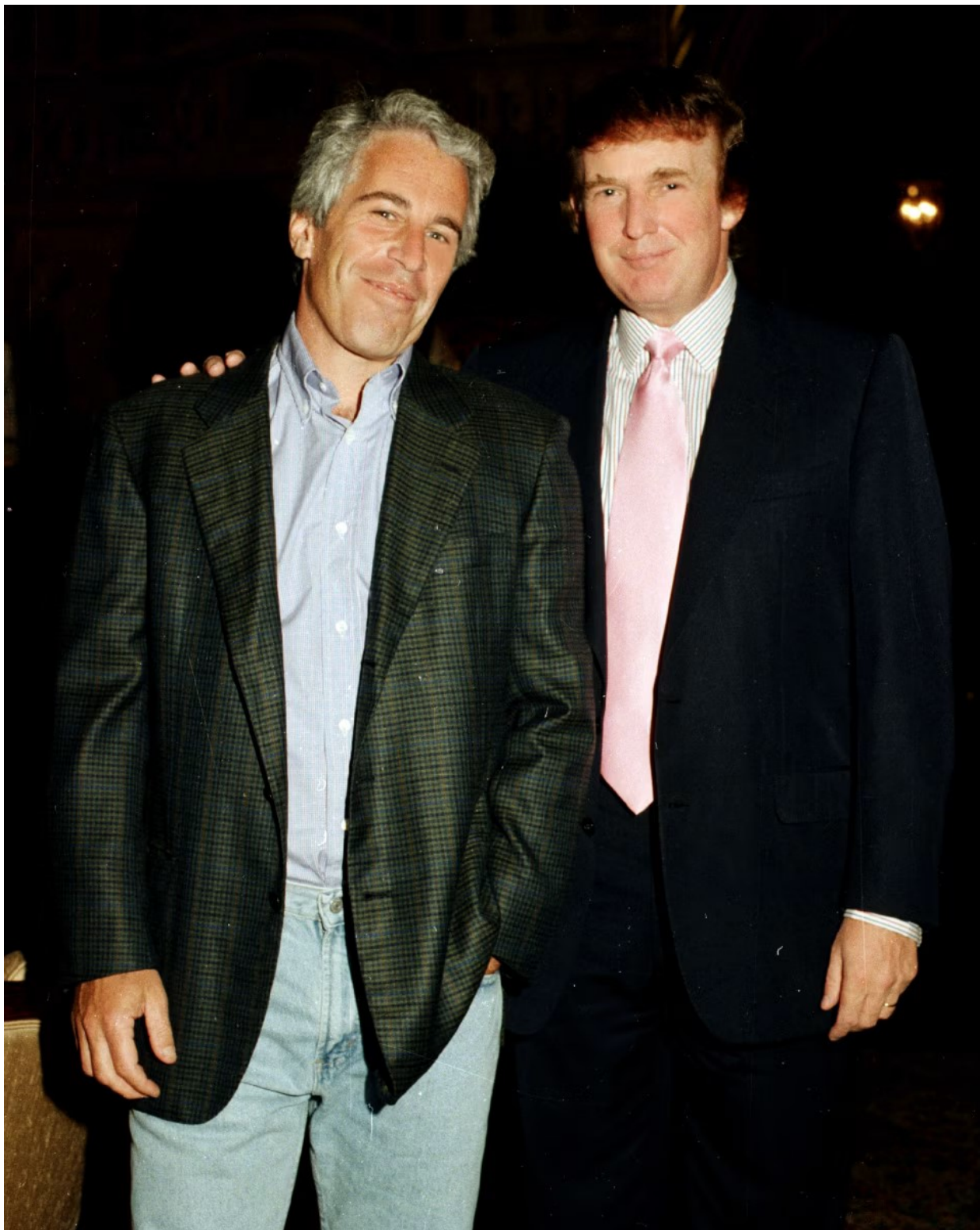




# Jeffrey Epstein’s Friends Sent Him Bawdy Letters for a 50th Birthday Album. One Was From Donald Trump.

The leather-bound book was compiled by Ghislaine Maxwell. The president says the letter ‘is a fake thing.’



