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Issue #250

December 31, 2021

I'll make this opening note rather brief.

I know we have been through a great deal this year. And I believe that in most cases we are stronger because of it.

Here's to a happy, festive New Years Celebration!

May the year 2022 be one of many blessings and much success for you, my readers.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The Seventh Deadly Sin of Leadership: A Failure To Leave a Legacy

Leadership is perishable. Like all good things, if we don't take the meticulous time necessary to groom the next generation of leaders, we will find ourselves in dire circumstances: society will be absent strong, decisive leadership. Thus, it is the leader's responsibility to think in terms of succession planning, and search for future leaders whom they will shape, mold, and develop.

History is replete with examples of leaders in various walks of life who placed the seeds within a nascent leader so they could sprout at some future point in time:

Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone, had an assistant by the name of Thomas Watson. Mr. Watson went on to launch IBM, one of the great, blue chip American corporations.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the noted 19th century writer and philosopher, provided much guidance to Henry David Thoreau, who went on to become just as noteworthy, if not

more so, than Emerson himself.

The Hebrew prophet Elijah groomed his successor, Elisha, whom the Old Testament records brought about profound miracles, including curing a leader of leprosy, causing an iron axe to float, and raising a boy from the dead (see 1 Kings 19 and 2 Kings 2 and 3). An American prophet, Joseph Smith, tutored his successor, Brigham Young, who then led the Latter-day Saints on a westward migration and into the Salt Lake Valley where they became a mighty people.

Ann Sullivan devoted five decades of her life to mentoring one disciple, Helen Keller, who went on to become an inspiration to countless people and a model on what determination can bring when one is committed.

The key point in all of this is that leaders are deliberate about leaving a legacy of perpetual leadership. Leaders understand that society could, at any time, descend into another period bereft of enlightenment, another Dark Ages as it were. And therefore, leaders understand that whatever else they accomplish, the most important thing they bequeath to society is the perpetuation of leadership itself.

Keep that in mind as you pursue your various leadership initiatives. As yourself, Who are the "high-potentials" out there whom I can invest time and energy in to enable them to assume the reigns of leadership after I fade from the scene?

Do this consistently, and you will make your mark, and the world will be a better place thanks to you.

The Elephant in the Room

The Left and the Dismantling of Society

How do great societies crumble? It's an interesting question. Athens. Rome. The Mayan civilization. . . Historians have wrestled with such questions from time immemorial.

The United States is the greatest society ever produced in human history, thanks to the sacrifices and genius of men like George

Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams.

Yet America is under attack, not due to a foreign power from without, but due to a cancer from within. I call that cancer Leftism. The proponents of this contagion think of themselves as "Progressives" (which epitomizes the very notion of irony.)

How bad is Leftism on American culture and society? Let's review. The following news stories were all published in the single month of December 2021. Read through this list and try to come to grips at just how much damage can be done by the Left in one calendar month.

Abortion

- Kate Cohen, an outspoken atheist and a columnist for the *Washington Post*, argued for the glories of abortion, claiming, among other things that [babies do not have](#)



[souls](#), that fetuses are nothing more than a "clump of cells," and that such babies, when aborted, do not feel anything, and certainly not pain.

Blasphemy

- Leftist radicals posing as school administrators who run the Fairfax County library in Virginia, set up a holiday reading display for the Christmas season. Obviously, they needed to include the Holy Bible in that display. But they decided it would be cute if they flanked that Bible by [two books featuring gay pornography](#), so they placed a copy of Gender Queer and a copy of Lawn Boy in the display as well, as both of those books have been under scrutiny for being accessible for students as young as 7th grade in some Virginia schools.
- A pastor from Indiana lost his mind and decided to exchange his pastoral robes for [the garb of a drag queen dancer](#) on an HBO show that peddles perversity.
- The Bibelhaus, a Bible museum located in Frankfurt, Germany, put forth to the public various LGBTQIA+ displays that attempted to turn legitimate Bible themes into gay propaganda. They even put on a play that [presented Jesus as transgender](#). It is unknown if these people had any Bible readings of Leviticus 18:22 or Romans 1:27.

