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Welcome to my latest installment of *Uncommon Sense*.

The **Self-Development** column zeros in on the importance of money, spending, and saving, all very relevant matters given our current economic realities. Follow the counsel there and you will thrive in almost any economy.

Something very insidious is taking place in American society currently. **The Elephant in the Room** column pulls the curtain back to reveal exactly what is taking place. And it's not pretty. Read it carefully.

The **From Ara's Journal** column recounts a recent online battle I had with a man who wished to denigrate my faith-community. It didn't go the way he had hoped. It will probably bore you so feel free to skip it unless you really think it might be of interest.

The World of Words column provides a dandy of a word that is sure to make you sound urbane and elegant. Use it, and reap the benefits.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

The Financial Oxygen Supply

Because I'm somewhat of a "people-person," I happen to know a lot of people. Most of the people I know lead middle class lives. Some of the people I know struggle paycheck-to-paycheck. And a small number of the people I know are fabulously wealthy – one of them is a billionaire.



As with people, so with organizations: some of the companies I am intimately familiar with do reasonably well, some struggle mightily to make payroll, and some are worth a lot of money – occasionally surpassing a market value of a billion dollars.

(Yes, the billionaire friend of mine referenced above owns one of those companies).

Inasmuch as people (not organizations) read this newsletter, I will confine my remarks to people.

Here is the fact: whatever the economy does, whether things are good (bullish) or whether things go downhill (bearish) money is a very fluid thing. And sometimes very surprising things can happen, meaning sometimes one can find him- or herself struggling financially for years, and then all of a sudden, things change, the fortunes improve, and they start to acquire more income than they ever did in the past 25 years. Now, that is not the case for everyone, but it is the case for some.

Time is one of the key elements for acquiring wealth. A 25-year-old likely has a good amount of time to acquire cash and build a fortune. A 72-year-old has less runway to work with, but still could possibly do well for himself if he plays his cards right.

And the elements that govern cash acquisition are the same for a business and for you as an individual. There's nothing magical or mysterious about it. You've heard these things many times. Your overall cash strength is greatly affected by curtailing spending (or at least controlling spending) and bringing in revenue also plays a huge impact on your overall cash strength. Both matter: speeding up income and slowing down spending. And yet, so much of what is at play with respect to money involves psychology, or mindset. Let me elaborate.

Say you get a regular paycheck. You get paid twice a month, or perhaps every other Friday (which means some months you get paid 3 times in a given month – in 2023 there are 4 months that have 3 Fridays). There are things you *want to* spend that money on. (If it's a bill, that is something you *have to* spend money on).

Here's the thing: if we are responsible, we will pay our bills because if we don't, we will have our utilities shut off, or our credit ruined, or a collection agency may chase us down. But what really requires discipline involves the things we *want to* purchase: the concert tickets, the restaurants, the pleasurable things.

But if we can resist the constant allure to satisfy our every desire by paying for things we want but do not need, we can make the habit of saving a portion of our income – *consistently* – and build up a nest-egg of cash so that we *can* weather the storm of emergencies that come up, such as unexpected car repairs, or take a much-needed vacation somewhere. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to take a vacation and have the money to pay for it in advance?

Thus, cash is in many ways not only a company's oxygen supply, it is, in an economic sense, your oxygen supply. Allow spending to go out of control, and you suffocate. Build a reserve of cash, and you will breathe easier.

The Elephant in the Room

The Leftist Crime Syndicate

Alert readers of *Uncommon Sense* will be cognizant of the fact that I often refer to the so-called "Progressives" in our country as "the Lawless Left." Of course, my doing so makes



Leftists go crazy with rage (something I find an amusing side-show) which demonstrates they do not see themselves as Leftist and especially not lawless. But that is merely self-deception. There really is a system in place, a mechanism, that allows the Left to embrace lawlessness and bring enormous harm to individuals and communities.

Allow me to present a picture-perfect case study of how the Left inflicts lawlessness and untold suffering to our cities and communities as well as to individuals.

