



Ed Bain's Layoffs & Claims

on line

NEWSLETTER

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ROUTINE



Ed Bain

I looked over at the clock and in red numerals. It said 7am. This is my normal time to wake up. I swung my legs over the left side of the bed and reached into my dresser, pulled out a bathing suite and put it on. Susan and I and our 2 cats live in Florida so I am in either shorts or a bathing suite all year long.

May May, our one-year old female cat, was in our room lying on Susan's exercise trampoline with her 4 legs pointing away from me and her head turned and watching me. I picked her up to a loud purr and the two of us had some face time.



I walked into the living room and Bud, our 10-year-old, 28-pound black male cat was lying on the coffee table looking at the two of us. I put May May down and pulled Bud next to my face. He has a low rumbling purr.



One of the feel-good routines in my life is a face full of fur every morning around 7am.

I went into the kitchen and turned on the coffee pot, then unloaded the dish washer. I took out a broom with a dustpan in the laundry room next to the kitchen and swept out the laundry room where the litter box is, and then the kitchen floor. I went out to the screened in porch and swept the porch and around a second litter box. I then removed the trash receptacle under the cabinet and went to the litter box and cleaned it out.

May May and Bud were sitting in the kitchen, watching me. As I left to clean out the litter box on the porch, they both went into the laundry room and used it again. I emptied all the trash cans (there are six located throughout the condo) and I then went back and cleaned out the litter box for a second time. That second time always makes me smile to myself. I went into the bathroom and washed my face and ran a brush through my hair. Went back into the kitchen and poured a cup of coffee with cream only. Susan is the only one who feeds Bud and May May, so they know to wait for her to get up for breakfast.

I went into my office and turned on my computer. I go to The Daily Racing Form's web site to see what articles they have. I only look for handicapping articles, which there is always a shortage of. When they do have them, they're often on speed, which is always a start article but never finish one for me. Now that Dean Keppler is no longer writing for the DRF, the articles are boring.

I also look for articles on who is suing who in racing. The DRF reports on most of those events but they did not report in the Racing Form when I issued a lawsuit against The Jockey Club, Equibase, BRIS, and HDW in 2007. I was told that I had been blackballed in the industry. I guess the Racing Form felt it would be worth their while not to report my lawsuit since their on-line version of the form is on Equibases's servers.

I check my e-mails and I click on a box next to where it says unread e-mails and that allows me to click into my favorite places where I click on edbain.com. I open my website and first go to today's plays. I begin by clicking on the automatic tab, where all the automatics for today are listed.

4 + 30s	Automatics	Trainers	Horses
NON-FAVORITES (3/1 AND HIGHER)			
Mason, Lloyd		8	

I click through each trainer one at a time and start the filtering process. I then get another cup of coffee.

The automatics listed on my site are separated by 3/1 and up and are identified by the color purple. If the automatic applies only to the favorite, I quickly pass the race and go to the next trainer name and number. If the trainer is a potential play, I then go to the horse's RR which stands for "Race Record". I pass if the horse is 0 for 4 at the Distance, Track or Surface or if there is another 4+30 or Automatic on any other trainer in the same race. If the horse has an overall poor race record, for example 1 for 18 with no win at today's distance, I pass and move on. Today, May 8, 2010, there are over 250 automatic stats and it was easy to knock out all of them but one. At Golden Gate in Race 8, the 7 horse with a morning line of 9/2, with a Lloyd Mason trainer statistic of Claim 2 Sprint with a record of 22 tries, 9 wins for a 40% win rate. I could not find any reason not to bet him and I put him down on my betting sheet as a bet.

