

# The Patriots' Truth

## Flint Hills T.E.A. Party News

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*For the time being we are NOT holding the Saturday meetings. We may have Special Meetings when we have Special Guests, which will be publically announced in the paper, email, word-of-mouth. Check for updates at [flintheillsteaparty.com](http://flintheillsteaparty.com) We are now posting news items, events & the newsletters both recent & archived issues at our website. Weekly meetings are held at McAlister's, 5:30/6-10pm, Wed. evenings. They are come & go, at your convenience. Bring your concerns for discussion. Your concerns are important - they are why we exist. In this publication what is in green is me (Sylda), oither color is just for getting attention. Changes in font are for letting you know it is a new subject or person speaking. Help me include YOU!! YOU are IMPORTANT!! GOD be with you now and always.*

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### Gun owners are more politically active, study finds

September 2, 2018, University of Kansas

<https://phys.org/news/2018-09-gun-owners-politically.html>

American gun owners in recent years have exhibited higher levels of political participation, not only in voting, but in donating money to candidates and contacting elected officials, according to a study by University of Kansas political scientists.

"Part of the reason majority opinions on gun control legislation aren't turning into policy is that gun owners are a very strong political group who hold a lot of weight and hold a lot of influence despite being a minority in American politics," said Abbie Vegter, a graduate student in political science.

Vegter is collaborating on the research with KU political science professors Don Haider-Markel and Mark Joslyn. They will present their findings, "*Motivated Voices: Gun Ownership and the Propensity for Political Participation*," today, Sept. 2, as part of the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in Boston.

Haider-Markel and Joslyn have published several studies on gun politics in recent decades.

In the recent study, the researchers examined the political behavior of gun owners versus non-gun owners in presidential election years from 1972 to 2012. Primarily, they found that gun owners have increasingly become more politically active during that time. The findings could be key in determining why major gun control legislation in Congress has remained elusive, even after mass shootings such as Newtown in 2012 and others, even when a majority of people tend to support stricter gun laws.

"Our major conclusion establishes gun owners as a distinct social group, and we see how that social group influences their likelihood of participating in politics," Vegter said.

Much of political conversation surrounding guns tends to focus on large groups like the National Rifle Association's influence, but Vegter said the study's results paint a different picture.

"Only one in five gun owners belong to the NRA, so we think there is something else going on than just the NRA when it comes to mobilization," she said.

One explanation could be shifting reasons for owning a gun and how more people tend to see it as part of their identity.

"Owning a gun for hunting doesn't necessarily mean being a hunter is a core part of your identity," she said. "But owning a gun because you think it's an essential right guaranteed in the

Constitution is more a part of your political identity. It's something more attached from the get-go to politics."

Vegter said the researchers are still exploring what has driven this shift in attitude among gun owners, whether it was in response to past gun control legislation at the state level or a reaction to certain candidates who were elected who had stronger views about gun control.

Conservatives seem to have done a better deal at realizing this trend and seeking to politically mobilize gun owners in campaign ads and other actions, she said.

"There are a couple of lessons. For individuals, especially individual gun control advocates, in order to make a difference, you need to match this level of mobilization and participation," Vegter said. "There is also a lesson there for politicians who I think traditionally have not seen gun owners as a political group to be addressed."

One development to watch will be the level of activity, especially among students who survived the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Many of them have advocated in campaigns and in national media for stricter gun control policies, which has kept the issue in the forefront longer than what typically occurs after a high-profile mass shooting, she said.

"There has been this sustained attention," Vegter said, "and I think the true test will be that mobilization piece."

## GOVERNOR CANDIDATES FIGHT OVER GUN CONTROL

by Dion Lefler and Jonathan Shorman/The Wichita Eagle | Sep 08, 2018 -- Updated Sep 09, 2018

<https://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article218030855.html>

HUTCHINSON (TNS) — Kansas governor candidates Laura Kelly, Kris Kobach and Greg Orman battled over gun control and school shootings during a raucous debate Saturday [Sat 8 Sep] at the Kansas State Fair.

The candidates sparred before hundreds of yelling supporters in one of the most boisterous events in Kansas politics, signaling the fall campaign season is now in full swing.

Kelly, a Democratic state senator, kicked off the fight over guns with a comment in response to a question on crime control.

She said she is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, but is now calling for a policy of "comprehensive gun sense." That would involve rolling back a current state law that allows anyone who can own a gun to carry it concealed, without a permit, in almost all public places.

Kobach, the Republican secretary of state who is a strong supporter of gun rights and that constitutional carry law, scoffed at her answer.

"If Sen. Kelly is a supporter of the Second Amendment, I'm a supporter of higher taxes," said Kobach, whose campaign centers on proposals to cut income, sales and property taxes.

Orman, an independent candidate, pointed out that Kelly had co-sponsored the bill that established concealed carry without permit.

He said it's absurd that "you have to have 1,000 hours of training to wax an eyebrow" as a Kansas beautician, but no training to carry a gun.

Guns are a fraught topic in the Legislature. Attempts to impose restrictions on firearms have resulted in bitter debates among lawmakers and have not advanced.

The stance of the next governor could swing the debate either way. Kobach would almost certainly veto nearly all firearm restrictions, while Kelly and Orman would be more likely to sign legislation.

