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Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.)

Roy Moore is one of Alabama's, and perhaps America's, most controversial politicians of our time. He has twice been removed from the Alabama State Supreme Court for ethics violations, including once for famously refusing a federal court order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building in Montgomery.

Last fall, Moore, a Republican, earned his party's nomination for Jeff Sessions' vacant Senate seat and faced Democrat Doug Jones in the special election. Moore's campaign was built on his normal topics of faith, guns, God and anti-homosexual rhetoric. During the campaign, Moore himself became the subject of credible accusations of sexual misconduct during his time as an attorney and judge in Etowah County. Those claims undoubtedly contributed to Moore's

loss in the election.

My stance as an opinion writer in Alabama during Moore's campaign was to (a.) prove how problematic Moore's Senate effort was for the state's national reputation, and (b.) to illustrate how wholly unqualified he was to serve in the U.S. Senate. He would have been an unmitigated disaster. The five columns submitted in this entry cover those topics from both a statewide and a hyperlocal standpoint, which I believe is vital for a community newspaper such as The Anniston Star.

The Anniston Star

https://www.annistonstar.com/columnists/phillip_tutor/phillip-tutor-the-one-big-joke-about-moore-and-alabama/article_a2742e7e-cb1e-11e7-93d5-dfe71eace4af.html

Phillip Tutor: The 'one big joke' about Moore and Alabama

By Phillip Tutor, Commentary Editor, ptutor@annistonstar.com Nov 16, 2017



Roy Moore speaks at the Angel Grove Baptist Church in Jacksonville. (Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star/file)

Roy Moore says he's under attack — from the media, from Democrats, from “establishment” Republicans, from the ungodly.

That's a crock.

The only thing attacking Moore are secrets of his past.

But Alabama *is* suffering. Moore's creepiness, and worse, has become our collective sin.

We've enabled him, protected him, elected him, defended him, ignored him, disciplined him, nominated him, believed him, and elected him again and again.

And this is what we get.

Ridicule. Disgust. Disdain. Sarcasm.

Nine women have come forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against Moore, Republicans' candidate in the Dec. 12 Senate election against Democrat Doug Jones. Nine women. Their stories are credible and believable, strengthened by multiple confirmations from people in Etowah County that Moore's reputation for pursuing teenage girls was a well-known fact. The ick factor is off the charts.

And, still, the Alabama Republican Party won't disqualify him.

We are Alabama.

Stained by the wretchedness of Roy Moore.

Stained by the political depths of former White House operative Steve Bannon, who doesn't care if Alabama implodes as long as he gets the destruction he seeks in Washington.

Stained by late-night jokes and editorialists who no longer see Alabama as merely a conservative Deep South state with a love for Donald Trump and America's best college football team.

It's not only The Washington Post and The New York Times — the right's favorite media targets — calling us out, and rightly so. It's a national movement.

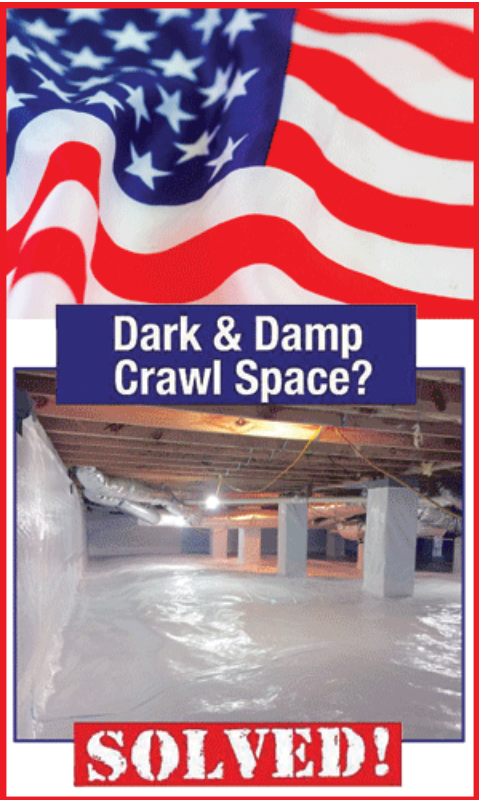
"Far be it from us to tell Alabamians what to do, but if they're thinking of making Roy Moore their next U.S. senator, that would say a lot about Alabama, none of it flattering," writes the editorial board of the Peoria (Ill.) Journal Star.

