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Well, what have we here? A brand new issue of *Uncommon Sense*! We have some great content for you:

A **Self-Development** column that spells out how not to run a meeting.

An **Elephant in the Room** column featuring a guest OpEd by presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy who deftly dissects the current transgender craze.

A **From Ara's Journal** column taking a whimsical look at famous lines from famous movies.

And a **World of Words** column that equips you yet again with an elegant word to elevate your vocabulary.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Down With Poorly Run Meetings

I attended a meeting recently. The meeting had about 75 attendees and there were multiple individuals presenting information to the group. While the content of the meeting was worthwhile, the meeting

itself was marred with problems, problems that easily could have been avoided. Take note of the following if you are running a meeting:



- With 75 people in attendance, you need a microphone. A mic was in use for this meeting. However, one speaker thought he didn't need to use the mic, imagining his voice was loud enough without one. So he left the mic on the table, and the result was that people in the back, one of whom I know was hard of hearing, could not hear him clearly. **Solution: use the mic, even if you think you do not need to.**
- More on the mic: the volume for the PA system was way too low for the mic to make much difference. **Solution: test the sound well in advance of the arrival of the attendees and make sure the volume is at an adequate level.**
- One last item on the mic: Many of the presenters did not hold the mic very close to their mouths. Thus, they were holding a mic in their hand, but the audience was still not receiving the benefit of the presenters having a mic because the presenters could not be heard. **Solution: hold the mic about 1-2 inches from your mouth.**
- During the Q&A, various audience members would ask a question with varying levels of loudness. Those with softer voices could not be heard clearly. The presenter would then proceed to answer the question – a question almost no one could hear, so the lack of context left a lot to be desired. **Solution: always restate the question before answering it.**
- The slides being shown were way too busy with very small font in some cases in order to cram a lot of data on a slide. People in the back of the room could not readily read such slides. So think of it: they couldn't see the slides and they couldn't hear the presenters speak. Not a good combination. **Solution: put less**

written content on your slides, and make the words larger. Less is more.

- Lunch was brought in for the meeting. But not enough food was ordered. So they started to run out of some food items. They also ran out of napkins. **Solution: Always aim high. It is far better to end up with too much food than too little.**

Follow these simple, basic protocols and your meetings will be well attended and valuable.

The Elephant in the Room

The Shocking Truth About The Gender Insanity Cult by Vivek Ramaswamy

Remember the ["Bud Light Party" campaign](#) during the 2016 election season? The beer behemoth paid outspoken left wing celebrities **Amy Schumer** and **Seth Rogan** to



tip their hat to Democrats. The only person that ad would ever convince to crack open a cold one is Sen. **Elizabeth Warren**.

Now the King of Beers is paying homage to the newest cultural zeitgeist by paying trans activist **Dylan Mulvaney** to prod grown men into dressing like **Audrey Hepburn** while drinking beer. For a drink that was once a blue-collar staple of middle America, this isn't a winning sales strategy. It's a way for the CEO to signal his virtue while alienating a customer base that is too afraid to say so out loud.

One of the goals of my [candidacy for president](#) of the United States is to close the gap between what people are willing to say behind closed doors versus what they say in public. In that spirit, here goes: **Dylan Mulvaney might need mental health care, not endorsement deals.**

More often than not, when someone identifies as a gender different from their biological sex that is a sign and a symptom that they

are [suffering from a mental illness](#). I reject the idea that it is somehow "humane" to affirm their confusion, rather than to actually help them. It's inhumane.

This is simply stating a hard truth. Every serious leader should say so without apology. When they don't, it reveals they are willing to lie in order to [avoid criticism from Twitter](#) or MSNBC. When CEOs, politicians and celebrities affirm people's confusion, they are simply fueling the problem.

Here's the reality: transgenderism is not a civil rights issue, it's a social contagion. Psychological epidemics have been well documented for over 300 years – as my friend **Jordan Peterson** has rightly identified. Western culture is periodically consumed by social psychoses that grip certain groups into hysteria, particularly the vulnerable among us.