The gun debate reignited when the candidates were asked whether they would support arming veteran volunteers or teachers as a hedge against school mass shootings.

Kobach was alone among the candidates in thinking that was a good idea.

He said people with guns defend the president and other government officials while "we defend our school children with a sign that says 'gun free zone.'"

Orman, a Johnson County businessman whose wife is a teacher, said "I don't think we make our kids safer by arming teachers."

Kelly said she opposed "the arming of our teachers. We need fewer guns in our schools, not more."

She also sought to deflect Orman's charge that she had flipped on the issue of concealed carry.

She said it's important to have a governor "who recognizes when they've gone too far and is willing to change course."

Orman fired back: "You didn't just vote for the bill, you co-sponsored the bill. That means you thought about it."

And he said he didn't buy Kelly's explanation that she changed her mind on concealed carry without a permit after talking to a university professor worried about guns on campus.

"Did you really need a professor to tell you they didn't want a kid with a loaded gun in their classroom?" he said.

### **Fight over utility rates**

Departing from their standard campaign talking points, Kobach and Orman also got into a fight over electric rates.

Kobach said electric rates are an important component of business development and that Kansas rates are higher than in neighboring states, after a series of increases in recent years.

He said Orman "served as a CEO of a subsidiary of KCP&L (Kansas City Power & Light) that was part of those rate hikes. That's not good for business."

Orman fired back: "You're going back 15 years for that. The rate hikes occurred more recently."

Later, Kobach cited a statistic that electric rates went up 89 percent between 2007 and 2016.

"I stopped working for KCPL in 2003, so..." Orman replied.

### **Charged atmosphere**

The State Fair debate is a unique experience in Kansas politics.

Most forums for state office are conducted in a TV studio without an audience or in an indoor auditorium where voters are admonished to keep quiet.

The State Fair is the opposite, held in an outdoor arena seemingly designed to provoke political combat. The audience is broken up into cheering sections where partisans (or in Orman's case, nonpartisans) are invited and encouraged to cheer, chant, boo and jeer. Kelly seemed to have a slight edge in the noise factor.

Kobach supporter Adam Grose sat near the stage wearing a blue campaign shirt. Grose admires Kobach's tough stance on immigration and says taxes are too high.

Kobach wants to cut taxes much like Brownback did. But he has promised to reduce spending at the same time.

"I'm not a fan of Brownback, but I think he did wrong: We could have cut spending to the agencies," Grose said.

James Taylor, who supports Kelly, said government needs to fund basic things like schools, law enforcement and highways. Those things weren't supported under Brownback, he said, and "I don't think Kobach would make things any better."

Taylor didn't appear attracted to Orman, who he said said would have no support from either party if elected.

"So I don't know how we could ever get anything through the Legislature," Taylor said.

But Debbie Almond, an Orman family friend, said Orman is the best candidate for Kansas. She said Kelly tries to paint Orman as a Republican while Kobach tries to say he's a Democrat -- labels that are both wrong, she contends.

"He really is not on one side or the other," Almond said.

Much of the debate audience was already committed to a candidate. But there were a few undecided voters.

Carl and Jean Sidebottom said they didn't know who they will vote for. Although the couple leans Republican, Jean said parties matter less than they did in the past.

"It's more of what the candidates represent and are able to do," she said.

Kadin Leckliter, 18, wants to vote in November. He said he didn't know much about any of the candidates, but wanted to come to make sure he knows what's going on.

He said he thought the debate would be fun to watch.

### **Marijuana or not?**

Flanking the debate stage were uninvited candidates Jeff Caldwell and Rick Kloos.

Kloos, an independent, stood silently with his mouth taped shut with duct tape in protest of the debate rules that kept him off the stage.

Caldwell, the Libertarian on the ballot, stood on the edge of the stage while the candidates took their places at the podium, but was ushered off as the radio-broadcast debate began.

"I'm on the ballot, but they excluded me from the debate because you have to have \$50,000 (in campaign funds) in the bank," he said. "We've raised \$48,000, but we don't have \$50,000 in the bank because we're (spending it) getting our message out."

Caldwell held a yard sign with a marijuana leaf to highlight his signature issue, full legalization for medical or recreational use.

None of the three debaters support full legalization.

Kelly and Orman support allowing medicinal use of marijuana, which has been shown to be helpful in the treatment of seizure disorders and controlling chronic pain.

Orman said he had traveled to Colorado, where marijuana is legal, and visited with a former Kansas family who

moved there with their son who was experiencing as many as 200 seizures a day. After marijuana treatment, he has been seizure free, Orman said.

He said recreational use should be “a citable offense the same way you would get a speeding ticket.”

Kelly also supported medical marijuana, but said she doesn’t think the state is ready for full legalization.

Kobach is vehemently opposed to allowing any marijuana use but said he supports industrial hemp for things like rope and textiles.

He said in California, the medical allowance became a “gateway” to recreational use, and that pharmaceutical companies have distilled the health-beneficial ingredients of marijuana into pills that don’t impair the user.

## HOW THE AP IS TRYING TO SABOTAGE THE KOBACH CAMPAIGN

<https://sentinelksmo.org/how-ap-trying-sabotage-kobach-campaign/> | Sep 15, 2018

An [Associated Press](#) (AP) article by John Hanna on gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach could serve some future generation of students – well, at least, at Hillsdale – as a tutorial on how to slant the news.