"If you are following the news or if you're not following the news, if I'm the one breaking this news to you, I want to brace yourself, Alabama lovers ..." talk-show host Stephen Colbert joked this week.



“Given some of the things some Alabamians have endorsed throughout American history, we may not want to” know if they have any decency, wrote Ed Burmila in Rolling Stone.

“Inside the Beltway and across most of America, the allegations against Roy Moore seem obvious and viscerally wrong. If those all are true, they should disqualify him from ever serving in public office again. But there’s still a chance Roy Moore could be the next senator from Alabama because some folks here see those all a little bit differently,” Alexandra Jaffe, documentarian for Vice.com, said during a report from our state.



(As for The Post, it did offer this particularly damning headline: “SNL’s Roy Moore sketch is one big joke about Alabama being backward.”)

It’s an international movement, too.

“The details of Moore’s alleged attack on (Beverly Young Nelson) are brutal,” writes the editorial board of The Toronto Star.

“I don’t know what you have to do, exactly, to get banned from a shopping mall in Alabama, but I’d wager it’s pretty bad. If Moore did even a fraction of the things he is accused of, then one might wonder how he has the gall to call himself a Christian. But, to be fair to him, nowhere in the Ten Commandments does it say ‘thou shalt not assault thy neighbor’s teenage daughter,’” writes Arwa Mahdawi, a columnist in Britain’s The Guardian.

There you are. Proof that Alabama’s — and Alabamians’ — reputation is suffering.

Too few of us understand the global reach of this story, and that people are asking if we have a soul. They’re perplexed and confused. They wonder if all the stereotypes are true, tales of dumb Southern hicks who don’t know any better. They know we’re dipped in Republican colors and awash in our Christian beliefs. But they simply can’t fathom that Alabama is willing to send a man as flawed as Roy Moore — twice booted from elected office and now accused of multiple episodes of sexual misconduct — to the nation’s highest elected body.

Truth repeatedly kicks Alabama in the shin, boot to bone. Our demagogues have always hurt and haunted us. We snickered at Big Jim Folsom’s womanizing. We repeatedly elected America’s top race-baiter, George Wallace. Guy Hunt was a Godly man, but he was run out of office. Robert Bentley, too. Birmingham was Bombingham, and the nation watched Selma live on TV. Decades have been spent rehabilitating Alabama’s reputation into something worth defending, a place slowly opening to equality and progress, into something far greater than its checkered history.

And then this happens.

Alabama Republicans chose Roy Moore over Luther Strange. Brave women from Moore’s past — nine brave women — summoned the courage to describe what allegedly happened to them. And the world waits to see what Alabama is, and what we will do.

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Tags

Roy Moore

Politics

Alabama

Guy Hunt

George Wallace

Arwa Mahdawi

Republicans

America

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https://www.annistonstar.com/columnists/phillip_tutor/phillip-tutor-the-roy-moore-effect-at-an-anniston-church/article_7ce5c43c-cfca-11e7-9432-ef524ae5860d.html

Phillip Tutor: The Roy Moore effect at an Anniston church

By Phillip Tutor, Commentary Editor, ptutor@annistonstar.com Nov 24, 2017



Judge Roy Moore and his wife Kayla Moore rode their horses to vote at the Gallant Fire Hall in Gallant, AL. Photo by Stephen Gross / The Anniston Star

Right now, everything in Alabama is seen through the prism of Roy Moore's toxic U.S. Senate campaign. He's like Chernobyl fallout, drifting and settling and infecting. You have to choose: Are his accusers attention-seeking liars? Will you vote for an accused pedophile? Are his Christian beliefs under siege?

It's exhausting, more and more and more Moore.

So you can imagine the reaction of Tim Kendrick, pastor of Anniston's St. Mark United Methodist Church in Golden Springs, when a TV crew from The Daily Show With Trevor Noah showed up in his parking lot a few days ago.

“Well, I was furious,” he says.

To be accurate, Kendrick’s fury over the blindside hit was delayed. Neither he nor the church staff knew anything about it at first. A Facebook post finally clued him in that The Daily Show had aired a comedic report on Alabamians’ support for Moore that was partially filmed in front of his church.