POST #	Horse	Race Record	Jockey	Weight	Owner	Trainer						
14% 30% 47%	Little Bug 4YF		Stra Kayla	123	DeNike, Theresa and Edward	Mason, Lloyd						
7	Dixie Lemon/Go for Gin		DST 251-24-23-22 9% 18% 27%		SIALWOC 31-5-8-3 16% 41% 51%	SIALWOC 75-11-19-11 14% 40% 54%						
9/2	RR 28-5-6-8 17% 39% 67%		W/Trn 64-13-14-10 20% 42% 57%		SURF 152-31-23-26 20% 35% 52%	W/Own 283-63-44-47 22% 37% 54%						
	DST 5-1-0-1 20% 20% 40%		SURF 535-45-56-55 8% 18% 29%			SURF 536-100-100-98 18% 37% 55%						
	TRK 17-2-5-6 11% 41% 76%											
	SURF 11-1-2-3 9% 27% 54%											
Date	Trk	Surface	Dist	Odds	Class	Purse	Jockey	Weight	1 ST 1/4	2 ND 1/4	3 RD 1/4+	ALL 1/4
17Apr10	GG	SYN-FST	6f	3.20	ALWOC 25K C1	26K	Stra K	122	6 - 23.12	6 - 22.95	6 - 24.97	6 - 1:10.22
01Nov09	GG	Turf-GD	1 1/16M	1.80*	CLM 25K C	24K	Baze R	121	2 - 24.43	1 - 24.67	2 - 55.77	2 - 1:44.85
20Sep09	GG	Turf-FRM	1 1/16M	2.10	ALWOC 25K	28K	Baze R	123	2 - 24.37	3 - 24.59	3 - 56.02	3 - 1:44.90
23Aug09	GG	Turf-FRM	1M	1.70*	ALWOC 25K	30K	Baze R	123	7 - 24.56	7 - 24.42	3 - 50.61	3 - 1:38.78
Workouts: May 1 5f GG 1:00.60 1/32 Apr 25 4f GG 49.20 37/80 Apr 11 4f GG 47.80 6/69												
L2S 45+D 70-20-16-8 28% 51% 62% C2S 22-9-4-2 @ 40% 59% 68% L2S 45+D If Fav 12-7-3-1 4+30 58% 83% 91% C2S If Fav 2-2-0-0 100% 100% 100% L2S 45+D W/Own 28-7-6-4 25% 46% 60% C2S W/Own 16-8-2-2 @ 50% 62% 75%												

I then click onto the 4+30 Tab.

4 + 30s
Automatics
Tracks

NON-FAVORITES (3/1 AND HIGHER)

Adkins, Sandra (Thistledown) 11 13

I filtered every 4 + 30 play at 3/1 and up. I then go to the list of 5/2 down to the Favorites.

I found one play at Hollywood in Race 1, the 3 horse, a runner trained by John Sadler who had a stat on a 1st after a Layoff sprint with 28 tries, 9 wins for a 32% win rate. However my statistics show me that if Sadler is in the favorite stats for Lay 1 sprint, his numbers are 6 tries with 5 wins for an 83% win rate. This horse's morning line is 5/2 and I make a note on my betting sheet that if he goes off as the favorite I will bet him. If he remains at 5/2 or higher I will pass the bet.

I went into the kitchen and popped an English muffin in the toaster and poured another cup of coffee. It's now 9:30am back in my office. I finished the English muffin and clicked back to my emails and started answering all of them. Susan came into my office and smiled, said "good morning Ed". I replied "morning Susan", with a smile that told her I was happy to see her.

When we were first married, I told Susan that I only have one "rule" and that is: whoever gets up last has to make the bed. I knew I would always be up before her! She had replied "no problem" and then said, "I only have one rule, too". That is: whoever gets up first has to make the coffee, empty the dishwasher, sweep the floors and clean the litter box. I smiled, slowly, and said even more slowly: ok.

It's now 11:00. I have taken a shower and let Susan know that I was going to the Post Office as I do every morning. I always do every thing outside and Susan does the inside.

Back from the Post Office I sit down at my desk with a new program I had written for the favorites. This program is interactive and I can enter my queries by Morning Line Odds and there are multiple fields where I can enter the criteria I want in my selections, such as what ranges I want for trainers, by trainer win count and win rate percentage, and I can query the same for Place as well as Show. I can put in what the trainers average odds are as well as the horse's average odds and I can get the average win mutuel for the trainer and the horse as well as his average place and show payouts. I can also filter by Field Size, Class, Distance and Surface. I can separate by Layoff, Claims, Won Last Race, and Debut and I also can pull up which horse can run to each $\frac{1}{4}$ mile par as well as final time par. With my normal style of betting, which is statistics only, I do not need speed as a tool to handicap, though with the favorites program I need to know if this horse can hit pars and win. Combine this information with trainer stats and I have a powerful combination for when to bet the favorites. My goal with this program is to win in the 60% win-rate area with low paying favorites and produce a positive Return on Investment as well as to collect a rebate. I have had the program for 3 days and with the criteria that I entered, I made 17 bets and 9 won for a 53% win rate. I am really excited about this program.

I have 8 bets today plus my 2 bets on the west coast with my normal approach.