The silliness begins with the headline: “Kobach aims to drive out migrants living in Kansas illegally.” The phrase “drive out” is loaded to the point of absurdity.

It has a Biblical feel to it, as in Numbers 33, “But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides.”

“Drive out” conjures an image of mass exodus, of pursuing troops, of Kris Kobach at the helm of a chariot. That said, if one Googles “drive out” and “Kobach,” he will find no other reference save in the headline of Hanna’s article. This is not news. This is editorial sabotage.

Hanna would do well to read this new book by Warren Buffett’s son, Howard. The problem is worse than even Kobach suggests.

The phrase “migrants” is equally misleading. It conjures images of the “Grapes of Wrath,” impoverished families picking tomatoes to keep body and soul together. As Hanna knows, that is not the reality. There are very few tomatoes to be picked, say, in Kansas City, Kansas.

If the media refuse to use the term of law, “illegal aliens,” they could at least adopt the term used by US Border Patrol, “undocumented aliens” or “UDAs.” Their semantic game-playing is wearisome.

The body of the AP article is as journalistically corrupt as the headline. Hanna does not report the news. He uses his news platform to debate Kobach without Kobach being able to respond.

Hanna writes, for instance, “Kobach has falsely described Kansas as the ‘sanctuary state of the Midwest.’” Falsely? That is pure editorial. If there is another state in the Midwest more lenient, Hanna should cite it.

Hanna takes great issue with Kobach’s claim that UDAs cost Kansas \$377 million a year. In quibbling about the estimated costs, he writes, “In short, much of the spending is for services a state can’t avoid unless immigrants are deported or leave voluntarily.” Yes, exactly!

Writes Hanna with comparable illogic, “Almost half of the total costs the study cites are for public schooling for immigrant children. But a 1982 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court prohibits states from denying those children an education.” Why the “But”? If these poor children have been *driven out* of Kansas, the state will not have to pay for their education.

Hanna concludes his article with the ultimate liberal bait-and-switch, “Studies by the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2013 and the University of Kansas in 2014 concluded that immigrants benefit the Kansas economy and pay for government services they use.” That is all well and good, but the subject is UDAs, not “immigrants.”

The Sentinel recommends that the AP invest in the thoughtful new book by Howard Buffet, Warren’s son, “***Our 50-State Border Crisis.***” Chances are Kobach underestimated the costs.

*We must double/triple, whatever is necessary, our efforts to elect Kris Kobach to be Governor of Kansas. If Kelly is elected Governor our taxes will soar – regardless of anything she says – our schools will go even further down hill – along with many more unpleasant happenings. Kelly’s ads say KOBACH will take money from schools – NOT TRUE – he has pledged to put the money to the schools IN THE CLASSROOM and in the pockets of classroom teachers – not for buildings or to line Administrators’ pockets. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE encourage every Kansas voter to support and vote for KRIS KOBACH!!!*



## CONSERVATIVE TRIBUNE

by **BENJAMIN ARIE** | SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

When Matt Drudge speaks, people listen.

Well, this is 2018, so let's be more accurate: When he tweets, people pay attention.

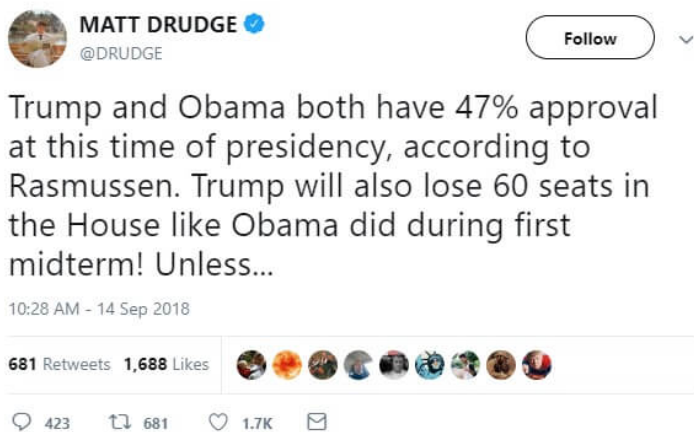
The reason is that it's pretty rare. Drudge, of course, is the widely respected media mogul and famous recluse behind "The Drudge Report," which paved the way for nearly every right-leaning publication online today.

He became a household name among conservatives after playing a key role in breaking the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, which ultimately led to the 42nd president's impeachment.

When it comes to Twitter, Drudge does it a bit differently from the crowd. Although followed by over half a million users, he posts infrequently, and usually deletes those messages not long after they are published.

He became a household name among conservatives after playing a key role in breaking the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, which ultimately led to the 42nd president's impeachment.

On Friday, that sparsely used Twitter account got attention after Drudge posted a warning to Republicans about the upcoming midterms.



The main point, however, was clear. Despite the fact that the so-called "[blue wave](#)" of Democrat wins has been hit-and-miss during the primary and special election season, it looks like the GOP is facing an uphill battle to retain control of the House.

Drudge seemed to be making the prediction based on a comparison of President Trump's support now and President Obama's support back in 2010, which — like Trump now — was his second year in office.

That's when Democrats lost control of the House, with a sweeping takeover by Republicans during the midterm election.