Michael Kosta, The Daily Show correspondent, interviewed three women and two men. None were identified. All were supportive of Moore’s candidacy. None were members or employees of St. Mark, Kendrick said. Most of the interviews were done in what appears to be the parking lot of the Oxford Walmart. But an interview with one of the men was filmed at St. Mark, seen clearly while Kosta’s voice says this: “With it seeming like the whole state is against them, what these alleged victims need is a man of fate to defend them.” And the implication, intended or not, is that this small, apolitical Methodist church and its congregation are in lock-step with the embattled and accused Senate candidate.

The interview starts.

“I’m an ordained minister myself,” the man said.

Kosta, more comedian than journalist, played along.

“You wanna pray for the alleged victims of Roy Moore?”

And the man did, standing in front of a church he doesn’t attend. “Heavenly father, watch over Roy Moore as he goes through these difficult times,” the man said.

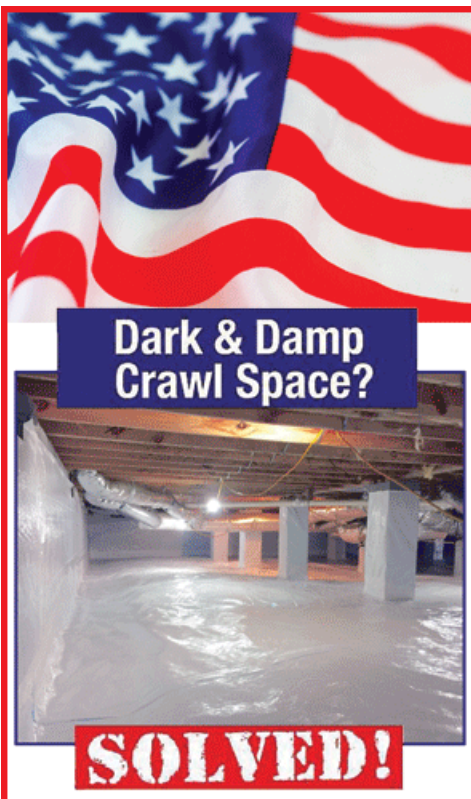
Kosta then signed off. “Not exactly what I meant, but good luck, Alabama.” The Daily Show left Calhoun County with what it wanted — a satirical, jocular report that makes all Alabamians appear to be dismissive, if not approving, of sexual assault. We are the nation’s punch line.



The fallout was quick.

A former director of the church's pre-K program took a phone call from a student's family who had seen the report. "They asked, 'Isn't that your church?'" Kendrick said. "They were concerned that was people in our church and our pastor." The current pre-K director received similar calls, too.

Hence, the aforementioned fury. A 2 ½-minute comedy sketch on late-night TV had forced an Anniston pastor into a stance of damage control. On the church's Facebook page, Kendrick vented and explained that St. Mark had not given permission for Kosta to film in its parking lot. He also reached out to Noah and the show for an apology. He doesn't expect one, and he shouldn't. (Full disclosure: I am a former member of St. Mark but left before Kendrick's arrival.)





St Mark United Methodist Church
about 5 months ago



I am furious: I just learned that our Church was used as a backdrop for a Daily Show piece on the Alabama Senate Race. I want to be perfectly clear - NO ONE AT THIS CHURCH GAVE PERMISSION FOR THIS AND NO ONE FROM THIS CONGREGATION OR STAFF WAS INTERVIEWED FOR THIS PIECE!

I am horrified that the Daily Show did this and I have asked the producers to give me a call. If you would like to express your feelings about our being used without our permission please go to the Daily Show Facebook page and express your opinion.

2 5 2

As much as Kendrick might wish this would just go away, it's a small church. Sunday morning will be, let's say, interesting.

"I expect people to talk about it," he said. "I will not talk about it from the pulpit. We do not address political questions from the pulpit, period."

This is the quintessential example of how Moore's polarizing campaign is damaging our state, a cancer among us. Moore's a chameleon — theologian, politician, Vietnam veteran, attorney, candidate, judge, West Point graduate, defrocked state Supreme Court justice, trained kickboxer, lawbreaker, Republican and accused child molester. Churches are ground zero for this bitter debate, people of God who share similar beliefs about faith but are being asked to cherry-pick from Moore's tainted resume, as if you can ignore the nasty parts and simply say he's a Godly man, and that's enough.

