

Pussy-Deep in the Big Muddy

“Folly often does not spring from a great design, and its consequences are frequently a surprise. The folly lies in persistence – pursuit of a policy contrary to the self-interest of the constituency or state involved, despite the fact that a workable alternative course of action was known to exist.”

Barbara Tuchman: The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam

In 1967 Pete Seeger wrote the song “Waist-Deep in the Big Muddy” as a protest against U.S. escalation of the war in Vietnam. In his song the troops tried to warn their captain that the muddy river he’d ordered them to cross was too deep to be forded but “the big fool said to push on” and he was swept away by the current.

In 1976 Barry Shaw published an HR journal article titled “Knee-Deep in the Big Muddy” that turned Seeger’s song into a metaphor for escalating commitment to a losing course of action.

In 2016, on the banks of their own Big Muddy, the Republican Party nominated Donald Trump, a known sexual predator, as their candidate for President of the United States, even after learning of his penchant for grabbing women “by the pussy.”

In 2019 Barry Levine and Monique El-Faizy published the book *All the President’s Women: Donald Trump and the Making of a Predator* concluding definitively that Donald Trump was a sexual predator and should be judged as such. Republican leaders added it to their list of books to be banned as they waded out ankle-deep into the Big Muddy.

In 2023 a jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse and defamation and awarded E. Jean Carroll \$5 million in damages. Then-Senator Marco Rubio waded out to knee-deep into the muddy water, calling the verdict “a joke.” His Republican colleagues waded in behind him.

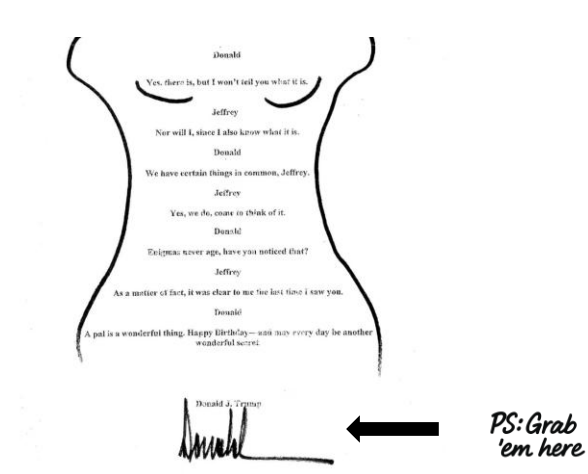
In 2024 Republicans nominated the now adjudicated sex offender for a second term in the White House. They ignored the fact that the Epstein sex trafficking storm had swelled the Big Muddy over its banks as they waded waist-deep into the water.

In the final weeks of the campaign, Republican leaders stood outside a New York City courtroom in a flagrant (and failed) attempt to intimidate the jury that convicted Trump on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to cover up his adulterous affair with a porn star. They followed after House Speaker Mike Johnson as he waded out chest-deep into the muddy water while calling the jury verdict a “sham trial” and a “travesty of justice.”

In 2025 the *Wall Street Journal* published an article revealing that Trump had sent an obscene birthday card to his old friend sexual predator and child molester Jeffrey Epstein. Vice President J.D. Vance pushed past Speaker Johnson and led his fellow Republicans into neck-deep water, demanding that the WSJ prove their case by showing the card.

Several months later the Epstein estate *did* provide the original letter to the House Oversight Committee. Speaker Johnson swam out into the current, supporting Trump’s claim that it was all a Democrat hoax, declaring that Trump was actually an FBI informant helping to take Epstein down.

Speaker Johnson was last seen bobbing downstream in the current of the Big Muddy singing the old gospel hymn *Wade in the Water*.



Trump's birthday card to Epstein — though between those two sex offenders the PS was superfluous