### ★ "WANTED: Trump" Poster ★

WANTED for 2020: Donald J. Trump.

*Guilty of Making America Great Again!*

The 2020 election is just around the corner! Let's do our best to keep President Trump in office so we can continue to make America greater and greater.

Despite what the media tells us, Trump's promise to "Make America Great Again" is being kept! Let's keep Trump in office for another four years and Keep America Great!



*I was scanning thru my email and came across some T-shirts that I found amusing – I want to share what they say with you. One I would be pleased to wear – "I LOVE MY COUNTRY" – I about fell off my chair laughing when I read this one – (with a picture of Trump) "MORE JOBS" – (with a picture of Obama – "NO*

*JOBS” – (with a picture of Clinton) --- “BLOW JOBS”; I loved that one!! Someone has a real sense of humor as well as a sense of honesty. Then there is the one that says “I WAS GOING TO BE A LIBERIAL FOR HALLOWEEN BUT MY HEAD WOULD NOT FIT UP MY ASS!!! So sad, but so TRUE!!! Then there are the coffee mugs saying, “PROMISES MADE PROMISES KEPT TRUMP 2020 and KEEP AMERICA GREAT!!! TRUMP 2020!!!*

*We must do whatever it takes to keep Trump in 2020. Can't take the chance of getting someone like Obama again!!*

## **Another Key Barometer of U.S. Economy Hits Post-recession High: ISM Service Index Soars**

*“A survey of business executives pointed to the strongest U.S. growth in September in more than two decades, suggesting the economy is primed for a strong finish in 2018.”*

**by Jeffrey Bartash | MarketWatch**

The numbers: A survey of business executives pointed to the strongest U.S. growth in September in more than two decades, suggesting the economy is primed for a strong finish in 2018.

The Institute for Supply Management's survey of non-manufacturing firms climbed to a 21-year high of 61.6 last month from 58.5. It's the highest mark of the current nine-year-old expansion and the second strongest reading in the history of an index whose roots stretch back to 1997.

Numbers over 50% are viewed as positive for the economy, and anything over 55% is considered exceptional.

All 17 industries tracked by the ISM reported growth in September. Many companies saw an increase in new orders and they hired more workers. A gauge measuring employment rose to a record 62.4.

The economy is going strong and appeared primed for a strong holiday season to finish out the year. The latest ISM survey shows little likelihood that growth will slow anytime soon, and the recent trade agreement with Canada is sure to further ease the worries of corporate America.

**[Anti-Kavanaugh witness] Christine Blasey-Ford claims that she called a friend on her CELL phone AFTER the “ATTACK” in or around 1982.**

***The first cell phone was sold for \$3,995 in March of 1984!!!***

***I think you can see the “TRUTH” in her statement. I am truly sorry for this woman – I think she either has an inventive imagination or someone invented her story for her.***

## **PATRIOTIC ARTIST PUSHES BACK AGAINST ANTHEM PROTESTS**

A handful of NFL players are STILL protesting "social or racial injustice" during the playing of our national anthem before games. Back in May, the league said it was going to penalize teams whose players don't stand for "The Star-Spangled Banner." But after the NFL Players Association complained, league officials put the plan "on hold."

Now, with the 2018 season in full swing, players on a few teams continue to disrespect our flag, our veterans and our nation. These athletes kneel, raise a fist or stay in the tunnel or locker room during this long-standing, pregame tradition. In an effort to diffuse the ongoing controversy, *ESPN* stopped televising performances of the national anthem during their "Monday Night Football" broadcasts.

With his bold painting ***Respect The Flag***, popular and patriotic artist Jon McNaughton has pushed back against these protests by NFL players. Not one to shy away from controversy, McNaughton also signals his support and appreciation for President Donald Trump with this artwork.

*"I respect America," he says. "I respect the flag, the anthem, and the President; because he doesn't back down to those who do not... When the NFL players decided to kneel as the National Anthem was given, I felt sick. That flag represents the vast number of Americans who have sacrificed their lives for our nation. It is about their blood and the sacrifice of many thousands."*

Grassfire has a love, appreciation and respect for the Stars & Stripes and our national anthem. We also support President Trump and his "Make America Great Again" agenda. We know that many in our million-member network of grassroots conservatives do, too. That's why we're giving our team members the opportunity to purchase an 11" x 14" lithograph of ***Respect The Flag*** for a contribution of \$35 or more to help Grassfire build.

**Go here to order now:** <http://www.grassrootsaction.com/r.asp?U=879621&CID=201993&RID=49854983>



Let me remind everyone -- when Barack Obama was President those knowing he was poison to the USA, that his main objective was to destroy our Country, while fighting him and his cronies as best they could, still showed respect to his position. I DO NOT understand how anyone can disrespect President Trump or the flag of the United States of America and still claim they love and want the best for our beloved Country. They are sick, sick, sick!! But then that is NOT news!! Any group of people who backs and wants to elect a woman to be President of the USA, a woman who willingly, knowingly, purposely caused the death of a group of American citizens, not to mention Military personnel, and then say, "What difference does it make?" are just as sick as she is. GOD be with us – PLEASE, DO NOT ALLOW THAT TO EVER HAPPEN!!! American citizens stand up and be counted to protect, as best you can, our GREAT Country and our leaders who are bringing America back to being the Country our forefathers designed. We have elected great leaders for our Country, NOW WE MUST CONTINUE ELECTING GREAT LEADERS IN OUR STATE. ELECT KRIS KOBACH TO BE GOVERNOR OF KANSAS!!! STEVER WATSON TO REPRESENT KANSAS IN CONGRESS!! Check carefully your local options and vote for those backing President Trump and Governor elect Kris Kobach. We are on the uphill side of making Kansas GREAT along with our GREAT Country. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!