I make a tuna fish sandwich, grab a coke and sit down to play the 10 bets for today. The first bet is at Delaware in race 1. The trainer is Cody Autry and the race distance is 6 furlongs. It's a claiming sprint event with Shane Sellers in the irons. The M/L is 8/5 and his odds are off at 3/5, so he is a bet. Shane went really fast for the 1st quarter, in 21.4, and lost in deep stretch. The next play was a scratch. Then I lost the next 5 favorites in a row. I hit a favorite at Churchill, a Tom Amoss Claim 3 Sprint and he paid \$2.80. The program had given me 8 plays, so far 1 was scratched, 1 won and 5 lost. My play at Hollywood came up, and that one also lost. I waited for my last bet, race 8 at Golden Gate. He won and paid \$14.20.

It's now about 7pm and dinner is ready. Susan is a gourmet cook. She has made Greek chicken with a salad of tomatoes, Kalamata olives and feta cheese. Susan cooks and I do the clean up. I then cleaned all the dishes and loaded them into the dishwasher and when I finished, I also made the coffee for the next morning.

I went back into my office and entered all the results for the 2 normal plays then for the 7 favorite plays, and then entered the query criteria for tomorrows favorite plays in my interactive program. I decided on two for the next day, Sunday the 9th. At 9:45 pm I went into the living room and turned on HBO to watch a boxing match between Paul Williams and Kermit Cintron. No bet on that one. I went into the kitchen filled up a bowl of chocolate vanilla and strawberry ice cream and sat down to watch the fight and it ended in the first minute of the 4th round when the two fighters tripped over each others feet and Cintron fell through the ropes and landed on a TV and hit his head on a table. He was injured and could not continue and they took him out on a stretcher.

Nice ending to a tough day.

Susan came in and asked, "ready for bed?" and I said, "yes, I'm tired. Been a rough day".

The next morning I looked at the clock. The red numerals said 7am. I reached for a bathing suite while May May looked at me from Susan's workout trampoline.

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BETTING ON THE TRAINER



Mark Cramer

Here in France there is only one American trainer. Her name is Gina Rarick. She and her husband live in the beautiful town of Maisons-Laffitte, northwest of Paris, where horses have the right of way on a grid of streets which is criss-crossed by cushiony dirt riding paths, and protected by a majestic forest.

This small city is also known as a training center. The other major Parisian trainer center is the city and forest of Chantilly, home town of Julien Leparoux. Horses in France are not stabled at race tracks, and if I were a horse, I would prefer living in Gina's stables, with immediate access to walking and galloping paths, and less cramped. (Many Parisians living in cramped quarters, might also prefer living in Gina's bright and clean stables.) When you enter your horse in a race, you call France-Galop, the administrator of the Parisian race courses, and they send a van with driver to take your horse to the race, at no charge. Or, when Gina enters at horse at Maisons-Laffitte, she simply walks the horse to the track, accompanied by her trusty assistant, the eternally optimistic Valérie.

Currently, Gina's has won 8% of her races, over a period of 365 days. Considering that her horses race in fields of as many as 20 horses, that is actually above average. But for a bettor, the important statistic is return on investment. In 68 races during the past 365 days, the average mutuel of Gina's winners is 27.65 for one Euro. Translated into our American betting consciousness, where we think in \$2, it's \$55.30.

Continuing in the American frame of mind, if we bet an equal amount of \$2 on all of Gina's horses, our investment for the past year would have been \$136. Our return would be \$331.80. That's about a 170% return on investment. Don't tell Goldman Sachs or they might lower our odds.

Leading up to the 6th race at Saint-Cloud (a beautiful Parisian-suburb "green cathedral"), Gina was in a 24-race losing streak (not including a victory at Guernsey, which is not a French track). The bettor who stayed with her for that period was still making about an 80 percent roi,

but even the most steely-willed players can feel fragile after 24 straight losses. Statistically, an 8% method is vulnerable to even longer negative streaks than 24. So it would be natural for most players to have bailed out before the Saint-Cloud race, where Gina had entered a 4-year-old filly named Blessing Belle.

If you were not discouraged by the losing streak, a look at Blessing Belle's past performances might have nailed the coffin. In her previous race, Blessing Belle had been off the board in a 20-horse field. The past performance comment was: "Racing in the back of the field and rank, she was not able to advance effectively."