President Trump with Jeffrey Epstein at Mar-a-Lago in 1997. PHOTO: DAVIDOFF STUDIOS/GETTY IMAGES

By *Khadeeja Safdar* and *Joe Palazzolo*

July 17, 2025 6:45 pm ET

It was Jeffrey Epstein’s 50th birthday, and Ghislaine Maxwell was preparing a special gift to mark the occasion. She turned to Epstein’s family and friends. One of them was Donald Trump.

Maxwell collected letters from Trump and dozens of Epstein’s other associates for a 2003 birthday album, according to documents reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

Pages from the leather-bound album—assembled before Epstein was first arrested in 2006—are among the documents examined by Justice Department officials who investigated Epstein and Maxwell years ago, according to people who have reviewed the pages. It’s unclear if any of the pages are part of the Trump administration’s recent review.

The president’s past relationship with Epstein is at a sensitive moment. The Justice Department documents, the so-called Epstein files, and who or what is in them are at the center of a storm consuming the Trump administration. On Wednesday, after angry comments about how the files are a hoax created by Democrats, [President Trump lashed out at his own supporters](#) for refusing to let the matter go.

The letter bearing Trump’s name, which was reviewed by the Journal, is bawdy—like others in the album. It contains several lines of typewritten text framed by the outline of a naked woman, which appears to be hand-drawn with a

heavy marker. A pair of small arcs denotes the woman’s breasts, and the future president’s signature is a squiggly “Donald” below her waist, mimicking pubic hair.

The letter concludes: “Happy Birthday — and may every day be another wonderful secret.”

In an interview with the Journal on Tuesday evening, Trump denied writing the letter or drawing the picture. “This is not me. This is a fake thing. It’s a fake Wall Street Journal story,” he said.

“I never wrote a picture in my life. I don’t draw pictures of women,” he said. “It’s not my language. It’s not my words.”

He told the Journal he was preparing to file a lawsuit if it published an article. “I’m gonna sue The Wall Street Journal just like I sued everyone else,” he said.

Allegations that Epstein had been sexually abusing girls became public in 2006 and he was arrested that year. Epstein died in 2019 in jail after he was arrested a second time and charged with sex trafficking conspiracy.

Justice Department officials didn’t respond to requests for comment or address questions about whether the Trump page and other pages of the birthday album were part of the agency’s recent documents review. The FBI declined to comment.

The existence of the album and the contents of the birthday letters haven’t previously been reported.

The album had poems, photos and greetings from businesspeople, academics, Epstein’s former girlfriends and childhood pals, according to the documents reviewed by the Journal and people familiar with them.

Among those who submitted letters were billionaire Leslie Wexner and attorney Alan Dershowitz. The album also contained a letter from a now-deceased Harvard economist, one of Epstein’s report cards from Mark Twain junior high school in Brooklyn and a note from a former assistant that included an acrostic with Epstein’s name: “Jeffrey, oh Jeffrey!/ Everyone loves you!/ Fun in the sun!/ Fun just for fun!/ Remember...don’t forget me soon!/ Epstein...you rock!/ You are the best!”

Epstein was Wexner’s money manager at the time. The longtime leader of Victoria’s Secret wrote a short message that said: “I wanted to get you what you want... so here it is....”

After the text was a line drawing of what appeared to be a woman’s breasts.

Wexner declined to comment through a spokesman. Wexner’s spokesman previously told the Journal that the retail mogul “severed all ties with Epstein in 2007 and never spoke with him again.”

Dershowitz’s letter included a mock-up of a “Vanity Unfair” magazine cover with mock headlines such as “Who was Jack the Ripper? Was it Jeffrey Epstein?” He joked that he had convinced the magazine to change the focus of an article from Epstein to Bill Clinton.

Dershowitz, who represented Epstein after his first arrest, said, “It’s been a long time and I don’t recall the content of what I may have written.”

The book was put together by a New York City bookbinder, Herbert Weitz, according to people who were involved in the process. Weitz, who died in 2020, listed Epstein as a client on his website in 2003.