## **KELLYANNE COMES FORWARD AS A SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM WITH INCREDIBLE MESSAGE FOR KAVANAUGH**

**THE WESTERN JOURNAL** by Jack Davis | 9/30/2018

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway revealed Sunday that she is a victim of sexual assault.

Conway, who did not disclose any details, made the comment during CNN's "[State of the Union](#)".

"I feel very empathetic for victims of sexual assault, sexual harassment and rape," she said during the show, then paused briefly before adding, "I'm a victim of sexual assault."

"This is the first time I've ever heard you talk about something personal like that, and I'm really sorry," said host Jake Tapper.

"I've just had it," Conway said.

For much of the rest of her appearance, Conway emphasized the need to take claims of sexual assault seriously, but that blackening the reputation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh had nothing to do with justice for assault victims.

Conway said the justice system should address allegation of sexual assault victims, not politicians.

"I don't expect Judge Kavanaugh or Jake Tapper or Jeff Flake or anybody to be held responsible for that," she said. "You have to be responsible for your own conduct."

Kellyanne Conway on CNN says people ask her how she talks to her daughters about all this, and her feeling is: "How do I talk to my almost 14-year-old son? This is Judge Kavanaugh now. It could be anybody by next week. Respectfully, it could be any man in any position now."

Conway said in the current debate, victims only matter when they are politically useful.

"Let's not compare Harvey Weinstein and Bill Cosby, and a few others, to what's happened here," she said. "If we're going to have a national conversation, stop judging the victims and perpetrators according to their politics."

Conway said taking out a history of unheard assault claims on Kavanaugh will not yield justice.

“Let’s just be honest with what this is about. It’s raw, partisan politics,” she said. “I want those women who were sexually assaulted the other day who were confronting Jeff Flake, God bless them, but go blame the perpetrator. That’s who’s responsible for sexual assault, the people who commit them.”

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway on whether President Donald Trump believes Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony: “He found her testimony to be credible and compelling”.

CNN’s Jake Tapper: “As a survivor of this ... does that not make you think, when you hear somebody like Professor Ford... does that not make you think these women need to be heard?”

Kellyanne Conway: “They should all be heard. And they should be heard in courts of law”

Without naming names, she emphasized that all accusers should be treated equally.

“We do treat people differently who are either the victims or perpetrators of this based on their politics now or based on their gender now. That is a huge mistake,” she said.

Conway then spoke directly to the camera. “America, it’s a huge mistake.”

Conway did, however, say that “the hypocrisy is ridiculous” in noting that some lawmakers seeking an FBI probe of Kavanaugh did not hold former President Bill Clinton to the same rigorous standard.

Conway said the responses to the FBI investigation will illustrate who was playing politics.

“... if not one Senate Judiciary Committee member changes his or her vote because of what they learned from the FBI investigation, that tells you all you need to know about what the president and Judge Kavanaugh (have) said is a sham,” she said.

The mention of past, unproven allegations of sexual misconduct against President Donald Trump brought a bristling rejoinder from Conway.

“Don’t conflate that with this and certainly don’t conflate it with what happened to me. It’d be a huge mistake, Jake. Let’s not do it. Let’s not always bring Trump into everything that happens in this universe. That’s mistake number one,” she said.

*I am sad for anyone who has been sexually abused. However, if they are not willing to press charges at the time of the incident it is hard to have complete sympathy. Thirty to forty years later is just too late!!*

## **GOD STALKS THE KAVANAUGH HEARINGS | by Roger L. Simon**

*Roger L. Simon - co-founder & CEO Emeritus of PJ Media - is a novelist and co-screenwriter of two Holocaust-themed movies: Enemies, A Love Story (with Paul Mazursky) and Prague Duet (with Sheryl Longin).*

Far be it for me, someone who spent the better part of his life as your typical secular agnostic, to talk about God. But that was what I have been thinking about in the hours since I spent my day, as many of us did, watching the Kavanaugh confirmation hearing.

I guess it first hit me when Judge Kavanaugh, in the midst of his powerful and heartfelt opening statement, one few expected him to make, choked up, fighting back tears as he spoke of his ten-year old daughter’s desire to pray for Dr. Ford. I had trouble choking back my own and it dawned on me I was watching an event that I thought was political being transformed into a spiritual one.

***Nothing was as expected. A real rape had taken place but it wasn't the one everyone was talking about. It was simultaneously a rape of Judge Kavanaugh, his family, and the American people themselves.*** The collateral damage was Dr. Ford, her friends, and her family. And the perpetrator was the Democratic Party, principally their Judiciary Committee members, their ranking member, and the minority leader.

It also dawned me that whatever the pundits were saying had become irrelevant. The American people were watching now -- they would make up their own minds -- and... I thought I'd never say this... God was looking down on the proceedings.