However, that race, at Longchamp, went around a clover-leaf turn and Blessing Belle had departed from stall 19 in the gate. Though her previous two races did not look a whole lot better, the 19-post seemed to be typical of the hard luck that Gina had been experiencing with her other horses in the recent past.

I must confess that I had been lowering my bets on Gina's horses during the streak, if only because I had sensed a period of bad Karma. But I did stand by her and played Blessing Belle win and "placé", which is equivalent to our show betting, since France has no place wagering. Blessing Belle advanced five wide on the first of two sweeping turns over the mile-and-a-half trip, and then glided into the lead, guided calmly by Thierry Thulliez, a longshot rider who had once won the Breeders' Cup mile on Domedriver. Going into the long and slightly uphill stretch, Blessing Belle actually found a second acceleration. She won rather easily, at odds of 48-1. Often, trainers with a relatively low win percentage are no less capable than the ones who are regular visitors to the winners' circle. I had visited Gina's stables and observed the love, care and technical know-how that she puts into this job that she loves with true passion. Her level of commitment can be measured by the fact that she gave up an easier and less risky job as racing journalist for the International Herald Tribune in order to train full time.

Horseplayers who can identify dependable trainers, those who remain under the radar of public attention, can make a profit by automatically playing a profitable trainer, but holding firm through the bad times. In Gina's case, I had determined that her skills went beyond the occasional tote-blasting mutuel payoffs because her average "placé" or show mutuel is also extremely high, at \$14.76 in American terms.

During her 24-race "losing streak", she was still overperforming for the player. If you had invested \$48 on show bets in those 24 losing races, you would have gotten back \$61.80. And that was a losing streak!

Beyond the betting aspect, Gina Rarick is one of the two or three people who has most encouraged Alan and me to embark on our racetrack tour de France to raise funds for thoroughbred retirement. Gina has been a strong advocate for the horse and not just for racing. You can find her blog at Gallop France.

Alan and I will be putting together a visit, for American race lovers, to the great classic race, the Arc de Triomphe. The visit will include attending the races at Longchamp on Arc weekend (October 2-3) and a guided visit to Gina Rarick's stables in Maisons-Laffitte on Monday morning October 4, with an afternoon at the races at Maisons-Laffitte. If people are interested, we will also visit the Saint-Cloud races on Friday October 1. A Paris walking tour is also part of the package. You can contact us at cramerjazz@gmail.com

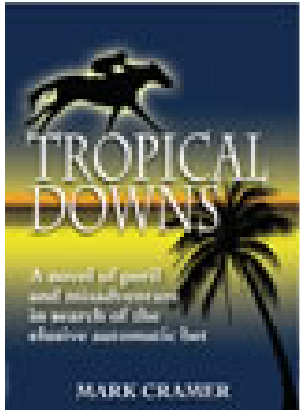
PS. Is there an overlay on all women trainers?

Even when armed with such helpful trainers stats, the player who on a short-term betting expedition cannot be there for the long term with flat-bet trainers such as Rarick. However, by collecting these trainers into a type of "mutuel fund", we can diminish short-term volatility.

Often, women trainers are best suited to remain under the radar or if not, to discourage betting from a pari-mutuel public made up primarily of men. Another French trainer who resembles Gina Rarick in performance is **Brigitte Renk**. As of this writing, Renk has entered horses in 86 races over the past 365 days, with 8 wins, for a 9% record. Her average mutuel is 13.73 for 1, or \$27.46 for a two dollar flat bet of all her horses. If you wagered \$2 on each of her 86 horses, for a \$172 investment, you got back \$219.68, for nearly a 30% profit.

Then there is trainer **Marine Henry**, whose average mutuel is \$32.00 for a \$2 investment and gets 8% winners. That comes out to a 28% profit, at the same level as Renk.

On the other hand, women trainers with 100 or more races during any 365-day period do not earn a flat-bet profit for their bettors. Fewer horses translate into less attention from the public and more direct care for each individual horse. At least with French trainers I have found a direct correlation between profit and volume of horses. Below 100 races per year, women trainers are more likely to remain profitable. Above that marker, you can expect a flat-bet loss. I suspect that this correlation may be similar in American racing and eventually I will check this out.