Not dissimilar to religious self-flagellation of the 14th century, genital mutilation is the new self-sacrifice to the false idol of the cult of gender ideology in America. Notable 20th-century examples have included multiple personality disorders, bulimia and self-harm through cutting. The recent explosion in the number of gender dysphoria clinics is all the evidence you need to know that transgenderism is simply the latest.

In prior decades, social contagions disappeared over time because people became skeptical and eventually rational people said "enough is enough."

The difference today is that the left has turned transgenderism into an essential pillar of its ideological dogma and uses it as a cudgel to beat its political opponents into submission – by crying "bigot" at anyone who dares question this new cult.

The cult of gender ideology increasingly foists sexuality upon children ("drag queen story hour"), makes a mockery of women (can't answer "what is a woman"), and undermines female sports (**Lia Thomas** and countless others) by creating a zero-sum game where men with mental health disorders dominate at the expense of women. Trans MMA fighter **Fallon Fox** beat her female opponent so severely she broke her skull.

Back when I was growing up, we would call that violence against women. Now we call that a victory for trans rights.

But by hitching itself to the ever-growing alphabet soup of "queer rights," the trans movement has successfully wrapped itself in a

vener of legitimacy and shut down rational debate or reasonable criticism.

Here's how you know its belief system relies on religion rather than logic. The gay civil rights movement was based on a foundational principle: the sex of the person you're attracted to is hardwired at birth, even though there's no gay gene. Yet the trans movement tells us that your own sex is entirely fluid over your life, even though there is a definitive sex chromosome. These two beliefs are impossible to espouse at the same time – yet the LGBTQIA+ cult demands that you embrace them simultaneously nonetheless.

When this social contagion finally ends, those who stood up to it – from **J.K. Rowling** to Jordan Peterson – will be remembered as compassionate thought leaders who saved our culture from the cult, even as they are publicly flogged today.

Let's abandon the farce that the "humane" thing to do is to affirm gender confusion, rather than to actually [help those who suffer](#) from it. That's what it means to crack a cold hard truth.

* * * * *

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

From Ara's Journal

The Enchantment of Movies

One of the great enjoyments of life involves going to the movie theater. Watching movies is often quite fun and memorable. Great movies, well-written, well-directed, and well-acted can be a very pleasant pastime.



Memorable lines from a movie are a very interesting thing to think about. They often make the movie. Here are 10 lines that I find impactful. I wonder how many people can name the movie they come from.

1. Hasta la vista, baby!
2. You had me at 'hello.'
3. Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.
4. There's no place like home.
5. Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.
6. I'm going to make him an offer he can't refuse.
7. Houston, we have a problem!
8. You can't handle the truth!
9. I see dead people!
10. Here's looking at you, kid.

How many did you get correct? Here are the answers:

1. Hasta la vista, baby! (Terminator 2)
2. You had me at 'hello.' (Jerry Maguire)
3. Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. (Forrest Gump)
4. There's no place like home. (The Wizard of Oz).
5. Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn. (Gone With the Wind)
6. I'm going to make him an offer he can't refuse. (The Godfather)
7. Houston, we have a problem. (Apollo 13)
8. You can't handle the truth! (A Few Good Men)
9. I see dead people! (The Sixth Sense)
10. Here's looking at you, kid. (Casablanca)

I hope great storytellers continue to produce great films.

The World of Words

Iridescent

Building Your Power of Expression

Iridescent, n.

Pronunciation: ,irədēs(ə)nt



Meaning: When something is iridescent, it shows very luminous colors that seem to change when seen from different angles.

Usage:

- *The drake's head has an iridescent purple sheen.*
- *The singer's iridescent necklace glowed brightly under the spotlight.*
- *When the jeweler looked at the iridescent gems, he was made speechless by their brilliant colors.*

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