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Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue #247

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Welcome back to *Uncommon Sense*.

We continue our exploration of leadership in the **Self-Development** column. Check it out.

A recent event at a university shined a spotlight on the reality that the secular progressives (i.e., "regressives") have a continuing problem with pedophilia. The **Elephant in the Room** column spells out the sordid details.

As today is Thanksgiving, the **From Ara's Journal** column outlines some philosophical musings on the important characteristic of giving thanks.

And don't count out **The World of Words** column. You will be treated to a dandy of a word. I hope you start using it.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The Fourth Deadly Sin of Leadership: A Failure To Be A Change Agent

It could be said that management is about the status quo, leadership is about change. Actually, it is more accurate to say that management is about impacting conditions in a way that brings about the vision of the leader.



Yet it goes without saying that the vision of the leader is intended to bring about something new, something different. Leaders are the change-agents or progress. They deliberately move us in a new direction, or they re-direct us back to a lofty path from the past that had been strayed from.

Yet change is difficult. That is why leaders are often in short supply; many would-be leaders simply give up or get worn out as they try, often in vain, to move a group of following in a new direction.

And that brings us to the question of whether the change proposed by a leader is actually a good thing or not.

There are many bad ideas out there being touted by individuals who want us to forsake the good and embrace the destructive. And this is not new. History is littered with people who imagined they were engaged in leadership who were simply power-hungry opportunities who had an insatiable need for control over other people. Hitler comes to mind; he was not a leader, he was a tyrant. Other dictators, such as Pol Pot, Stalin, Mao, and others fancied themselves as bringing about positive change, yet their totalitarian proclivities only led to the death and misery of millions. They did bring about change, but it was not changed based on correct principles.

Other would be leaders wish to change America from what it is -- a beacon of liberty -- to a socialist cesspool. Presidential candidate Barack Obama famously said at a rally, "We are five days away from fundamentally transforming the United States of America!" Transforming it into what? His cheering followers did not think to ask. They were excited by change for the sake of change.

Great leaders, on the other hand, are bent on change that brings about sustained goodness. Their proposed changes are based on correct and noble principles: empowering people to be their best selves; enabling people to be more creative; forging an environment where problems can be confronted and resolved; building a culture where opportunities for growth and development can be recognized and seized.

As a leader, you must check yourself and your motives. You must honestly assess whether your proposed changes are meant to bring you power over other people, or whether your proposed changes are truly meant to empower other people.

Such ponderings must be assessed if a leader you would be.

The Elephant in the Room

A Pervert Promotes Pedophilia

The photo you see in this article is that of a pervert who goes by the name Professor Allyn Walker, an androgynous-looking man who for years had been teaching at Old Dominion University. It would be understandable if, at first glance, you were uncertain whether the person in the photo was a male or a female. That is by design. Allyn Walker is a male who insists he is neither male nor female. He is also a pervert who wishes to have sex with your children, particularly your young boys. More on this in a moment.

As I wrote in *Uncommon Sense*, Issue #244 in late September, the Left has a fascination with pedophilia. That does not mean that everyone on the Left personally wishes to have sex with children, but it does mean that the Left, as a movement, has been for years steadily moving their goalposts on the types and levels of perverse sexual behavior they countenance. They started by trying to normalize male homosexuality, and then female homosexuality. Next came the twisted world of bi-sexuality for those who cannot make up their minds. Following that they seized upon the sacred institution of marriage and made

same-sex marriage the law of the land. More recently, they have turned their attention to something distinct from sexual attraction; they have pounced on the very notion of gender itself, claiming there is no such thing as only two genders. There are, according to the radicals who run New York City, at least 31 distinct genders, and, insist the Left, there is such a thing as no-gender – a genderless class that is neither male nor female. All of this is a lie, of course. But many seemingly normal, responsible people outside of the LGBT cult have glommed onto such nonsense and accept it uncritically.