Churches resemble the neighborhoods around them, or should. Even if they're advertised as such, congregations aren't collective bodies with robotic beliefs. Churchgoers harbor individual thoughts, they question and deviate. We all do. And even in conservative, Protestant, God-fearing Alabama, pews are filled with Republicans and Democrats worshipping side by side.

And at St. Mark, “We definitely have numbers of both,” Kendrick said.

Thanks to Roy Moore, much of the world is seeing Alabamians — you and me — as uneducated, wayward Americans who may sell our souls and choose politics over humanity, who’ll prefer a candidate who is staunchly anti-abortion but is credibly accused of molesting a 14-year-old girl and pursuing teenagers as an adult. Don’t think for a minute this isn’t our shared embarrassment, because it is. It may show up in your driveway next.

Phillip Tutor — ptutor@annistonstar.com — is The Star’s commentary editor. Follow him at [Twitter.com/PTutor_Star](https://twitter.com/PTutor_Star).

Tags

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Phillip Tutor: Roy Moore's fanatical beef with pre-K

By Phillip Tutor, Commentary Editor, ptutor@annistonstar.com Dec 1, 2017



Roy Moore speaks at the Angel Grove Baptist Church in Jacksonville. (Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star/file)

Roy Moore and his fervent defenders would prefer Alabamians ignore the defrocked judge's multiple accusers and their credible accusations of sexual misconduct.

OK, I'm game.

Let's talk instead about pre-kindergarten.

It's a good thing, right? Of course it is.

That's why former Gov. Bob Riley, a Republican, once toured the state to gin up support for pumping money into Alabama's pre-K program.

That's why former Gov. Robert Bentley, a Republican, asked the state Legislature in 2014 for an additional \$12 million for pre-K expansion.

That's why lawmakers gave the state's pre-K program an additional \$9.4 million that year.

That's why lawmakers this spring approved a \$13 million expansion of the state's pre-K program.

That's why education advocates in Anniston are so supportive of the Cobb Pre-K Academy, which this spring graduated 88 students — all under the age of 5.

And that's why the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education says pre-K students are less likely to repeat a grade or need remedial work; are more likely to score higher on achievement tests, go to college and stay out of prison; and, on average, get higher-paying salaries as adults.

But Moore, just one step away from the U.S. Senate, doesn't like pre-K.

"Any attempt to extend government-controlled education to pre-kindergarten children is another unjustifiable attempt to indoctrinate our youth."

He wrote that in 2007 for World Net Daily, an alt-right website that promotes lunatic-fringe theories and reeks of white nationalism. His column, "The pretense of preschool proposals," attacked Hillary Clinton's presidential-campaign effort to fund pre-K programs for all American children. It would be a financial boondoggle, he wrote. "The truth is government-run pre-kindergarten programs are another huge burden on taxpayers, and, in fact, they are detrimental to children and our country."

Understand, though, that Moore's visceral reaction to educating America's 4-year-olds was less about money and more about insulating kids from anything other than his myopic, 1950s-era vision where men work, women keep house and raise children, Old Testament Christianity is the de facto state religion, gays and lesbians are sinners worthy of legal condemnation and leaders strive to keep America pure.

Here's what he wrote:

"When the mind of a young child is subjected to state control before fundamental concepts and basic beliefs are formulated, the child is much more likely to learn a liberal, social and political philosophy with the state as his or her master. Creation and God-given rights are

more easily replaced with evolution and government-granted rights. Totalitarian regimes like those of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin knew well the value of a 'youth corps.'”



That’s right. The defrocked judge linked pre-K to Hitler and Stalin.

Six years later, in 2013, Moore ramped up his crusade against the indoctrination of Alabama’s 4-year-olds. By then, Alabama voters had re-installed him as chief justice of the state Supreme Court and he saw pre-K as a prime example of lawmakers stealing money from Alabama’s cash-strapped court system. His argument for adequate court funding was sound. His use of pre-K education as a battering ram against the Legislature’s budget priorities was reprehensible. But that’s Moore for you.