Covid-19 Insanity

- A woman named Norma Garcia-Lopez is a member of the Fort Worth, Texas school board's Racial Equity Committee. In response to a mother who sued the school district over their Covid-19 mask mandate, Mr. Garcia-Lopez retaliated by [releasing the personal information](#) of that mother, along with the personal information of other parents with similar views, and went further by leaving a profanity-laced voicemail message attacking that mother. Ms. Garcia-Lopez is not only a despicable human being with no sense of common courtesy, but she is also unintelligent, in that she claimed she was not guilty of "doxing" the mother in question by saying, "It's not doxxing when you expose someone who filed a public motion in a public court of law that impacts public school children." In other words, doxxing isn't doxxing if you can justify doxxing in your own mind.
- As time went on, we learned that Left-Wing spin-masters [colluded with the media](#) to churn out misinformation on the origins of Covid-19.

Crime

- While crime skyrockets under the leadership of radicalized Democrats, the Leftist Dems claim no such spike in crime is taking place, meaning they are either delusional or simply lying to the public. Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, who loves criminals and hates the law abiding, insisted "We don't have a crisis of lawlessness, we don't have a crisis of crime, we don't have a crisis of violence." Oh? Philadelphia has [seen a 13% jump](#) in homicides compared to 2020 and the city's highest number of killings since at least 2007. Likewise, shooting incidents and shooting victims have both risen over the rate recorded in 2020. Armed robberies have shot up 27% since 2020. DA Krasner lives in a make-believe world where up is down, hot is cold, and dumb is smart. Similarly, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio bragged about how much safer the city is since he has been mayor, in spite of the fact that hate crimes and the [murder rate have increased](#) under his tenure.
- Due to Left-wing policies on bail reform, a savage criminal was released from jail for the brutal beating of an innocent man. Once released, [he immediately committed](#)

[another](#) savage, unprovoked attack on two more women, and was quickly released from that second attack again -- all by Left-wing New York lawmakers who are gleeful when crime is committed.

- A Christmas Tree located just outside the Fox News headquarters in New York City was burned to the ground in an act of arson. The suspect, Craig Tamanaha, was [arrested and promptly released](#). Again, criminals are basically rewarded for committing crime by Leftist prosecutors who are gleeful when crime is committed.
- Jacqueline Avant, age 81, the wife of music executive Clarence Avant, was brutally murdered inside her Beverly Hills home when a thug named Ariel Maynor broke in and shot her dead with an AR-15 rifle. Mr. Maynor was out on parole with a very long rap sheet that included robbery, domestic violence, grand theft, along with other crimes. And how did the LA District Attorney, George Gascon, react to all of this? Gascon felt that the justice system [failed the murderer](#), not the victim. Gascon went even further: we learned of a case in Los Angeles where a man was charged with kidnapping, domestic violence, engaging in intercourse with a minor, and having an outstanding warrant, and yet DA George Gascon [recommended zero bail](#) so that the man could be free to commit more crime.
- Burlington, Vermont agreed to slash its police force by nearly 30% due to pressure from the Black Lives Matter radicals. And as a result, the city has become [a very unsafe place](#) to live.
- In Florida, a criminal who was given probation by Left-wing prosecutors used his new-found freedom to go out and [murder three innocent children](#) by running over them in his car.
- In the state of Washington, a bill has been introduced by radicalized Left-wing zealots to reduce penalties against drive-by shooters. Why? Because these lawmakers believe most drive-by shooters are black, and it's [racist to put black murderers in jail](#).

Fake News

- The *Washington Post* claimed that President Biden [gets worse treatment](#) from the Press than did President Donald Trump. I need not say more. Even with this brazenly fake news, Nikole Hannah-Jones, author of the fake news 1619 project, came out and urged journalists to [be more biased](#) against conservatives, because they are too neutral.
- Fact-Checkers in the mainstream media [continued to get their facts wrong](#), and interestingly, every single time they got it wrong, the so-called analysis supported Left-wing ideology. Conclusion: The fact checkers are fake; they are Left-wing propagandists.
- And, of course, the mainstream media did not disappoint with their consistent fake news propaganda. 10 of their most blatant examples of misleading reporting are [described here](#).

Pedophilia

- It was reported that CNN producer John Griffin, age 44, had spent a number of years [engaging in pedophilia](#). He would seduce girls as young as 9 years old and somehow con their mothers into participating in such evil. He claimed to believe that a "woman is a woman regardless of her age" and that they needed to be trained properly -- by him.

- A middle school tech specialist named Krista Tyler who teaches at Grisham Middle School in Austin, Texas read a Dr. Seuss-style poem she authored mocking evangelicals and other religious people who had expressed concerns about the presence of pornographic books that include pedophilia content in the school library. One can only conclude that Ms. Tyler believes [12 year olds should have exposure](#) to material written by pedophiles.