What is the new aspiration of deviancy from the Left? It is the sexualization of children, including outright pedophilia. The Left wants pedophilia to become accepted in society. Their ardent desire is to destroy the innocence of children, just as they have destroyed the sanctity of marriage, of male-female sexual intimacy, and of gender itself.

Thus it is instructive to review what Professor Allyn Walker, who considers himself genderless, has to say in his efforts to normalize the abnormal. I will be quoting his recent statements and offering my commentary on their true meaning.

First, it is instructive to note that Allyn Walker, who is himself a pedophile, introduces a brand new terminology to divert our attention away from the sickening stigma that is attached to pedophiles. His new term: "Minor-Attracted Persons." Again, this is code-language for pedophiles, but Allyn Walker is desperately hoping the American people are too stupid to realize that. Why does Allyn Walker prefer the term "Minor-Attracted Persons"? He tells us with unusual candor: "It's less stigmatizing than other terms like pedophile." And there you have it. His purpose is to de-stigmatize the word pedophile by replacing it with brand new language. But he is talking about pedophilia.

But why does Allyn Walker want to de-stigmatize pedophilia? He answers that as well: "A lot of people when they hear the term pedophile, they automatically assume that it means a sex offender. And that isn't true. And it leads to a lot of misconceptions about attractions toward minors."

So to Allyn Walker, you can be a pedophile and not be a sex offender. At least, that is what he is selling. The likelihood is that this twisted logic is an attempt to assuage his own deep-seated guilt, for the high likelihood is that Walker himself is a sex-offender who has violated innocent children on more than one occasion. Knowing that being a sex-offender is both a criminal act and a heinous act in the eyes of decent society, he wishes to distance himself (and other perverts like him) from the label "sex offender." Hence his strident denials that pedophiles are sex offenders.

What else did Walker say? He threw out a diversionary bit of double-speak by saying "It is never OK to abuse a child." In saying this, he is attempting to sound reasonable and moral. But what he isn't admitting is that in his twisted mind it is only "abuse" if a child unequivocally says no. But what if he grooms the child? What if he manipulates the child? What if he promises the 6-year-old boy some candy? What if he tells the boy that he is just playing doctor? In other words, if the boy, however traumatized, doesn't say no outright, then, in Allyn Walker's fantasy world, it didn't count as abuse.

Furthermore, Allyn Walker believes (or claims to believe) that it is perfectly normal and acceptable for adult males like himself to entertain sexual fantasies towards children, as long as you don't act on such fantasies. In this, Walker is both wrong and deluded. Our thoughts often govern our actions. Our thoughts often play out, eventually, in being acted upon in order to satisfy the cravings, however lurid, buried in our thoughts. That is why the Bible offers this wisdom: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). We become our thoughts. If we think virtuous thoughts continually we cannot help but become virtuous. If we think selfish thoughts, we become selfish. If we entertain perversity in our minds, we become perverts. It's that simple.

Allyn Walker is no longer employed at Old Dominion. He was placed on administrative leave once his views became public, and rumor has it that he has since resigned. I'm sure some college in San Francisco will welcome him with open arms where he can continue his propaganda unabated. But I do have to point out that while the administration at Old Dominion did the right thing in removing him, they still fed into his ideology by addressing him with the pronouns "they" and "their" rather than the correct pronouns "he" or "him": "Old Dominion University has placed Dr. Allyn Walker on administrative leave, effective immediately, from **their** position as assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice" (my emphasis). Further, the University attempted to placate the LGBT community with this line: ""Following recent social media activity and direct outreach to the institution, it is important to share that Old Dominion, as a caring and **inclusive community**, does not endorse or promote crimes against children or any form of criminal activity" (my emphasis). The words "inclusive community" is code-language for "We embrace the LGBT community and its agenda; we are woke."

