisexual characters? This is being pushed on kids. Then parents have to explain it. And most cannot!

A reasonable point. But to the radicalized on her college campus, this meant war and they would not stop until they destroyed Professor Nelson. Here is some of the incomprehensively dimwitted vitriol that came from the radicalized Leftists: they first organized a protest with the intent of getting Professor Nelson fired from her job. In other words, Professor Nelson expressed concerns about a sexually-active, allegedly bi-sexual (actually homosexual) superman, and because she dared to express something other than full and complete support for the idea of sexualizing children, radicals have decided she is not eligible to earn a paycheck. She must be fired, broke, penniless, and consigned to begging on a street corner.

The thought that a proper response might include inviting Professor Nelson to sit down and have a conversation with those that do not agree with her opinion, or even to debate the matter publicly, never entered the thought-process of the radicals. Destroy her and move on with life. That's it.

A fellow professor named Danielle Stern, who is also bisexual and who cannot seem to see past her own sexual proclivities, wrote a disingenuous email to some of her colleagues as follows:

"I regret that I'm reaching out related to homophobic tweets from a current CNU colleague, but it is my job to do so. ... I am not interested in cancel culture, but I am interested in dialogue with CNU faculty who publicly share ideas that shame marginalized groups, particularly because Nelson serves the same student population that we do."

Actually, Professor Stern doesn't regret it at all, it is not her job to weigh in as she claims, she is very much interested in cancel culture, has no interest in dialogue, and Professor Nelson did not shame marginalized groups. Professor Stern should get an award for packing in the most falsehoods into a single, 58-word email.

University President Paul Trible tried to sound diplomatic with a message that called first, for healing, and then made the point that "We will do the work."

What work? Ostracize a professor because the rabble wants to destroy her?

Trying to sound like Solomon, President Trible pointed out that the university values diversity, equity, and inclusion. Let me translate that for the uninitiated: the university values including LGBTQIA+ groups, radicals, BLM protestors, Antifa anarchists, etc., but does *not* value, nor do they wish to include white, Christian Americans who hold to high moral standards – they are to be excluded.

President Trible, however, did hold out some hope to Professor Nelson by stating that although the college values DEI ideology, they also value freedom of speech. But what President Trible needs to come to grips with is that the people in the college community who value DEI do *not* value the First Amendment. So there is an unspoken and unresolvable conundrum President Trible will have to deal with. I suspect he will eventually fire Professor Nelson, as it will just be easier, and will send the message to other professors of similar viewpoints that their First Amendment rights will not be honored and if they dare say anything that does not reflect unmitigated support for the LGBT community, they will also be fired from their jobs.

A second open letter that purports to be signed by all full-time faculty members of the Communication Department (I wonder how many of the signatories felt coerced to sign) read as follows:

“Let us say unequivocally that as a department we stand in support of Inclusive Excellence and support all members of the CNU community, including our fellow Captains who identify as LGBTQIA+ and their friends and families. While we stand steadfastly in support of the principles of free speech, we recognize that freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences of that speech.”

Allow me to translate: Professor Nelson is free to speak her views any time she wants, but if her views are the wrong views, and if she doesn't obediently parrot our Left-wing views, there will be severe consequences: we will destroy her and she will lose her income and we will make her life a living hell. But again, she is free to share her views publicly if she dares.

Although Professor Nelson agreed to discuss the matter with the angry students who wanted to destroy her, the students refused. Why? Because they claim they “did not feel safe.”

This suggests a pathology of enormous magnitude. Not feel safe? Are the students that fragile? Are they nothing more than glass figurines? An opposing viewpoint will cause their entire world to come crashing down around them? And these fragile students claim to be champions of diversity – but evidently not diverse world-views.

But the insane madness doesn't end there. The student petition that made the rounds included the following complaint: “Our community is hurt and disappointed in the way this university has dealt with the homophobic and racist statements of Professor Nelson.”

Wait! Racists statements? By Professor Nelson?

Professional Nelson never said a word about race. And even if she had, what race would she have been disparaging? Superman, whose origins are from a different planet, appears to be white. So while Professor Nelson never said a peep about race, are these students claiming she is a white supremacist who hates blacks because she failed to mention a word about a seemingly white man?