Racism

- For a group of people who are constantly falsely labeling everyone else a racist, these people are shameless and brazen in their own racist proclivities. The radicalized group who ingeniously (and deceptively) call themselves Black Lives Matter began the month by [calling for a national boycott](#) of what they refer to as "white companies." And, complicit in this racism were many of the major donors to BLM, by [remaining silent](#) in the face of this blatant racism, including Microsoft, Amazon, Intel, and many other organizations run by politically-correct cowards.
- GoFundMe [jumped onto the Black Lives Matter bandwagon](#) when they took down a GoFundMe page of a decorated Army sergeant was trying to cover his legal costs after being charged with the murder of a BLM leader. The details are as follows: Army sergeant Daniel Perry was driving in Austin, Texas when a mob of BLM radicals surrounded his car and began throwing bricks at him. A masked man named Garrett Foster approached Sergeant Perry and aimed an AK-47 at him. Sergeant Perry, sensing he was about to be murdered, drew his pistol and fired several shots at Foster, killing him. Another BLM protester returned fire on the Sergeant. Sergeant Perry was ultimately charged with murder, and set up a GoFundMe page. That page was removed, because the people who run GoFundMe believe that BLM radicals who aim AK-47s at a white man are immune from retaliation. To GoFundMe, BLM radicals who would murder innocent white men are a protected class.
- Perhaps the most demented story of the month involving Leftist racism involves the Campbell Union High School District in California which [urged students to practice witchcraft](#) on any students who claim "All lives matter" by putting a hex on them. One doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.
- A USA Today column asked, with a straight face, [whether math is racist](#). I was not aware that math had an opinion about the color of people's skin, but to one writer at USA Today, math, as a scientific subject based on natural laws and formulations, may well have volition that is racist. Nice.
- Nikole Hannah-Jones, who is the "brains" behind the thoroughly discredited 1619 Project, which seeks to paint the United States as systemically racist, had the temerity to claim that the mainstream media, an entity that is as committed to Left-wing causes as she is, is involved in [a propaganda campaign](#) against her phony project. This simply demonstrates that the Left often bites the hand that feeds them.
- The Salvation Army, formerly a respectable organization that helped the poor, decided to jump on the "woke" bandwagon and propagate the idea that America is racist. They [published a racism guide](#) on their website that read like it was straight from a Left-wing play book. As a result, their donations have plummeted and they, thankfully, removed the propaganda from their website. But the damage was done.
- A Michigan school district, thanks to Leftist indoctrination, now claims calling the United States a land of opportunity [is a micro-aggression](#). This same district insisted

that teachers join a Black Lives Matter protest.

- A dean at San Diego State University declared that the [agenda of conservatives is racism](#), unintelligence, and inequality, oblivious to the fact that it is Left-wing administrators that routinely have segregated college dorms and graduation ceremonies.
- In Virginia, Critical Race Theory continued to be pushed down the throats of students, with the intent to paint [all white students as racist](#) by nature and to paint black students as victims.

Transgender Madness

- While the Supreme Court heard arguments in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, an important abortion case, [Whoopi Goldberg had a meltdown](#) on live TV, with the following diatribe: "Do any of you men have any eggs or the possibility of carrying a fetus?! How dare you talk about what a fetus wants?! You have no idea!" (As if Ms. Goldberg does have an idea.) She continued the mantra of asking "How dare you?!" several times. Although a side note, I hasten to point out that Ms. Goldberg is not behaving like a true Leftist in her shrill rhetoric since she is violating a cardinal belief of the LGBTQIA+ wing, a wing which maintains that men do, in fact, give birth. Someone needs to re-send the memo to Whoopi.
- Not to be outdone, the Chicago Public School system mandated at all schools in their district [make all restrooms "gender-neutral."](#) Now 17-year-old young men can, with impunity, waltz into any girls restroom and display their private parts to any and all innocent girls they so choose. Why? Because the radicals who run the Chicago Public School Board consider such behavior a "big step forward for gender equity."
- A University of Pennsylvania man who [insists he is a woman](#) joined the girls swim team. He used to compete, poorly, on the men's swim team, but since his vanity drove him to cheat to win, he thus declared himself a woman and is now busy robbing real women athletes of their dreams due to his narcissism.
- Barbara Broccoli, a producer for the James Bond franchise, has revealed that consideration is being given to making the [next James Bond non-binary](#).
- Arizona's State Board for Charter School put on a training program for all teachers, urging them to indoctrinate children [as young as Kindergarten](#) into the glories of LGBT lifestyle.
- The US Air Force has authorized the [use of gender pronounces](#) in electronic signature boxes, on the assumption that is impossible to discern if a person is a male or female by seeing and hearing them, therefore Air Force personnel needs to make that determination by seeing whether someone wants to be known as "he, him, his" or "she, her, hers" or "them, their, theirs." China and Russia are laughing at us.