For the first time I had a visceral understanding of what Dennis Prager meant when he said God was involved in the American founding. (I've been reading his book on [Exodus](#).)

And then Lindsey Graham said what so many of us were feeling, making the most magnificent, impassioned speech I have heard in Congress since Joseph Welch's famous "Have you no shame, sir?" to Joe McCarthy. No, scratch that. I was a little kid then and was told to despise McCarthy by my parents. I could be all or partly wrong about that, but I'm not about Graham. He hit a home run with the bases full in the seventh game of the World Series.

He was so good, in fact, that for a moment the Democrats seemed chastened. But it didn't last long and pretty soon that ranking member, Ms. Feinstein, was up to her old tricks, doddering as she may have become, reading with her head down a litany of recent accusations against Kavanaugh so ludicrous even the New York Times



wouldn't print them.

But, for all intents and purposes, the hearings were already over.

Louisiana Senator Kennedy formally ended them, appropriately enough, by asking Judge Kavanaugh to swear to God that he never sexually assaulted anyone. He [Kavanaugh] so swore.

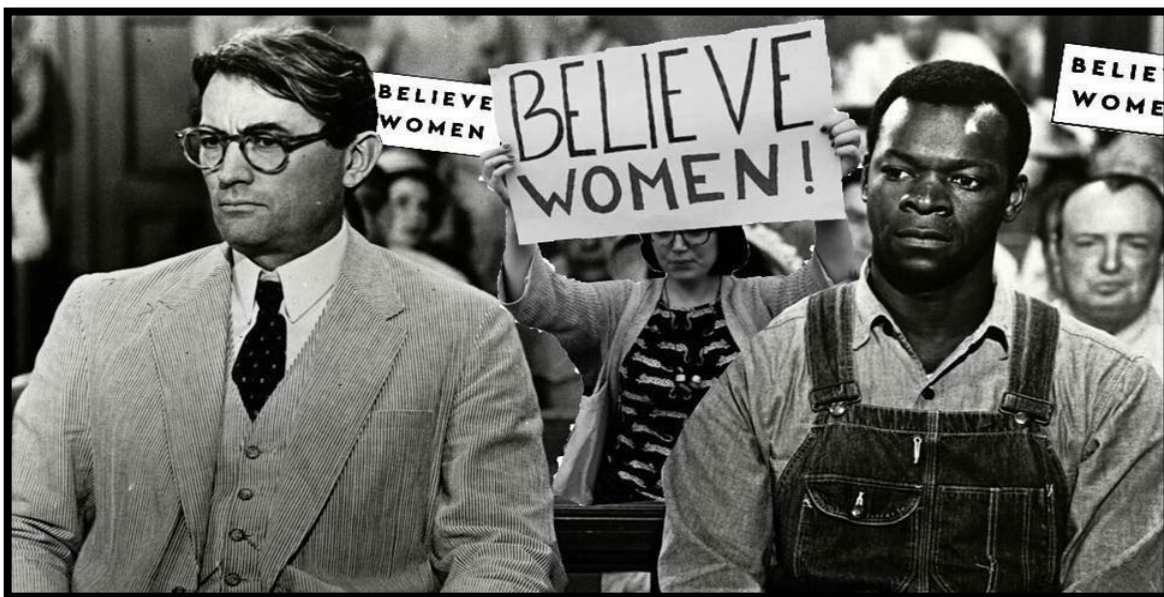
Kavanaugh, I predict, will soon be Justice Kavanaugh.

But I can't let go of my religious theme so quickly. I am Jewish and trying, as many do as they grow older, to find consolation in my faith. I make no claims for any knowledge or depth in this. I am very much a neophyte. But nevertheless, I was offended, even appalled, by the activities of my co-religionists Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Richard Blumenthal on the committee. They have shamed our faith by disobeying one of the keystones of the Ten Commandments, the Ninth: "Thou shall not bear false witness." (*Exodus 20:13*)

I suspect Feinstein even knows this deep down. But I'm still not sure I want to know about what role she did or didn't play in hiding or revealing Dr. Ford's accusations. It's all too nauseating and depressing. Whatever it is, it doesn't look good and does no service to women or anybody else, least of all Dr. Ford.

That Richard Blumenthal -- a man who lied about his military service -- would dare begin interrogating Judge Kavanaugh by asking him to translate the watchword of Roman law "*Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*" ("False in one thing, false in everything") was such eye-rolling arrogance and self-delusion it made you wonder what they have in the drinking water in the state of Connecticut.

But never mind. All is well. As I finished typing this, I reached into my wallet, curious to see if the words "**IN GOD WE TRUST**" were still printed on our money. (Frankly, I hadn't bothered to look closely for a long time.) **Thankfully, they were.**



*The notion of women falsely accusing men of sexual assault or rape is NOT a new idea, not even close...*

*Ref: Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mockingbird" [©1960]*

*Ref: Jean Racine, "Phèdre" [1677 A.D.]*

*Ref: Euripedes, "Hippolytus" [circa 338 B.C.]*

## **Victor Davis Hanson: "Epitaph of a Dying Culture"**

<https://amgreatness.com/2018/09/30/epitaph-for-a-dying-culture/> [30 Sep 2018]

The Kavanaugh confirmation hearings and their endless sequelae have ended up as an epitaph for a spent culture for which its remedies are felt to be worse than its diseases. Think 338 B.C., A.D. 476, 1453, or 1939.