First, I present to you **George Soros**, the notorious billionaire. Soros is a monster. He is truly diabolical. Over the last decade Soros has donated over \$40,000,000 to various entities for one purpose only: to get Leftists elected to the office of District Attorney in our country's largest cities. And he has been successful. At least 75 Leftist DAs are in place thanks to Soros, and they run the legal apparati in some of our nation's largest cities, including New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia, all of which are crime-ridden cesspools. Since the primary duty of a District Attorney is to analyze and gather evidence of criminal cases to determine if there are grounds for criminal prosecution, a law-abiding DA will vigorously apply the law and prosecute criminal conduct. A weak DA will ignore evidence, worry more about the rights of the criminal than the harm those criminals caused, and often allow criminals, including rapists and murderers, to go free so they can commit more mayhem. Soros wants as many Leftist DA's as possible to be in positions of power because he wants to destroy the United States of America by having crime run rampant.

Next, I present Ms. **Kim Gardner**, the St. Louis Circuit Attorney, the equivalent of the DA. Elected in 2016 on a platform to reform the criminal justice system (meaning she wanted to allow thugs and criminals to roam free because she believes, as do the people who voted for her, that to incarcerate a person of color is, by definition, racist regardless of the crime the criminal committed). Ms. Gardner, who is herself a racist black woman who thinks everyone else around her is racist, and who received at least \$116,000 in political contributions and at least 1 paid ad from George Soros, has empathy for criminals – especially black criminals – and has contempt for the citizenry – especially the white citizenry – she is sworn to protect. She is a very angry woman.

I have been informed that on one occasion Kim Gardner actually assigned an attorney from her office to prosecute a murder case, an attorney was out on maternity leave (and Ms. Gardner did not even attempt to inform the attorney she had been assigned to the case). This was all done deliberately and with malice forethought. Therefore the Prosecution did not show up to court on the date the case was scheduled to be tried, causing the judge let the murderer, who was black, walk free. He was free to murder again. This is what Kim Gardner had in mind all along.

Next, we look at one **Daniel Riley**, a 21-year-old black man, who is a criminal. Riley committed robbery in August 2020, was tried, and was found guilty of his crime. Riley had been fitted with a monitoring device on his ankle. But thanks to Kim Gardner, he was out on bond. Why was he out on bond? Because Kim Gardner did not wish to prosecute him. Even after he violated the terms of his bond – not once, not twice, not three times, but more than 50 times, Kim Gardner *still* did not want to prosecute him. She never filed a motion to revoke Riley's bond, although she claims she made verbal, not written, requests to judges to do so. The judges claim this is a lie. Thanks to Kim Gardner, Daniel Riley was allowed to be free to commit more crime and cause more harm to people. This is exactly what Gardner wanted and this is exactly what Soros wanted. This is exactly what Riley did.

Riley is not legally allowed to drive a car because he does not have a valid driver's license, but he doesn't care one whit about that. So he was not only driving illegally, he was speeding through an intersection, he failed to yield to people in the cross-walk, and he caused a collusion, hitting another car, and then [striking a pedestrian](#), pinning her under his vehicle.

And now we come to the victim: **Janae Edmonson**, age 17 (see her photo above, right next to Daniel Riley). On February 18th, 2023 she was in St. Louis to compete in a high school volleyball tournament. She had recently committed to play volleyball for a specific college. After the tournament, she was walking with her parents in a cross walk when Daniel Riley sped through a Yield sign and ran over her. Due to the severity of her injuries, she had to have both of her legs amputated. She will never be the same.

So let's trace this travesty back to its origins. George Soros uses his wealth to put incompetent and vile people into positions of power, particularly at the DA level. Those vile people, such as Kim Gardner, use their power to coddle criminals and set them free to harm people – people like Janae Edmonson who have their legs amputated as a result. See how this works? It's a carefully planned diabolical system.

This is not an anomaly. This sort of thing happens routinely, wherever a George Soros thug manages to secure the office of DA. Countless citizens in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, New Orleans, Baltimore, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and other big cities face massive amounts of homelessness, rampant drug use,

and a title wave of crime that causes sorrow, grief, mayhem, chaos, and disorder.

The United States is being ripped apart from within by the acids of criminality.

Thankfully, **Andrew Bailey**, the Attorney General of St. Louis, is [trying to remove](#) Kim Gardner from her position of power. As to be expected, Kim Gardner calls this development an act of [racism and voter suppression](#). Hopefully, additional leaders of courage and integrity will follow AG Bailey's lead and destroy the continuing villainy of the anarchists that George Soros has cursed our communities with.