But I understand where the students are coming from. They have been brainwashed by many of their professors to assume all whites (including white professors and white students) are, via their genetics, racist against blacks. So why not throw in the race card for good measure?

Oh, but wait: Professor Nelson, it turns out, is black.

But it doesn't matter. Since she doesn't think it appropriate to sexualize children by making Superman kiss boys on the mouth in his comics, she is still a racist. (Don't try to think through the logical fallacies in that.)

Although Professor Nelson published a [very compelling response](#) to all of this, I am confident that neither Professor Stern, nor her Dean, nor the students, nor any of the other radicals who have unfairly ganged up on Professor Nelson, could ever be moved by such dignified prose.

Expect Professor Nelson's contract to mysteriously not be renewed in the future, if she even makes it to that point in time. And the Left, through their cruelty, bullying, and lack of humanity, but also through their pea-brained and obtuse bone-headedness, will have destroyed yet another perfectly decent educator, making the college less valuable and less worthy.

* * * * *

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

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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

On Certainty and Uncertainty

"All scholarship, like all science, is an ongoing, open-ended discussion in which all conclusions are tentative forever, and the principle value and charm of the game being the discovery of the totally unexpected."

-- Hugh Nibley



A lot of people who should know better blather on routinely with such vacuous phrases as, "The science is settled," or "Follow the science."

When such persons say this, what they are really saying is that some social issue they support is valid and correct because science says so. But science [rarely says so](#).

They also use such phrases to browbeat their opponents into submission, with the obvious implication being that their opponents who hold to an opposing viewpoint are mere knuckle-dragging Troglodytes from the Cro-Magnon age who merely grunt like a primate when trying to speak.

The people who claim science is settled have a very healthy but unwarranted sense of self-esteem. They consider themselves quite erudite and privileged. They see themselves as the "special people," in possession of a level of gnosis that very few others can approach.

Of course, the whole thing is one big sham, as these self-appointed Emperors are not wearing any clothes, even though they are quite certain they are wearing custom-tailored suits made by Zegna and Angiolo shoes made by Ferragamo.

Sometimes their legerdemain involves stating a partially understood scientific truth and then marrying that scientific verity to a social policy, as if their pet social policy is the only obvious possible response.

Thus, activists and members of the media who never seem to have taken a single science course in their life will drone on about global warming (which, admittedly, the earth has warmed very slightly in recent years) and then pontificate about the need to cut carbon emissions and destroy the energy industry, sending us back to the Stone Age (all the while these false prophets race around the world on private jets, unaware of their abject hypocrisy.)

They do the same thing with respect to matters involving gender and sexual orientation. And they also do it with respect to the China Virus that has taken lives and destroyed careers by claiming they understand what the science clearly dictates.

I must admit I get sadistic pleasure, whenever I encounter such persons who speak confidently about following the science, because that is when I get to ask them questions of a very basic nature that they seem unable to answer. Questions such as "How would you define the term *science*?" and "What does the discipline of science focus on?" and "What is meant by the *scientific method*?" That's usually when they get caught. I know that because that is usually about the time they begin cursing at me, which I truly find amusing.

Science is not what such activists base their pronouncements on. And even many actual scientists often begin behaving very un-scientifically.

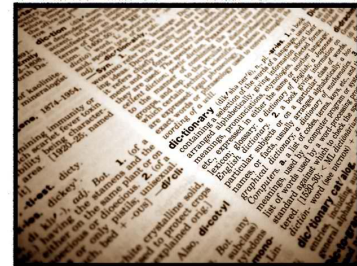
The World of Words

Parlance

Building Your Power of Expression

Parlance, n.

Pronunciation: pärləns



Meaning: A particular way of speaking or using words, especially a way common to those with a particular job or interest.

Usage:

- *His approach in this section of the song was, to use some musical parlance, to employ a seldom-used rhythmic device called hemiola.*
- *In everyday parlance, a public good is a good or service produced by the public sector.*
- *The author used the parlance of a small country town as a guide for perfecting the dialogue of his Southerner characters.*

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