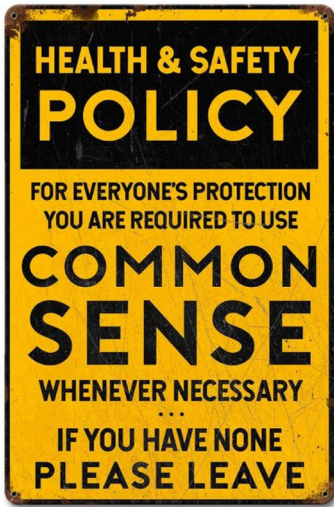


I Seem To Have Misplaced My Common Sense - By Stan Southwick



I came across an obituary in the London Times written over two decades ago, but so applicable to the societal state we find ourselves in today with all the regulations, mandates and guidelines imposed in the last few months. It reads: "Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Common Sense lost ground

when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason. He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights; I Want It Now; Someone Else Is To Blame; I'm A Victim; Pay Me For Doing Nothing.

Not many attended his funeral because, so few realized he was gone."

"Society is always taken by surprise at any new example of common sense."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Favorite Flora: Eucalyptus papuana - By Jon Marenfeld



If you have been to a home improvement center or nursery lately you may have noticed that plants native to Australia are gaining more traction here in the desert southwest because their home climate is like our own. At this time of year people are looking to add shade to their property to keep their home and yards cooler. For a taller and relatively slim tree the normal go-to is a Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton populneus*). A tree that has many of the same characteristics to consider is *Eucalyptus papuana* (Ghost Gum). This Australian native has evergreen 3-inch long lance-shaped leaves, grows up to 40 feet high and 20 feet wide, produces light litter, is not brittle in high winds unlike other eucalyptus trees, and can handle full sun and reflected heat. The Ghost gum also has a smooth off-white trunk and has a generally upright form.

Because it comes from a climate like ours planting and care is simple. Plant *Eucalyptus papuana* in late spring or early summer in full sun and reflected heat locations with typical well-drained desert soils. Once established it is a moderate grower that is relatively drought tolerant but will do best with supplemental irrigation during the hottest and driest times of the year. Elevate the canopy as needed when young and there is no need to thin it out. Pair it with various *Eremophila*'s, *Senna*'s, *Callistemon viminalis*, and *Lomandra longifolia* for a bit of Australia in your yard.



Tanque Verde Falls Trail
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Jon Marenfeld