It isn’t clear how the letter with Trump’s signature was prepared. Inside the outline of the naked woman was a typewritten note styled as an imaginary conversation between Trump and Epstein, written in the third person.

“Voice Over: There must be more to life than having everything,” the note began.

*Donald: Yes, there is, but I won’t tell you what it is.*

*Jeffrey: Nor will I, since I also know what it is.*

*Donald: We have certain things in common, Jeffrey.*

*Jeffrey: Yes, we do, come to think of it.*

*Donald: Enigmas never age, have you noticed that?*

*Jeffrey: As a matter of fact, it was clear to me the last time I saw you.*

*Trump: A pal is a wonderful thing. Happy Birthday — and may every day be another wonderful secret.*





PRESIDENT TRUMP AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY.

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## ‘JEFFREY ENJOYS HIS SOCIAL LIFE’

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When he turned 50, Epstein was already wealthy from managing Wexner’s fortune and was socializing with Trump, Clinton and [other powerful people](#) at his Manhattan townhouse, Palm Beach, Fla., home and private Caribbean island.

A spokesman for Clinton referred to a 2019 statement that former President Clinton had cut off ties more than a decade before Epstein’s second arrest and didn’t know about Epstein’s alleged crimes.

Epstein and Trump spent time together in the 1990s and early 2000s and were photographed at social events, including with Maxwell and Melania Trump. A 1992 tape from the NBC archives shows Trump partying with Epstein at his Mar-a-Lago estate; Trump is seen pulling a woman toward him and patting her behind.

Trump, along with others including Clinton, also appeared several times on flight logs for Epstein’s private jet.

A 2002 [New York magazine](#) profile of Epstein quoted Trump. “I’ve known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy,” Trump said. “He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it—Jeffrey enjoys his social life.”

Both men said that they subsequently had a falling-out. Trump has said their friendship ended before Epstein pleaded guilty to procuring a minor for prostitution in 2008, served time in a Florida jail and registered as a sex offender.

When Epstein was arrested again in 2019, Trump said he hadn’t talked to Epstein for about 15 years. “I knew him like everybody in Palm Beach knew him.” Trump said in the Oval Office at that time. “I was not a fan of his. that I can tell



you.”

Trump’s spokeswoman told the Journal in 2023 that Trump had banned Epstein from his Mar-a-Lago club at some point in the past, without elaborating.

Maxwell, a British socialite, was [convicted in 2021 of helping Epstein’s sex-trafficking](#) and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Maxwell didn’t respond to a letter requesting an interview sent to her in prison. Arthur Aidala, an attorney representing Maxwell in her appeal, said, “At this point, she is focused on her case before the Supreme Court of the United States.”

## THE FBI’S EPSTEIN FILES

Epstein’s associations with Trump and many powerful people have [been well documented](#). There remain questions about what the FBI possesses about Epstein and his well-connected friends. In 2019, the FBI confiscated evidence from Epstein’s properties in the U.S. Virgin Islands and New York.

Earlier Tuesday, after the Journal sought comment from the president about the letter, Trump told reporters at the White House that he believed some Epstein files were “made up” by former Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden and former FBI Director James Comey.

He said that releasing any more Epstein files would be up to Attorney General Pam Bondi. “Whatever she thinks is credible, she should release,” Trump said.

Allegations that bureaucrats covered up Epstein’s connections with participants in his trafficking scheme were fanned by people now in top roles in the Trump administration, including FBI Director Kash Patel and his deputy, Dan Bongino.

In June 2024, Trump was asked in a Fox News interview whether he would release the Epstein case files. The Republican presidential candidate initially responded, “Yeah, I would.” But he also expressed some reservations. “You don’t want to affect people’s lives if it’s phony stuff in there, because it’s a lot of phony stuff with that whole world. But I think I would.”

Soon after she was confirmed as attorney general, Bondi said she was preparing to release new Epstein files. In late February, Bondi [announced the release](#) of “Phase 1” of the documents. But the material contained few new revelations, drawing criticism from right-wing influencers.



ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI RELEASED DOCUMENTS ON THE EPSTEIN CASE IN FEBRUARY. ABOVE, CONSERVATIVE INFLUENCERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH THE DOCUMENTS.

Bondi initially blamed the FBI’s New York office for withholding information and [promised to release the remaining documents](#) after redacting the victim’s names. Patel also said, “There will be no coverups, no missing documents and no stone left unturned.” They tasked hundreds of FBI employees to review the materials and prepare them for release.

The issue took on new life in June when Elon Musk, amid a [public feud](#) with Trump, alleged that the FBI was withholding documents from the Epstein case because Trump was in the files.

“The truth will come out,” Musk wrote on X on June 5. He later deleted the message and said he regretted some of his comments.

On July 7, the Justice Department [backtracked](#) on Bondi’s pledge to release more Epstein files. The Justice Department said that after an “exhaustive review” it had found no “incriminating client list” or additional documents that warrant public disclosure.

Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee demanded this week that Republican Chairman Jim Jordan hold hearings on the Trump administration’s handling of the Epstein files and, if necessary, subpoena Bondi, Patel and Bongino.

At a cabinet meeting on July 8, Trump criticized a reporter for asking about Epstein. “Are people still talking about this guy, this creep?” Trump said. “That is unbelievable. Do you want to waste the time?”

That same day, Musk [wrote](#) on X: “How can people be expected to have faith in Trump if he won’t release the Epstein files?”

Write to Khadeeja Safdar at [khadeeja.safdar@wsj.com](mailto:khadeeja.safdar@wsj.com) and Joe Palazzolo at [Joe.Palazzolo@wsj.com](mailto:Joe.Palazzolo@wsj.com)

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What do you think?

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RP

**R Pen**  
9m ago  
Why be on any list when you are customer of the year?  
Reply · 9 ·

JR

**Jorge Rodriguez**  
9m ago  
I wonder who else wrote him a Happy Birthday letter..  
Reply · 6 ·

RW

**Richard W**  
11m ago  
***Trump told reporters at the White House that he believed some Epstein files were “made up” by former Presidents Barack Obama and [Joe Biden](#) and former FBI Director James Comey.***

More of the same shell game from Don the Con man. Trump figures they’ll keep buying the snake oil. How can MAGA folks be so gullible?  
Reply · 18 ·

●●● 1 replying



**Mike Bernard**

11m ago

Deny, deflect, distract, and blame.

Reply 13



**R Pen**

12m ago

I think we all need to see this picture that Trump drew.....who knew he was an artist?

Reply 5

1 replying



**T Berry**

12m ago

C O R N E R E D

Reply 11



**Deborah Walker**

12m ago

There’s lots more evidence floating around on social media. Compromising photos and memories of events and who said what. Past time for a special investigation.

Reply 9



**R Pen**

13m ago

Well we know Trump likes secrets.....

Reply 4



**John Gilje**

13m ago

So the list begins to come out.

Reply 4



**john otoole**

13m ago

In 2023, JPMorgan paid \$290 million in a settlement to Mr. Epstein’s victims.

The bank’s report on Epstein’s activity, reviewed by a Congressional team, was filed in late 2019 by JPMorgan for \$1.1 BILLION covering 4,700 transactions dating to 2003, including payments to

women from Belarus, Russia and Turkmenistan.

Those records are sealed, only available now if released by Justice Department at the direction of the White House.

These women were not hired for Epstein’s personal use.

Who were the johns?

Reply 5



**M Ruri**

13m ago

Gonna be interesting to watch this one if Trump actually does sue.

Odds would have to say he will.

Reply 1



**Alex Cross**

11m ago

why not.. this is a win win for him

Reply



**John E**

13m ago

13m ago

Tomorrow is Operation Distraction in the USA. The Marines gonna be sent somewhere, hopefully not Russia or Iran

*(Edited)*

Reply · 4 ·

SR

Sanjay Rao

13m ago

The thing trump probably contributed to the album (yes, he probably did--he’s slimy, gross, and profane (ie MAGA), so that message is totally in keeping with his “character”), but which senility now allows him to deny, is just another sign of his complete lack of fitness for public office. Or anything else.