As I said above, the Left has been following a trajectory of normalizing the abnormal. Where will it go next? Once the Left normalizes pedophilia, where will they next set their sights? I suspect it will just continue to get more and more demented, with perverts insisting that having interspecies sex with various fauna of the animal kingdom is their right (which I actually support so long as I am in charge of selecting the specific zoological candidates as the object of their affection – Porcupines, Black Mambas, Tasmanian Devils, or an occasional Komodo Dragon). But unless We The People develop the backbone and the courage to stand up fearlessly and confront evil relentlessly, filth will continue to seep into society until, like the parable of the boiled frog, the temperature has reached the point of no return due to our inaction.

* * * * *

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

Shameless Plug Norwood Speaks on the Founding Fathers

It was my great honor this week to address a group of business and service professionals in Pacific Palisades. I was asked to speak on the Founding Fathers of the United States.

My talk, "Six Great Men," focused on the lives of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. I gave the audience a tour of their lives, looking at their family life, their education, their political philosophy, their personalities, and other assorted aspects.

For me, the highlight of the evening was the Q&A segment, wherein I opened myself up to any and all questions members of the audience might have. It is always a rigorous exercise to think on one's feet as a speaker never knows in advance what sorts of things might be asked. The audience was very engaged and asked great questions. A great night was had by all.

Should your organization benefit from a stirring presentation on the Founding Fathers, reach out to me for more information.



From Ara's Journal

On Giving Thanks

I think it important to ponder why having gratitude in our hearts is needful.

It is needful because it moves us from the plane of selfishness up to the heights of decency. Humankind is innately selfish and usually concerned with its own interests and not those of others.



A more evolved form of being occurs when we find it in ourselves to look outside ourselves and consider the needs of others.

Some people need a little break in the form of money. Others may need someone there to merely listen to them completely without regard for their own time commitments and objectives. Still others may relish human touch, be it an encouraging pat on the back, an affectionate squeeze of the shoulder, a hug, a brief brushing of their hand with your. Still others long for the feeling of being respected, admired, appreciated, or loved.

Imagine feeling thankful for the opportunity of bringing a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to another human soul. Imagine savoring in your heart a chance to impact someone's life by just cutting them a break. Visualize letter a stranger into your lane while driving when you really didn't have to. Or letting someone who seems to be in a hurry, and who is right behind you in line at the deli, or the supermarket, or the ticket line, to go ahead of you. Or imagine protecting someone in a meeting by coming to their aid after their idea sparked ridicule, by trying to find even one slight redeeming facet of their contribution.

When we feel grateful for the many blessings bestowed upon us God, or through luck, or through chance, or even through our own ways of determination, we leave this dark world less dark. We leave a measure of light to others. Listening, smiling at a stranger, giving a word of encouragement, or countless acts of charity for the less fortunate often bring thanks in others and in ourselves.

Forgive the redundancy, but I am thankful for the very concept of thankfulness.

Thankfulness makes us more decent people and more humane -- and that is something this world could use more of at that time.

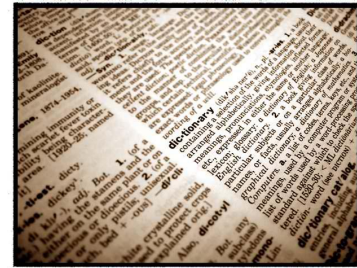
The World of Words

Permutation

Building Your Power of Expression

Permutation, n.

Pronunciation: ,pərm'yootāSH(ə)n



Meaning: This nifty word demonstrates that the rich English language has a word for everything imaginable. A permutation refers to each of the various ways in which a set or a number of things can be ordered or arranged. It can also demote a fundamental change (as in character or condition) based primarily on the rearrangement of existent elements. Think of a permutation as the act or process of changing the lineal order of an ordered set of objects.

Usage:

- *The system has gone through several permutations.*
- *His thoughts raced ahead to fifty different permutations of what he must do.*
- *The possibilities contain endless permutations, each of which would bring a slightly different outcome.*

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