“They’re giving \$9.4 million to a program that didn’t exist the last time I was chief justice,” Moore said during a speaking stop in Anniston. With Moore, everything comes down to his trinity of arguments — God, the Constitution (federal and state) and his deformed interpretation of law. Moore’s twisted logic says pre-K funding, unlike the courts’, was both indefensible and wasteful because it wasn’t codified in the state’s governing document.

“We’re the only people, in the Constitution, who are guaranteed funding,” he said.

This is why Moore and his defenders dissolve under the stage lights of political scrutiny. It exposes his true self as a twice-disgraced former judge with no use for those who do not adhere to his rigid doctrine, not the mythical Ten Commandments judge who fights for God and country and the rights of the unborn.

Don’t think, either, that pre-K is Moore’s only fanatical belief.

In 2011, Moore co-wrote a study course for a Texas-based evangelical group that baldly said women shouldn’t be allowed in politics, and moral obligations prevent voters from supporting female candidates who dare try. Plus, feminism has been a “destructive” ideology that’s increased abortion rights and gay rights. If you think there’s a theme here about Moore and women, you’re right.

There is no pardon, no absolution, for repeatedly electing George Wallace and embracing his violent, segregationist ways. We’ve learned nothing from Alabama’s biggest political sin. Yet, we are primed to elect a man who has equated pre-K to social and political indoctrination and

is linked not only to Neanderthal-like beliefs about Muslims, transgenders, gays, lesbians and bisexuals, but also about women. And that, conveniently enough, has nothing to do with the nine women who have credibly accused him of sexual misconduct.

If he's our next senator, we are Roy Moore. We own him. Shame on us all.

Phillip Tutor — ptutor@annistonstar.com — is The Star's commentary editor. Follow him at [Twitter.com/PTutor_Star](https://twitter.com/PTutor_Star).

Tags

Roy Moore

Politics

Joseph Stalin

Lawmaker

Defender

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Judge

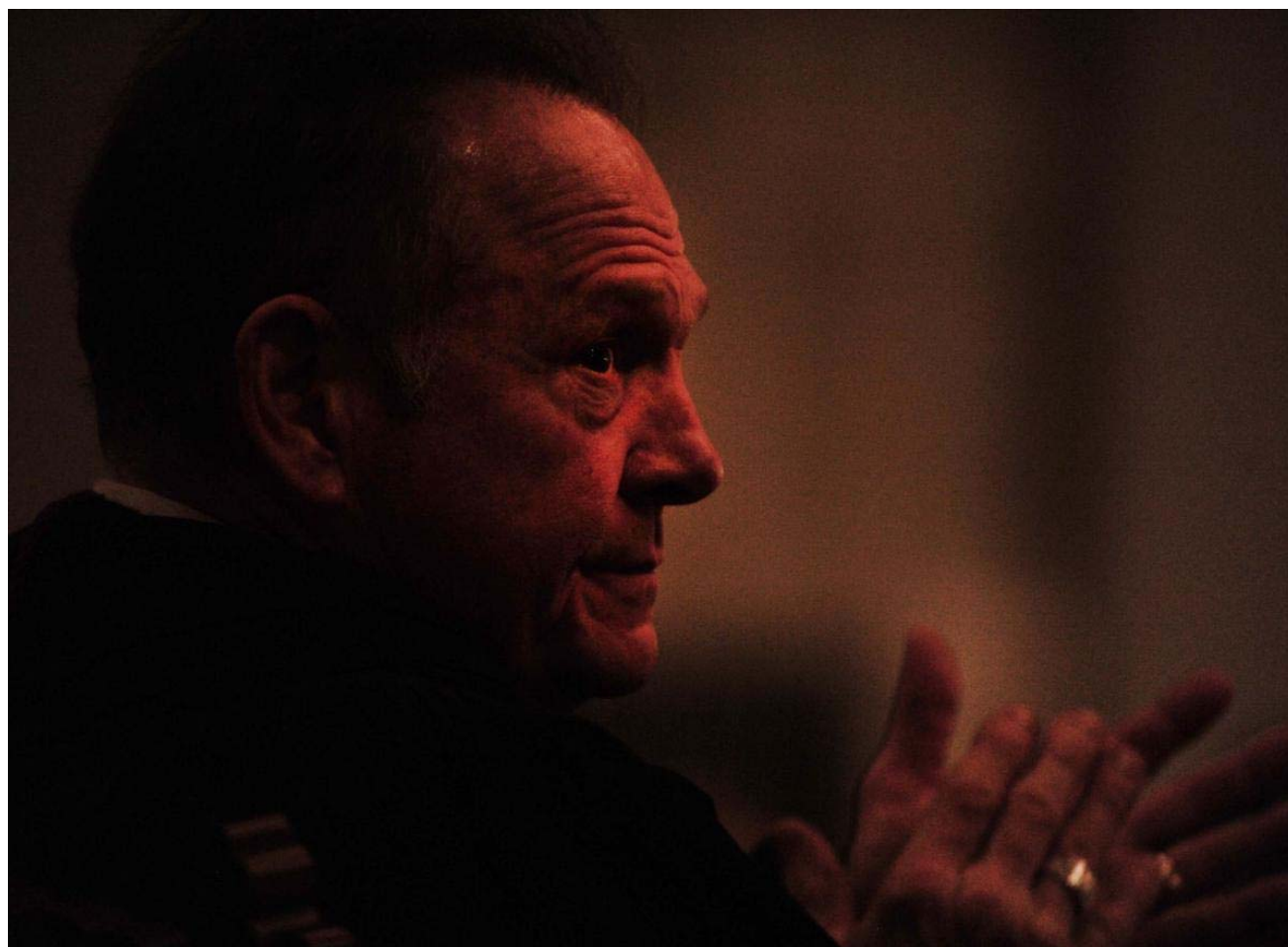
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Phillip Tutor: The Cult of Roy Moore

