

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

[Quick Links](#)

[Ara's Web Site](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Click Here to Join!](#)

Issue #254

February 28, 2022

Hard to believe our second month of the year ends tonight. Time does indeed seem to fly!

Check out the ***Self-Development*** column on goal setting. Apply it and you will revolutionize your ability to achieve, whether you work in a team environment or as a lone wolf.

Also check out ***The Elephant in the Room*** column for another look at the insidious nature of Leftist thought and what it does to a person. I give several examples, all of which should prove instructive.

The ***From Ara's Journal*** column offers a quick look into a marvelous statement by Goethe, the German equivalent of Shakespeare. Some important and provocative food for thought there.

And ***The World of Words*** column delivers yet again, with a superb word to add to your ever-growing vocabulary.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The 4 Phases of Goal-Setting, Part 4

Phase IV - Accountability

In our previous discussions of goal setting, we've discussed the importance of focusing on only one Grand Goal you will devote your energies to. Further, we discussed the fact that such Grand Goals contain within them various high-leverage stepping stones, what my colleagues at Franklin Covey refer to as Lead Measures, which lead you toward the attainment of your Grand Goal. In the previous issues of Uncommon Sense, we explored the importance of engagement, which can be had by setting up a scoreboard that tracks

your progress and shows you at a glance if you are winning or losing in your quest to attain your Grand Goal. Now we are going to spend some time on the important topic of accountability.

When you hold yourself and others accountable, performance goes up a notch or two. Let me prove it to you.

Whether the goal in question involves your own private, individual effort, or whether the goal is something your team is determined to achieve, follow this practice and your accountability – and your performance – will skyrocket!



Every week, without fail, you meet on the same day and the same time and you commit to achieving some task that will move the dial towards the attainment of the Grand Goal. Then, when you meet the next week, you do two things: First, you account for your previous commitment. Did you do what you said you would do? The pressure to not be forced to say you never got around to keeping your previous commitment should influence your behavior to take action as you said you would.

The second thing you do in that accountability session is you make a new commitment that will propel you forward towards the attainment of that Grand Goal.

By repeating this process each week, you will certainly be animated and focused on your key goals and you bend the odds in your favor that you will attain them.

One quick note: If you are in a team scenario and someone on the team confesses that they were just too busy with other priorities and thus failed to keep their commitment they made at the previous week's meeting, you show respect by acknowledging the challenges they were saddled with. But you don't let them off the hook. You ask them to make two commitments for this new week: to absolutely and without fail accomplish the previous week's commitment in the new week, and to commit to a brand new task that also must be attained in this new week. They now have double-duty. That is accountability at its finest, and it educates the person that this is a serious endeavor with no room for mediocrity or excuses.

Do this, either with a team, or with yourself, and your goals will be attained with regularity, your life will be engaging, and you will see yourself as a serious person of consequence.

The Elephant in the Room

How A Leftist Paradigm Erodes The Mind

The world is watching with great consternation as Vladimir Putin is trying to decimate Ukraine using military force. The scenes of bloodshed and destruction are harrowing. Decent people everywhere are justified in despising Russia's seemingly deranged leader. People with a conscience cannot help but be inspired by the courage and resolve exhibited by Ukraine's leader, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has chosen not to flee from his country but to stay and fight.

Yet, people on the American Left who possess the contagion of the soul known as Leftism have proven that Leftism erodes the mind and the judgment. I will present four examples

of how Left-wing thought (to the degree that it can be defined as "thought") leaves a person in a state of stupor, uttering things that are simply inane.

First, we come to George Stephanopoulos of ABC News. While interviewing Senator Tom Cotton, R-Ark, Mr. Stephanopoulos seemed [obsessed with one thing](#):



Donald Trump. This was over past comments made by Trump that were not overtly derogatory towards Putin. Senator Cotton was having none of it. He wasn't interested in making Donald Trump the point of the interview; he wanted to stick to the topic for which he agreed to go on TV: the invasion of Ukraine by Putin. However, because Trump has, in the past, referred to Putin as "smart," or "savvy," that, to the Leftist mind of Mr. Stephanopoulos, was the crime of the century, and Stephanopoulos would not let it go. He expressed shock and outrage that Senator Cotton would not condemn Trump's remarks. Of course, had Trump called Putin a "thug," or a "warmonger," or a "savage," or a "primate," Stephanopoulos would have demanded that Cotton condemn those remarks as being unpresidential. The loathing with which Stephanopoulos holds Donald Trump – something known as Trump Derangement Syndrome – caused him to obsess over Senator Cotton's unwillingness to verbally spit on Mr. Trump. Stephanopoulos simply was unable to keep the focus of the interview on Putin and his unhinged attack on a neighboring country. To Leftists like Stephanopoulos, the story had to be about Donald Trump, not Vladimir Putin.

Next, we come to Joy Behar. Ms. Behar is one of the snider voices on the Left-wing gabfest known as *The View*, where unfulfilled, bitter shrews sit around and bash conservatives. Just last week, Ms. Behar, in discussing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, pointed out that, at least to her, one of the great travesties of the invasion is that it might somehow [ruin her plans](#) to take a vacation to Europe. Listen to this: "Well, I'm scared of what's going to happen in Western Europe too. You know, you plan a trip. You want to go there. I want to go to Italy for four years [SIC] and I haven't been able to make it because of the pandemic. And now this!" Yes, what an inconsiderate inconvenience Mr. Putin has imposed on Joy Behar.