The coordinated effort to destroy Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court required the systematic refutation of the entire notion of Western jurisprudence by senators and much of the American legal establishment. And there was no

hesitation in doing just that on the part of Senate Democrats, the #MeToo movement, and the press. And I write this at a moment in which conservatives and Republicans still control the majority of governorships, state legislatures, the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court and the presidency — a reminder that culture so often is far more powerful than politics.

So, here we were to be left with a new legal and cultural standard in adjudicating future disagreements and disputes, an utterly anti-Western standard quite befitting for our new relativist age:

1. The veracity of accusations will hinge on the particular identity, emotions, and ideology of the accuser;
2. Evidence, or lack of it, will be tangential, given the supposed unimpeachable motives of the ideologically correct accuser;
3. The burden of proof and evidence will rest with the accused to disprove the preordained assumption of guilt;
4. Hearsay will be a valuable narrative and constitute legitimate evidence;
5. Truth is not universal, but individualized. Ford's "truth" is as valid as the "Truth," given that competing narratives are adjudicated only by access to power. Ford is a victim, therefore her truth trumps "their" truth based on evidence and testimony.
6. Questionable and inconsistent testimony are proof of trauma and therefore exactitude; recalling an accusation to someone is proof that the action in the accusation took place.
7. Statutes of limitations do not exist; any allegation of decades prior is as valid as any in the present. All of us are subject at any moment to unsubstantiated accusations from decades past that will destroy lives.
8. Assertion of an alleged crime is unimpeachable proof. Recall of where, when, why, and how it took place is irrelevant.
9. Individual accusations will always be subservient to cosmic causes; individuals are irrelevant if they do not serve ideological aims. All accusations fit universal stereotypes whose rules of finding guilt or innocence trump those of individual cases.
10. The accuser establishes the conditions under which charges are investigated; the accused nods assent.

Our cultural traditions are being insidiously rewritten in this new Dark Age. We know now that Euripides's *Phaedra* should have been believed, as a female accuser of rape. Perhaps university presses can either reissue properly corrected editions or ban the *Hippolytus* entirely. No doubt we will ban Racine's *Phèdre* as well. Harper Lee's Tom Robinson deserved his fate because his female accuser should have been believed — and perhaps *To Kill a Mockingbird* should be rewritten as well. In our time, we have finally and only now belatedly realized that Tawana Brawley's voice was stifled.

### History as Melodrama

In an iconoclastic age, when statues are toppled, and when street names at Stanford University are renamed (but, mysteriously, not the politically incorrect name Stanford itself), the past is captive to the present. Realities are erased according to current ideological agendas.

Our pastime is to blame those of the technologically backward and impoverished past. In most cases, they accomplished things that our present generation lacks the courage and resilience to do — whether navigating the Atlantic in a leaky boat without accurate navigation, homesteading on the prairie in an age without machines or modern medicine, or flying a B-17 without fighter escort over 1943 Germany. Is it our envy of their courage or own self-hatred for our manifest inferiority that forces us to judge figures of the past in our modern courts on the basis of their purported race, class, and gender crimes?

So, history has become melodrama, not tragedy. Figures of the past who were human and not perfect, and who prove, according to today's value systems, not good progressives are thus deserving of historical annihilation. The affluence and leisure of the present create the luxury of such pampered intellectual indulgence in a way the existential crises of Civil War, the Great Depression, and World War II did not.

In our own age, the disproven but still legendary tales of "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," the Duke Lacrosse fantasies, the *Rolling Stone* folktales, or Lena Dunham's fictive memoir won out and became fact, inasmuch as such lies were not real lies given their service to progressive aims. And that is where we are now headed — the world of the Athenian popular court, the Inquisition, the Salem Witch Trials, the Star Chamber, the cycles of the French Revolution — except that in all those cases, reason and sanity eventually returned. Perhaps not now. We are entering a new Dark Ages.

If we to look to the universities for truth and courage we find increasingly medieval darkness, wherein matters of alleged sexual harassment there is no due process for the accused.

Free speech on campus vanishes if minority views are dubbed "hate" speech or declared merely "hurtful."

There is little diversity of opinion and even less tolerance of any dissent from majority dogma. Obsequiousness so often is redefined as courage; real courage condemned as a crime against the people. Campus segregation becomes desirable, if privileged by "safe spaces." Censorship is sensitivity and justified by "trigger warnings." The apparent absence of bias becomes proof of bias if dubbed a "micro-aggression." Racial discrimination in admissions affirms liberality.

The sensuality, personal indulgence, and even recklessness of the 1960s still continue, but become criminal, if *post facto*, one party finds his or her immoderation unfulfilling or in retrospect embarrassing. Woodstock is now married to the Victorian parlor, the common denominator for our self-absorbed generation seems to be to enjoy the refuge of shame and honor when gratification proves not gratifying.

### **Welcome to the Progressive Church**

If we look to the media, there is an overarching dogma that governs the veracity of all other “truths.” “Fake News” is a misnomer, given that the general force of prejudicial media coverage is not just falsity, but the effort to substantiate progressive agendas.