By Phillip Tutor, Commentary Editor, ptutor@annistonstar.com Dec 7, 2017



It's up to Alabamians, we're told.

It's our choice, Roy Moore or Doug Jones.

The credibly accused child molester or the attorney who found justice for the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

Most of Washington wants nothing to do with this. It's toxic. Deep down, no one wants the stain of Roy Moore's horse ride to the U.S. Senate on their hands.

Not the White House spokeswoman.

“Ultimately,” Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, “it will come down to the people of Alabama to make that decision.”

Not the Senate.

“I think we’re going to let the people of Alabama decide ... who they want to send to the Senate, and then we’ll address the matter appropriately,” Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said.

So it’s up to us.

Are we willing to codify our home’s growing reputation as a state so eat up with the extremes of Trumpian Republicanism and evangelical politics that we’ll send someone credibly accused of sexual misconduct to Capitol Hill?

Are we willing to throw away one of our state’s two Senate seats on a twice-defrocked judge with a track record of ignoring the law?

Are we willing to risk our ability to remain one of America’s leading automakers because we side with a candidate who sees everything through a judgmental lens of anti-abortion, anti-gay rights, anti-transgender rights?

It’s up to us.

It’s our choice.

Granted, The Cult of Roy Moore is omnipotent. And entrenched. Outsiders don’t get that, which is why the nation laughs at us, wondering if we’re as dim-witted as we seem. Followers of The Cult of Roy Moore don’t see him as a mere politician; to them, he’s a righteous man who believes God’s law supersedes U.S. law, who is beyond reproach and has suffered from decades of judicial persecution because of his faith. They refuse to burn Moore at the same stake as Alabama’s sinning politicians, the Robert Bentleys and Mike Hubbards. Those men were corrupt; Moore and God’s word are under siege.

The Cult of Roy Moore also draws from the fringes of America’s far-right extremists.

There’s fervent anti-abortion activist Janet Porter of Ohio, whose organization, Faith2Action, the Southern Poverty Law Center considers an active hate group that targets the LGBT community. This week, she insulted CNN anchor Poppy Harlow (who is pregnant with her second child) on national television: “That’s the reason I came down as a volunteer to speak for Judge Roy Moore, because he stands for the rights of babies like yours in the womb, where his opponent will support killing them until the moment of birth.”

Yet, she still speaks for Moore.

Moore spokesman Janet Porter brings up abortion to begin CNN ...