Reply · 9 ·

SP

Shlomo Pasik

13m ago

Eh. No evidence of wrongdoing. Besides for Wexner and Derhsowitz, let us know if you find anyone else in this birthday letter.

Reply · 2 ·

TD

T Derson

12m ago

Just a ton of smoke for now. The fire isn’t far behind.

Reply · 4 ·

BA

Bob asbell

13m ago

It blows me away that the MAGA crowd still question if Trump is on the Epstein list. Of course he is.

Reply · 14 ·

KC

kenneth coates

14m ago

Look — the country has made a mistake. Unfortunately it can’t be fixed any time soon. trump is a total loser a sleazy joke and he is our president. Thanks maga. .

Reply · 31 ·

HB

Henry Bee

11m ago

well said.

Reply · 4 ·

PC

Pete Conrad2

14m ago

Lots of powerful people will make sure that the Epstein files never get released...

Reply · 4 ·


AS

Ana S

14m ago

Trump is going to manufacture another crisis or announce 10,000% tariff on some poor country to distract MAGA

Reply · 20 ·



James B

15m ago

Donny wasn’t a client- he was a guest.

Reply · 6 ·

AC

Alex Cross

12m ago

pretty sure that’s a same thing in most higher circles

Reply · 3 ·





Chris Peterson

15m ago

My popcorn machine is cranking now. What a great show!

Reply · 6 ·



Thomas Evans

15m ago

If he wrote it...would it be bawdy or just crude?

Reply · 1 ·



Daniel Marlow

15m ago

The MAGA cult will not care.

Reply · ·



Gladys V

16m ago

I honestly did not think that being a Trump supporter could get more embarrassing, and yet here we are.

Reply · 23 ·



Tabitha Serrano

18m ago

That’s hilarious. Also an admission.

Reply · 9 ·



R Pen

18m ago

”Allegations that Epstein had been sexually abusing girls became public **in 2006.**”

*”Trump has said their friendship ended before Epstein pleaded guilty to procuring a minor for prostitution **in 2008**, served time in a Florida jail and registered as a sex offender. ”*

🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

Reply · 4 ·



L Laj

13m ago

He got a sweetheart deal in Florida from...Pam Bondi...

Reply · 3 ·



Gladys V

18m ago

Imagine being MAGA right now 😂

Reply · 6 ·



Sanjay Rao

11m ago

The sentient MAGA are celebrating trump’s ongoing deep dive into the cesspool. They love it--it’s what they voted for and aspire to themselves.

Reply · ·



John newman

13m ago

I’m thinking they will buy this latest Trump lie like all the others.

All you Trumpsters, tell us once again, who won the 2020 election?

Reply · ·



George S

16m ago

They are watching Fox News and know nothing about the case.

Reply · 11 ·

**Jack Hanel**

15m ago

Yup what do you want to bet this letter never makes it to Fox, Newsmax, or any MAGA biased media outlet?

Reply · 2 ·

DW

**david wase**

18m ago

“Who you gonna believe? Me or your own eyes” (Chico Marx). I think the number of people accepting the president’s word (on anything, actually) is declining by the day.

Reply · 6 ·

**Jack Hanel**

17m ago

wait is it possible for Trump to be wrong?

Reply · ·

TM

**Tom Motzer**

19m ago

Aaaaaaand Trump is cooked.

Reply · 12 ·

JG

**Jeff Goodson**

19m ago

Yeah? So?

Reply · 2 ·

**Gladys V**

14m ago

yeah that ain’t gonna cut it, Jeff

Reply · 7 ·

EV

**Eduardo Veiga**

20m ago

The mere fact that Trump went at least to one Epstein party--there is video of it--should have given him pause about the election promises he made on the topic. And now every statement of his digs a deeper hole. It’s not looking good.

Reply · 9 ·

JJ

**Jim Jensen**

20m ago

It’s called a coverup.