Mark Cramer is the author of the only work of crime fiction to incorporate horse race handicapping in the plot: *Tropical Downs*. Also, the only book that ever equated a perfect crime with a Pick 6 score. See reviews of *Tropical Downs* at www.amazon.com

INTERVIEW WITH SUE FINLEY

Sue Finley is the First Vice President of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF). Her efforts are entirely without pay and she is the largest single fundraiser on the TRF board. I knew that Sue has been involved with this organization for a long time, though I did not know that the TRF has been around since the early 1980s. Sue has never owned a race horse nor has anyone in her family. She's been a vegetarian since she was 12 and after this interview it became clear to me that Sue is driven to help this organization because of her love for animals. This enthusiasm comes across immediately and is especially received by others who share a love for animals.

Ed and I have made some good friends through the years, people we've met through racing, and their names could easily fill this page. I notice that there is a common bond that all of us share: our love and respect for the horse, as an athlete and as a beautiful being, and we all share a love for all animals. Mark Cramer is one of these good friends, and when Mark mentioned this venture to Ed and me, we knew we wanted to be involved. I must confess, even though I know Mark is in great shape because he does his daily commuting by bike and rides in the country as well, when I saw that their trip would include some train rides to some of these locations and only a few days of rest, I was a bit concerned that 900 to 1,000 kilometers might be too high a goal to obtain. This trip is an amazing challenge because of this distance but also because, for three weeks of their lives, Mark and Alan will step away from their everyday lives and the time with their families to devote everything they have to ride for the lives of these horses that have given so much to us.



web site: www.trfinc.org

Sue, how and when did you become a part of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF)? Tell us your story.

My first exposure to the TRF was on the day they were founded, in 1983 at Belmont Park. I was a 21-year-old college student and they had a fundraising day where they brought back Forego and Kelso, two great old racehorses, to raise money for ex-racehorses otherwise at risk for slaughter. The day made a big impact on me, and when I went to work in the industry after graduation, I always tried to find a way to raise money for them, through the collection of memorabilia, etc. In 1998, the founder, Monique Koehler, and Executive Director Diana Pikulski, came to see me in my offices in New Jersey to persuade me to join the board. I have been on the board since that time.

What is your primary role for TRF?

I should note, first off, that I am a TRF volunteer, and have a "real" job as well. I am the Vice President and co-publisher of the Thoroughbred Daily News, a daily newspaper which is read by the prominent breeders, owners and industry professionals all over the world. This position gives me access to the audience the TRF is hoping to reach with its message. My title at the TRF is First Vice President. I am the largest single fundraiser on the TRF board, holding an annual fundraising auction in Saratoga, and sit on the Executive Committee.

Tell us about the TRF:

How many horses are on the TRF Farm now?

The TRF provides permanent, lifetime retirement for 1,200 former racehorses at nine correctional facilities in 11 states, and on satellite farms spread throughout the country.

How do you go about rescuing a horse?

There are a million different ways horses come to us. Some are abandoned at racetracks when the race meeting closes; some are neglected on farms and come to our attention through the SPCA and other such organizations. Most typically, the owner or the person who has rescued the horse contacts us, fills out an application and we evaluate the horse for soundness, and its future potential. About 10% of the horses who come to us need to be euthanized because the veterinarian determines that their injuries are so severe, they will never be comfortable in a field, or living among other horses. About 40% will spend between six months and a year on our farms being rehabilitated, and then are adopted out to private homes. The remaining 50% can be made comfortable, but cannot go on to second careers. They make up our permanent lifetime retirement population.

Are a lot of horses sent to TRF after their careers are over?

The answer to that question is complicated. Personally, most horses should be sent to us, and there is no limit to the number of horses we could take, if we had the funds. But the number we are able to accept is limited, because of a lack of funding. There is no other organized sport in the world that does not, as one of its first measures, set up a retirement plan for its athletes. Horse racing has been unwilling to accept this as part of the cost of doing business. We are looking to change that.

Tell us your favorite rescue story:

In 1998, my husband was a sportswriter for the New York Daily News. This was about the time when I came on board with the TRF. He decided to go to a low-level horse auction in New Bolton, Pennsylvania, which is infamous for selling massive amounts of horses to slaughter dealers. They pack them into double-decker trailers, not meant for horses, and drive them to slaughter in Mexico or Canada. He waited until the auction was over, and went over to the pen where one of the slaughter middlemen had put all of the horses he was planning to van to slaughter. My husband went through the pen until he found one with a tattoo he could read. (All Thoroughbreds have a permanent tattoo under their lip, which serves as an identifying feature.) He called me in my office, read me the tattoo number, and I called The Jockey Club to see who the horse was. He was a beautiful chestnut horse, and I was told his name was Renaissance Bob. He had originally been owned and race by Bob Greenhut, the producer of the movie Renaissance Man, for whom he had won a race at Saratoga—the pinnacle of American racing. But then had been claimed and sold on down the ranks until he was so lame, he couldn't race anymore. At that point, his final trainer accepted a couple hundred dollars for him from someone who drove him to the New Holland slaughter auction, where he ended up, about to board a van to the slaughterhouse. I told my husband who the horse was, and he offered the slaughter middleman \$550 for him, about \$50 more than the man had paid at the auction. He accepted it, my husband put him on a trailer, and drove him to TRF Executive Director Diana Pikulski's sister's farm in New Jersey, where he lives to this day. My husband wrote a story about him in the Daily News, and Animal Planet came out and did a feature on him on Amazing Rescues, which won an animal rights award. I take my kids out to see him all the time, and it's a reminder to us and to them of what might have happened to him, and how little effort it really takes to make a difference in a life.

I know this might be a difficult question, though it is just as important so that our readers can appreciate both sides of this. Please tell us the worst rescue story that you know:

As a matter of self-preservation, I shield myself from the bad stories. When I get emails or phone calls that start out, "We found an abandoned horse, starving..." I just have to tell the person to stop, or close the email. I can't sleep at night as it is for worrying about the horses, and that's without knowing the horrible details. I can't stand to think about animals suffering. I heard a commercial on the radio this morning about storing your furs for the summer, and I had to turn it off, because the concept of fur is so upsetting to me. I've been a vegetarian since I was 12, because I couldn't disconnect the food on the plate from the living, breathing animal. I don't wear leather, will only eat organic, cage-free, free-range eggs. You get the picture.

I don't know if you have ever heard a description of what happens in the slaughter process, but it would bring tears to your eyes. You'd end up like me. Not sleeping any more. Suffice to say: it's not euthanasia. It's cruel, and it's inhumane, and it's impossible for me to imagine that there are people who could participate in such a process.

Last year, the TRF was involved in helping in what was undoubtedly one of the worst rescue situations ever. Ernie Paragallo, a prominent New York owner, was indicted on 35 counts of animal cruelty after 177 horses were found grossly emaciated on his farm in upstate New York. Many had lost their fur, they had lice, and several had to be immediately euthanized. The two-year-old horses who should have weighed around 1,000 pounds were about half that. They looked like weanlings, like six-month-olds.

I can't understand how people are capable of that. I can't understand how people are mean to animals, simply because they can be.

How did you get in touch with Mark Cramer and Alan Kennedy and come up with this wonderful idea to raise funds for TRF?

My business partner forwarded me an email from Mark and Alan, who had known my partner's sister in college. They had heard that Barry (Weisbord, my business partner) was the part-owner of a newsletter in France, Le Jour de Galop, and wanted to get in touch with him to see what he knew about thoroughbred retirement organizations and how they might help. Ah, the irony! Barry forwarded the email to me and I responded, telling them about my involvement with the TRF. They said they did a bicycle tour each year in France, covering 500k or so and visiting five racetracks, and perhaps they could raise money for racehorse retirement. I'm a huge Tour de France fan (huge doesn't quite cover it. I might watch 8-10 hours of coverage a day when it's on, ignoring my husband, children, job, etc.) So I thought it would be really cool from a generating-interest standpoint if Alan and Mark did their Tour during the 'real' Tour, over the same three weeks and 21 stages. I think they thought I was crazy at first...but they came around to see the beauty of it!

Would like to give you an open forum and ask you to say anything to our readers that you would like them to know here.

While there are many worthy charities doing the noble work of finding meaningful second careers for former racehorses, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation is the only charity which not only finds permanent lifetime homes for our retirees, but also finds meaningful jobs for horses left too unsound by racing to typically find any purpose beyond their racing days. Unfortunately, approximately 50% of the horses seeking retirement straight off the racetrack fall into that latter category. That purpose, while this sounds corny, is nothing short of the reclamation of human life. The discarded horses we save help turn around and help save the country's discarded human beings. At our correctional facilities' farms, TRF horses help inmates by teaching vocational and life-affirming skills through our pioneering programs in horse care and stable management. Perhaps most importantly, the horses provide the intangible benefits that come from the special bond between man and horse.

Our horses also assist in therapeutic riding programs and equine-assisted psychotherapy programs, healing children suffering from physical and emotional trauma.