There's longtime Moore supporter Flip Benham, whose North Carolina-based Operation Save America plasters neighborhoods with "wanted posters" of doctors performing abortions at nearby clinics. In 2010, he was convicted in Charlotte of stalking abortion providers.

Yet, he still speaks for Roy Moore.

Moore and The Cult are trying to run from the credible accusations of sexual misconduct from multiple women, and they're failing. But there's nowhere to hide from the detritus lured in from the fringes of America's radical politics. It lathers Moore's campaign with slime and shame.



Alabama values, the stereotype goes, are braised in God, country, conservative politics and a hefty dose of disdain for outsiders who dare carpetbag in our matters. (Oh, the irony.) On Tuesday, Moore dared to go there on Twitter, writing, "I think they're afraid I'm going to take Alabama values to Washington and I can't wait."

But what are Alabama values? God and country and conservatism? Strong support of the military and veterans rights? Rock-solid adherence to the Second Amendment? A never-ending campaign to overturn Roe v. Wade? A blind-eye approach to elected officials who repeatedly refuse to follow the law? Steve Bannon-fueled hysteria about the Republican establishment? A culture in which women aren't to be believed?

Alabama values, like the damaged soul of a Republican Party whose only concern is

Alabama's second Senate vote, are withering from Moore's virulent message.

Pull out pen and paper and jot down these names, the powerful men credibly accused this fall of sexual misconduct.

All are gone or suspended, or soon will be.

Sen. Al Franken, Democrat. Sen. John Conyers, Democrat. Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. TV's Matt Lauer, Matt Halperin and Charlie Rose. The New York Times' Glenn Thrush. Comedian Louis C.K. Actors Andy Dick and Kevin Spacey. NPR's Michael Oreskes. And that's the short, though sordid, list. (Leaving off, for now, President Trump himself.)

Why are they different from Roy Moore?

Because they're not an Alabama Republican under the protection of Alabama voters and The Cult of Roy Moore. They're merely men credibly accused of touching, rubbing, exposing, or worse.

It's up to Alabamians, we're told.

It's our choice.

The wrong choice will haunt us, forever.

Phillip Tutor — ptutor@annistonstar.com — is The Star's commentary editor. Follow him at [Twitter.com/PTutor_Star](https://twitter.com/PTutor_Star).

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Phillip Tutor

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Phillip Tutor: Waiting on God to fix a lost election

By Phillip Tutor, Commentary Editor, ptutor@annistonstar.com Dec 15, 2017



Moore supporters pray during his election night party Tuesday night at RSA Activity Center in downtown Montgomery. (Photo by Trent Penny/The Anniston Star)

Trent Penny/The Anniston Star

Roy Moore, defeated but buoyed by the words in Psalms 40, has spoken.

“That’s what we’ve got to do is wait on God.”

He’s also released a video, a faux-sermon of theocratic ramblings delivered as if from a hill overlooking his Gallant home.

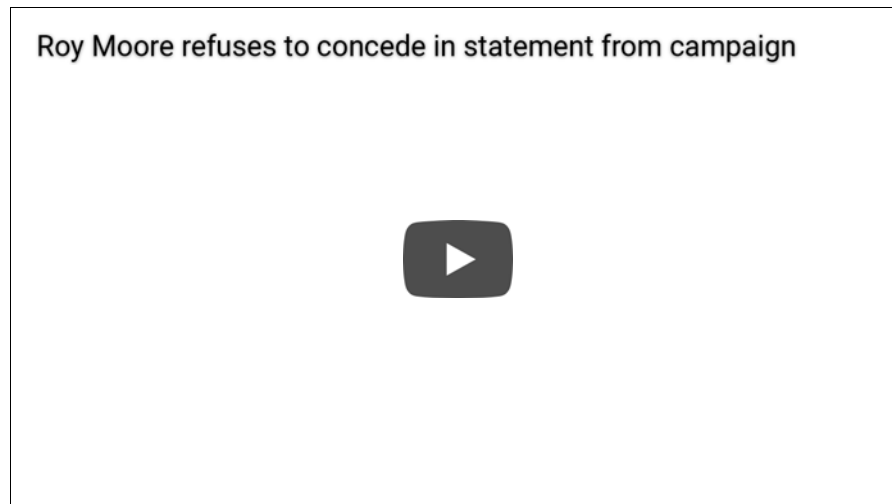
“We are indeed in a struggle to preserve our republic, our civilization and our religion and to

set free a suffering humanity.”