Reply · 10 ·

TJ

**Tarun Jain**

21m ago

According to Donald, nothing to see here! If so, release the files!!!

Reply · 13 ·

TT

**Todd Transue**

21m ago

Everything bad is fake...

Reply · 5 ·

**Jack Hanel**

18m ago

And everything good is his achievement - everything bad someone else’s fault. I mean if we haven’t started to notice the pattern I think we need to wake up a bit. When he destroys the economy I hope no one is foolish enough to buy that it’s on someone else, especially after his insane interventions.

Reply · 8 ·

**TT** **Todd Transue**

14m ago

I haven't seen patterns this sophisticated since kindergarten.

Reply · 2 ·

**GK**

**George Kranker**

21m ago

Stop this witch hunt !!

DJT has been sacrificing for all of us and now has come down in the MAGA battlefield with a case of moderate to severe Chronic Venous Insufficiency !

this disease usually presents in one's nose and the causes are known - first mention of it is in the Pinocchio story. But in his case it's his ankles and hands !! He has been fibbing for MAGA so hard and so long, it's gone to his legs !

Don't make him do more of it!

Reply · 12 ·

**SR**

**Sanjay Rao**

9m ago

Vascular insufficiency of a different type would explain his cognitive state as well 🙄

Reply · 1 ·

**CL**

**CJ Lee**

22m ago

I never understood why the right accused the Clintons of being responsible for Epstein's death, when Trump was *also* a close friend and the *sitting POTUS* when he died.

Reply · 9 ·

**MC**

**Mauricio Chavez**

23m ago

For being such a criminal, a lot of rich and powerful Americans sure did LOOOOOVE Jeffrey Epstein

Reply · 18 ·

**AC**

**Alex Cross**

23m ago

i dont get why people are surprised, or worked up over this.. i would assume everything listed here, i would be more surprised to learn that there was none of that...

Reply · 2 ·

**MY**

**Maggie Yee**

23m ago

You dont want to release it if it's not a sure thing. For ex Alan Dershowitz, was also accused by Giuffre and others in Epstein-related lawsuits, but these cases either settled (e.g., Dershowitz in 2016) or were dropped (e.g., Giuffre retracted claims against another attorney, admitting possible mistaken identity). This highlights the complexity of identifying perpetrators in Epstein's network.

Reply · 1 ·

**CL**

**CJ Lee**

23m ago

If this birthday letter to Epstein was from a sitting Democrat president, I'm pretty sure there'd be another MAGA insurrection by the end of this week.

Reply · 11 ·



JH

Jack Hanel

21m ago

That is wholly accurate!

Reply2

TF

Tim F

24m ago

I dunno if I’d risk getting sued for that. Doesn’t seem like compelling evidence to me. We all knew Trump and Epstein were buddies.

Reply

JH

Jack Hanel

24m ago

Bomb drop!

Reply1

RE

Robert E

24m ago

Could the drawing be Trump’s first creative use of a sharpie?

Maybe the MAGA supporters shouldn’t be asking for Epstein’s client list, but rather a list of Epstein’s “wonderful secrets.”

I wonder how long it will take the Trump administration to use AI to create an Epstein client list that only includes Democrats (with Clinton at the top of the list).

Reply3

KS

Kurt Scher

24m ago

By exposing this book and embarrassing story Trump is going to revoke the citizenship of the entire WSJ board and deport them somewhere. Just like he’s doing to Rosie O’Donnell.

Reply2

KS

Kyle S

24m ago

Can we impeach him yet?

Reply3

CT

Christopher Treciokas

24m ago

And now The Felon in Chief is using health issues as an attempt to change the conversation. Sorry Donny. But your Veinous Insufficiency is about as much of an attention grabber as your bone spurs were. Bring on the files!

(Edited)

Reply9

MJ

Mike Joshi

24m ago

Birds of a feather.

Reply

JW

Jake W

24m ago

Omg our president is a 12 year old boy in a mans body 🧠🔪

Reply1

JH

John H

26m ago

Once again we see the Felon trying desperately trying to cover up his crimes.

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