* * * * *

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

From Ara's Journal

Defending the Indefensible

Actually, I could have titled this piece "Attacking the Invulnerable."

I know a man, let's call him Doug G., whom I only know through social media. But as I've followed some of his posts, I realize that he sees himself as a

sage of sorts, a man of enormous bravery and deep insights, a man who wishes to share his keen intellect with others, for the purpose of extricating themselves from the religious faith he himself has abandoned.

I am a practicing member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I not only believe it is God's restored Church in these latter-days, I also believe that it is led by a true prophet of God, along the lines of an Isaiah or an Abraham. This prophet, who at the present time is a man by the name of Russell M. Nelson, a former pioneering heart surgeon, presides over the Church which currently has



approximately 17 million members world-wide and is one of the fastest growing church's on the planet.

Thanks to the missionary efforts of the Church, we see people joining the Church at a rate of more than 100,000 annually. In 2021, we saw more than 168,000 new converts come into the Church. In 2019, we saw more than 248,000 get baptized into the Church. To pick one more random year, in 2012 more than 272,000 converts were added.

It has become fashionable in some circles for individuals to leave the Church for any number of reasons, but some of them occasionally find themselves unable to leave the Church alone. Doug G. is one of those individuals who fancies himself an expert on why the Church is fallen, false, evil, satanic, and arrogant. He prides himself on trying to sound a little smarter and a little more informed when he encounters certain people of mild experience online.

When he recently encountered me online, it was quite interesting. He wasn't prepared for what he was up against. He began by posing a "gotcha" question to me that he was sure would serve as a trap I would fall into. His question was, *"Do you believe the prophet of the LDS church can 'never lead you astray?'"*

Of course, having encountered a number of disaffected Church members, I have heard this question many times. And there is an easy answer to it. But just as I was about to address the question with gusto, he interrupted with a new question: *"Did Jesus teach us that prophets can transgress?"* What is he getting at, you wonder? He is trying to say that the President of my Church, a living prophet, is actually a false prophet that fails to measure up to the original teachings of our Founding Prophet, Joseph Smith.

Again, I consider this a sophomoric, softball question, but I quickly pointed out to Doug G. that he had just changed his question to something new before I could even begin to answer the first question. He insisted the two questions are essentially identical, . . . which they are not. When I urged him to stay focused and stick to one question at a time, he actually jumped in with a third question that had nothing to do with the first two questions. (It had to do with how I would interpret a certain passage in the New Testament, a passage he seems to believe casts condemnation on modern-day prophets of God).

But alas, Doug G. proved to not really be up for a robust discussion. Before I could even begin to respond to any question, he quickly

changed his mind altogether, swore at me using an expletive, and then blocked me from further communication.

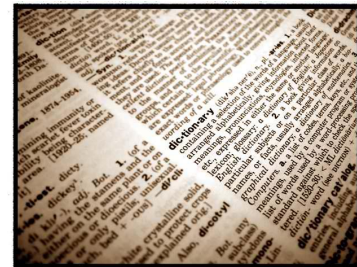
People familiar with this exchange asked me if I was upset when Doug G. hurled a curse word at me. Not in the least. It actually was revealing to see his true colors – one who presents himself as a man committed to sacred truths but who is actually quite thin-skinned, prone to distraction (perhaps suffering from ADHD) and quick to lose his temper when he senses he is about to have his arguments dissected in a way that will reveal his lack of depth.

No doubt Doug G. will continue to seek to damage the faith of believing Latter-day Saints. That is where he gets his sense of purpose and meaning. But deep down, in places where he dare not look too closely, he knows he's vulnerable. And furthermore, he knows I know. . .

The World of Words

Gelatinous

Building Your Power of Expression



Gelatinous, adj.

Pronunciation: jə'lætənəs

Meaning: Something that has the consistency of jelly.

Usage:

- *To my horror, when I removed the lid of the soda I had purchased from Drive-Through line at the fast food restaurant, I saw what looked like a gelatinous glob of ooze floating on the top!*
- *I have gained so much weight, and am so out of shape, that my belly resembles a gelatinous mass of blubber.*
- *The next step is we have to pour one cup of the gelatinous mixture into the blender.*

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