Woke-ism

- The Left succeeded in persuading Oxford University to hire based not on merit or talent, but on [how woke the applicant is](#).
- The TV show "Survivor" has wholly [swallowed Leftist ideology](#), and their ratings are dropping as a result.

Looks like a rather productive month for the Left in undermining the values of the United States of America.

Will we continue to allow the madness to go unchallenged?

* * * * *

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

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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

"I could not have gotten my first job without your expertise. Thank you so much! I learned that I had to reword and improve my résumé in order to be taken seriously in the

workforce. I had been given tips from my professors in Health Science and other professionals but your advice was just what I needed. It took weeks of frustration waiting for interview calls when I happened to stumble across your website and discovered that I needed help. Your publication enlightened me with your knowledge on the wording and format needed to attract an employer. Furthermore, your booklet helped me recognize certain skills and work experience that I would have never considered important until you got me thinking about it. Thanks for a great product!" -- R. Espana, Valencia, California

From Ara's Journal

The War on Christmas is a War on Christ

*"If the world hate you,
ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
If ye were of the world, the world would love his own:
but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen
you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
Remember, . . . If they have persecuted me, they will
also persecute you."*



Jesus Christ (John 15:18-20)

Having heard a lot of talk in previous years about a war on Christmas, I pondered that allegation over the course of this month. I am well aware there are many organizations (mostly the ACLU and other atheist groups such as Freedom From Religion) who like to cause trouble whenever they see a Nativity Scene located on government property. However, I don't recall reading about such instances in the news this year. Perhaps the celebrators of the true meaning of Christmas have gone into hiding.

I did notice something this year that I noticed in previous years, and that was the frequency with which people said the words, "Happy Holidays" rather than the more Christo-centric "Merry Christmas." I have spent a fair amount of time pondering the reasons for this.

It could be somewhat innocent and done just out of habit or a lack of forethought.

It could be done out of fear that the one offering the greeting might somehow offend someone if the greeter utters the forbidden and highly incendiary words "Merry Christmas."

It could also be that the greeter hates, despises, and loathes any mention of any word that points in any way to Jesus Christ.

In my considered judgment, the people in the third camp deserve our contempt. The people in the first two camps need to understand that they are, wittingly or unwittingly, an accessory to the death of Christmas (. All of the above parties are doing their part to erase the memory of Jesus from our national consciousness.

There really is good and evil in the world. Christ symbolizes the good. Any absence of Him or His sacred name, whether it involves the national holiday in which we celebrate His birth, or any other relevant context, seems to side with the evil elements of our earthly experience.

I tried to do my part to change that in some small way. This season, whenever I was in line at a retail establishment, or in any other situation that involved interaction with other people, I would approach them and say "Merry Christmas" before they said anything. I said it with warmth, good cheer, and conviction. Many of them seemed taken aback. Some still said "Happy Holidays" in response, perhaps telling me their true allegiance was with the secular, and not with Christ. Others seemed to offer a sigh of relief, as if my greeting had made it permissible for them to say the forbidden words, "Merry Christmas" in response.

I love Christmas. I enjoy the giving of gifts to others. And I do that as a symbolic gesture of the real thing we are celebrating – the birth of Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

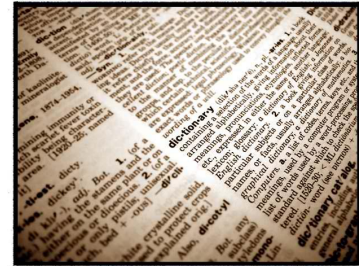
The World of Words

Largesse

Building Your Power of Expression

Largesse, n.

Pronunciation: lär'jes, lär'Zhes



Meaning: This French-sounding word (which does come to us via Old French) refers to an abundance of generosity. When people give bountifully, they are displaying largesse. The word generally refers to the giving of money, or other items of value.

Usage:

- *The new rules enabled her to dispense her wealth with much largesse.*
- *Inasmuch as we are awash in cash, I suggest we engage in the distribution of largesse to the local population.*
- *I am worried that his flaunting his wealth with displays of largesse may bring unintended and unwelcomed consequences.*

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