His punchline is predictable.

“Immorality,” he says, “sweeps over our land.”

His version of immorality, that is.



God wasn't on Tuesday's ballot. Not on mine, at least. And if Moore and those who lap up his condemnations of American decency think Doug Jones' unlikely election victory will be overturned in some sort of patient repairing from the heavens, well, they'd better pull up a chair. Their wait will be eternal.

Like Donald Trump, Alabama's Ten Commandments judge isn't a politician. Never was. America had no choice but to view this twice-defrocked state Supreme Court chief justice as a GOP Senate candidate because the campaign required it. But he is no more a Republican or politician than Trump is a devout Christian or truth-teller. How ironic it is that Trump and Moore's pasts are both littered with credible examples of sexual misconduct.

Moore is a misguided Southern theocrat with bigoted views and disjointed theories about U.S. law and the Constitution. Alabamians have long known this — reasonable ones, at least — and twice have emphatically refused to elect him governor. He's terminally unfit for political office because he imagines his would-be elected role as a modern-day Moses, a Godly surrogate saving souls and serving as a liaison between the Almighty and Alabama's voters. Even his facts fail him.

Earlier this week, Moore acolyte Ted Crockett, a former Shelby County commissioner, explained Moore's discriminatory belief that Muslims can't serve in Congress to CNN's Jake Tapper. Moore's "logic" is that members must place their hands on a Christian Bible when sworn in. The Quran isn't allowed.

Except, that it is. In fact, U.S. law doesn't specify what, if anything, a candidate uses during their swearing-in ceremony. You can place your hand atop anything, or nothing. (I'd choose

something written by Roger Angell or Howard Zinn, but that's besides the point.)

When Tapper corrected him, Crockett froze. On live TV. Mouth agape.

Boom!



America saw what Alabama has long known. As a politician, as a constitutional expert, as a candidate for elected office, Moore is a sham wrapped in a theocrat's robe and protected by far-right fervor that devalues equality and discriminates against those deemed humanly unworthy. He can't talk policy unless in biblical terms. He can't effectually argue Republican Party talking points because he obsesses about abortion, gay rights and transgenders in the military. What's his stance on congressional Republicans' tax plan? What Senate committees would he serve on? Would he verbally attack U.S. Reps. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., and Andre Carson, D-Ind., Congress' only Muslim members, or the seven openly-LGBT members on Capitol Hill?

Richard Shelby, Alabama's senior senator, said the obvious: No Moore.

Moore's tiring vision of America illustrates a failing nation turned from God and suffering from His wrath. He wants us to believe today's America is so morally bankrupt, so inherently godless, that its salvation is only through national repentance, not elected leadership or humanity. So much for the mortal legacy of Washington, Lincoln and FDR. "Today, we no longer recognize the universal truth that God is the author of our life and liberty," Moore said

in his faux-sermon. “Abortion, sodomy and materialism have taken the place of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Happy guy, Moore is.

America’s demise has long been rumored from within, by ourselves. The Founders lived it, and somehow survived. The British burned D.C. and could have ended our whole democratic experiment. Faithful Americans during the Second Great Awakening feared for our heathen nation’s existence. America’s teetotalers campaigned against the evils of drink and vice. We enslaved, oppressed, disenfranchised, lynched and discriminated, stealing Native American land, turning away fleeing Jews from war-torn Europe, telling black Americans they weren’t worthy of much.

And yet, Moore wants us to agree that today is an American moral lowpoint, all because of his errant belief that the separation of church and state — a cornerstone of American existence — is rotting the United States and causing its self-inflicted wounds.

“I waited patiently for the Lord,” Psalms 40 reads, a passage Moore this week has made his political epitaph, a rallying cry for his failed attempt to import a discriminatory and offensive theocracy to the U.S. Senate.

At least the nation now fully understands who, and what, Moore is.

Phillip Tutor — ptutor@annistonstar.com — is The Star’s commentary editor. Follow him at [Twitter.com/PTutor_Star](https://twitter.com/PTutor_Star).

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