Let's hear from former Secretary of State John Kerry, who now serves as President Biden's "Climate Czar" while traversing the globe in a private jet which spews out carbon emissions bountifully. In discussing the invasion of Ukraine, was Mr. Kerry concerned at the genocide taking place? Was he concerned about Ukrainian children being butchered or Ukrainian women being tortured? Did it concern him that Mr. Putin has hired hundreds of professionally trained mercenary assassins looking for Ukraine's president so they can murder him? Not at all. What concerns John Kerry is. . . [Climate Change](#). Here is what he said: "...Massive emissions consequences to the war, but equally importantly you're going to lose people's focus. You're going to lose, certainly, big country attention because they [SIC] will be diverted, and I think it could have a damaging impact. So, you know, hopefully I think President Putin would realize that in the northern part of his country, they used to live on – 66% percent of a nation that was over frozen land. Now it's thawing and his infrastructure is at risk and the people of Russia are at risk. And so I hope President Putin will help us to stay on track with respect to what we need to do for the climate." There are no words.

Finally, a [largely articulate opinion piece](#) in the *Wall Street Journal* dated today (February 28, 2022) by Gerard Baker, a self-described "right-wing curmudgeon," appeared. Titled "As Russia Invades Ukraine, the West May Be Getting Serious," the piece contains some well-

calibrated commentary, including this: "While privileged young people in America express their outrage at microaggressions in the workplace because someone used the wrong pronoun, the youth of Kyiv are gathering in bunkers to make Molotov cocktails in a last, desperate act to defend their beleaguered city—street by street if necessary—against the most violently macro of aggressions." Or this: "Ideological fanatics here, on both sides, claim America is a moral pariah, grotesquely distorting the story of its past or wildly exaggerating the flaws of its present. Meanwhile, a true pariah state over there is trying to murder a population on a set of pretexts as grotesque as any in history." Such expressions are on target. Yet even Baker cannot help but give a nod to the Trump-Haters, and so he included this Left-wing mishmash: "And while a self-obsessed failed leader here continues to sell fictions about a supposedly stolen election, a democratically elected government there fights to avoid being physically extinguished by a brutal oppressor." Thank you, Mr. Baker; you have delivered your obligatory Trump smear; the Left still sees you as redeemable.

What are we to learn from all of this? What we are to learn is that Leftism not only renders one a meaner, crueler human being, but also more narcissistic, more self-absorbed, and more out of touch with what is going on around you.

* * * * *

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

Shameless Plug Norwood to Offer Another Business Class

I've been asked to offer an additional business course at College of the Canyons located in Valencia, California. This one will begin on Monday March 7th and will run from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Because the individual class sessions are lengthier, we will only meet eleven times, holding our final class session on May 23rd.



If you want a great introduction to business, what it consists of, how it got its origins, and who some of the key business titans are, go to the [College of the Canyons website](#) and look for Business 100, Section 61517.

From Ara's Journal On What Really Matters

"Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least."
Goethe

We seem to be a curious species. While many of us haven't the faintest clue what matters to us as individuals, even the few who have thought about such issues often allow the mundane and the pedestrian, the inconsequential, to occupy our attention.



Lots of people know that a part of good health is to maintain a trim, lean physique. Yet it does not take much observation to see that a large number of us are grossly overweight, often due to the obscenely large portions of food we consume.

Many understand intuitively that they should be learning more, reading more, mastering more understanding of the world around them, yet they haven't read a substantive book in years.

Plenty of people know of the supreme importance of helping a child grow and develop, or nurturing a relationship with a spouse, a significant-other (I hate that term), or a close work associate, or a person in need. Yet too often we get bogged down staring into our iPhones, as if they are an electronic fortune cookie, vainly looking for substance in a sea of barren drab.

It seems that for many of us, it takes enormous discipline to avoid the pull of the trivial. It shouldn't be that way. Our instincts should be geared toward things of substance, things that truly matter to us. I shudder to think of all of the people who, during their twilight years, will sit on their rocking chairs, wondering why their lives did not reach their true potential.

I hope I am not one of them.

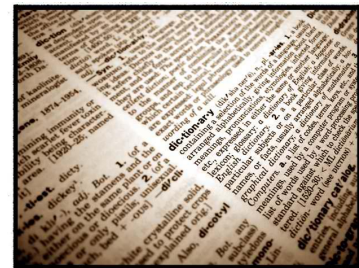
The World of Words

Sagacity

Building Your Power of Expression

Sagacity, n.

Pronunciation: səˈgæsədə



Meaning: Keen mental discernment and good judgment.

Usage:

- *Do not underestimate him; he is a man of unparalleled sagacity.*
- *They had enough sagacity to avoid any outright confrontation.*

- *Don't be so doltish; show a little sagacity!*

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should be in your In-Box within 24 hours from the time you subscribed. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com)

For more information on my work, follow me on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: www.aranorwood.com

Sincerely,

Ara Norwood
Leadership Development Systems

Visit our website



Leadership Development Systems | P. O. Box 801681, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1681

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ara@aranorwood.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!