The embryo of modern journalism is either progressive graduate schools or past progressive political campaigns and service, and so the media is an extension of the progressive movement. The trivial to the substantial are all invented to advance narratives, whether a greedy U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley’s supposedly ordering self-indulgent \$50,000 drapes or Mark Judge purportedly recalling, and thus *de facto* corroborating, Christine Blasey Ford’s accusations.

If we look to our brave, new technologies — social media, the Internet, the linked world of instant communication devices — they prove entirely missionary and ideological. Their reason to be is accelerating social and cultural change — albeit with the assumption that their the masters who run these technologies assume that their own privilege and vast wealth have insulated themselves from any unwelcomed ramifications following from their own ideology and advocacy.

So everything from Facebook and Twitter censorship to politically recalibrating the order of Google searches serves the larger collective “good.” Even ancient ideas of wealth and poverty fade before our current ideology. If riches are used for social change, even if cynically and for careerist and self-interested reasons, then how they were obtained or otherwise used is irrelevant; if not, then they are proof of greed in their acquisition. Multibillionaire George Soros might be a wanted felon in France or have attempted to break the Bank of England and thereby ruin small depositors. But his wealth is welcomed because he invests a small percentage of it in progressive causes and thereby purchases his own progressive insurance and protection. As did the Catholic Church in the Dark Ages of yore, *the Progressive Church now sells indulgences.* [emphasis added]

If we look to consensual government for hope, we see instead the courts and the permanent administrative class more often as the new governance. Their directives are to obstruct or overturn residual popular forces of tradition and custom, whether that consists of overriding bothersome federal immigration law, or advancing states’ rights ideas of nullification such as “sanctuary cities.”

### **Few Escape Routes Left**

In this growing Dark Age, nothing is as it was. We have only faint memories of what was normal just decades ago. Professional sports become vehicles for promulgating progressive versions of social justice. Athletic excellence is increasingly adjudicated on the basis of ideology, despite the dark lessons of totalitarian societies that have done just that in the past.

Hollywood has run out of ideas, reduced either to making pale imitations of classic films or flat psychodramas about courageous, perpetually 30-something social justice warriors. Late-night comedy, indeed all comedy, has disappeared and turned into a boring regurgitation of progressive themes or safe situational banality — reminiscent of the decline of Old Comedy of Aristophanes to the psychodramas of Hellenistic New Comedy. Even left-wing comedians such as Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, or George Carlin could not now exist.

In science, we are back to the age of silencing Galileo. Dare suggest that human efforts to address purported man-caused global warming are not cost-effective, and one’s academic career, his funding and status are imperiled. Suggest that research shows not all the accusations of sexual harassment of females are to be believed without corroborating evidence, and one is damned as a retrograde sexist if not a closet assaulter himself. Imply that the greatest health crisis facing black youth is the violence on the streets of a Baltimore or Chicago, and one is a supporter of police misconduct. Hint that our sex is almost always innate and biologically determined and not usually socially constructed, and one becomes a “-phobe” of some sort.

Language is in service to the state and progressive agendas, either by the creation of new words or refining old ones. “Homosexual” and “transvestism” are not any longer clinical vocabulary, but slurs. “White” is not descriptive so much as pejorative. “Liberty” and “freedom” are synonymous with selfishness, if not conspiracy. To join “overseas contingency operations” to thwart “man-caused disasters” and “workplace violence” could mean almost anything and thus, by design, they mean nothing.

The result is that, in lieu of pushback, to escape the new Dark Age, tens of millions of Americans are increasingly dropping out in search of some sort of physical or mental monastery, an escape, a refuge from a vindictive state and from those who crafted and are invested in it.

Millions no longer watch the Emmys or Grammys or any sort of entertainment awards event. They do not go to the movies or even watch new Hollywood releases on their computers or televisions.

Popular music is skipped on the expectation that it is not just vulgar and foul, but incoherently politicized. They more and more pass on professional sports, neither watching nor attending what has become condemnatory rituals or lectures on social justice from pampered multimillionaire athletes.

At work, they keep their thoughts to themselves and nod assent to received pieties.

Courtship resembles a careful script in which a wrong word, an unartful advance can spell career destruction. To be safe, would-be couples inquire firsthand about their respective politics and traditions. The amoral marketplace, in *Brave New World* fashion, answers with promises of inanimate and mechanical sex partners.

All scour their past — in fear that something 20, 30, or 50 years prior might resurface, immediately become mythologized and thus weaponized to destroy them, especially should they have achieved status, public recognition, affluence, or influence. One's personal privacy is kept hidden, not just in disgust with our generation's therapeutic maladies in which others pour out their emotions and fragilities in lieu of an idea, but because any disclosure is expected later to be used against oneself.

An idea of retirement is not merely a house by the lake or a cottage on the coast to die in peace, but now a mental refuge in which we are at last free from 24/7 sermonizing and worry over thought crimes, both in person and electronically — a world in which a sermonizer on a computer screen or in a television set does not lecture us for perceived shortcomings without acknowledgment that he is more likely than not to also fail to meet his own standards of morality.

In other words, America is resembling the medieval Balkans, where spent traditionalists fled to the mountaintops, abandoned the plains of a dying culture to the new zealots who stormed in under the pretense of civilization.

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