The frustrating thing for me is when people in racing tell us that helping us isn't in their budget, or that, as one very prominent trainer told us, it's not really his problem. It's everyone's problem, and racing can't afford to look at it as charity. It's part of the cost of doing business. Retirement can no longer be left to the benevolent or to a handful of volunteers, but needs to be addressed at an industry level. The TRF has always taken the position that we're racing's 'good news' and it's what we want to be. But we need some help.

In 1999, we decided to hold a fundraiser at Saratoga, and our initial concept was to find 10 top trainers to embrace this function. They would each buy a table for 10 and bring their top owners. Everyone was receptive—Todd Pletcher, Shug McGaughey, John Kimmel, etc. One trainer, however, said to me, "It's not my problem. It's the guy at Finger Lakes's problem." Eleven years later, I'm still angry about this. If you look at it coldly, it's not my problem, either. I've never owned, bred, bought or sold a horse. I've never raced a horse. Diana Pikulski, the TRF's executive director, who has given her life to this, has never bred or raced a horse. It would be easier to say it's not my problem, and to look the other way. But it has to be somebody's problem. I think it's all of ours.

It's everyone's problem, and racing can't afford to look at it as charity. It's part of the cost of doing business. Retirement can no longer be left to the benevolent or to a handful of volunteers, but needs to be addressed at an industry level.

Please tell us your ideas. The industry should be accountable for all thoroughbreds' retirement and this is something that they ignore. It's almost as if they by ignoring it, the issue will go away. Certain that you have ideas on what can be done, please share these with us and also any way that you feel others can help. As an example, would a petition benefit?

I think the issue is twofold, and the first is mentioned in your question. I think people ignore it in the hopes that it will go away, or nobody will notice. It's a hard solution to envision, guaranteed retirement, and if you're not funding it now, it can be seen as a tough nut to have to swallow.

I also think that some people don't see it as an issue or a problem, particularly people who are making a living in the industry, but barely hanging on. I think that the economic struggle inures them to the animals' suffering, to the fact that they are sentient beings, who enjoy being outside with the warm sun on their back, who enjoy relationships with their young and members of their herd. They become, instead, to these people, commodities to be mined for their economic value and discarded when they no longer have a value.

I have always said that if everybody shared the burden equally—bettors, jockeys, breeders, owners, sales companies, etc., through a systematic funding method—that nobody would feel the pain of the expenses. You could assess a \$15 claim fee, a \$2 per mount fee, etc. As I have never achieved any traction with this argument, however, I worry, in my less optimistic moments, that the reason I haven't is that many factions in the industry feel it's a burden that doesn't merit being borne.

And so I am currently interested in seeing how far we would get with grass-roots efforts, which is why Mark and Alan's effort appeals to me so much. People give for several reasons; it makes them feel good, it's a tax writeoff, because they're asked, etc. But what you find in fundraising is that people give to people they know, and they do so because they want to support their friends, and the causes that are important to their friends. That's a powerful motivator. I'd like to put it to work for our cause.

Ed and I and most of our readers believe in what TRF represents and that the industry needs to change its ways and take care of their athletes. Because of this we have a thought; What about the industry implementing a fee to the horse owner every time they register a horse. That all the money collected would go completely towards the thoroughbreds' retirement? Even if not for their horse, the money would go into a pool and be dispersed similar to social security; that all horses pay in and once they retire, regardless of their age, they can draw from this fund.

It's a fantastic idea, but racing lacks a centralized authority to impose such a fee.

Through experience we understand and know thoroughly that the Jockey's Club controls this sport, especially the owners and the breeders. If anyone can make a difference, they can implement whatever rules necessary to take care of the thoroughbreds.

How does the Jockey's Club responded to your organization?

Over the past couple of years, The Jockey Club has really stepped up and responded to this problem. For years, their position was that retirement was the owner's responsibility. While that is unquestionably the truth, they have come to realize that it is not a sufficient answer because owners, to be frank, aren't getting the job done. The owner would argue that he's simply the end user—why shouldn't the breeder be responsible as well? The stud farm where the horse was bred? All valid arguments. But at the end of the day, nobody was taking responsibility. The outgoing and new presidents of The Jockey Club, Alan Marzelli and Jim Gagliano, have really embraced the cause, instituting a checkoff program at foal registration time and donating matching funds from The Jockey Club's profit-making arms.

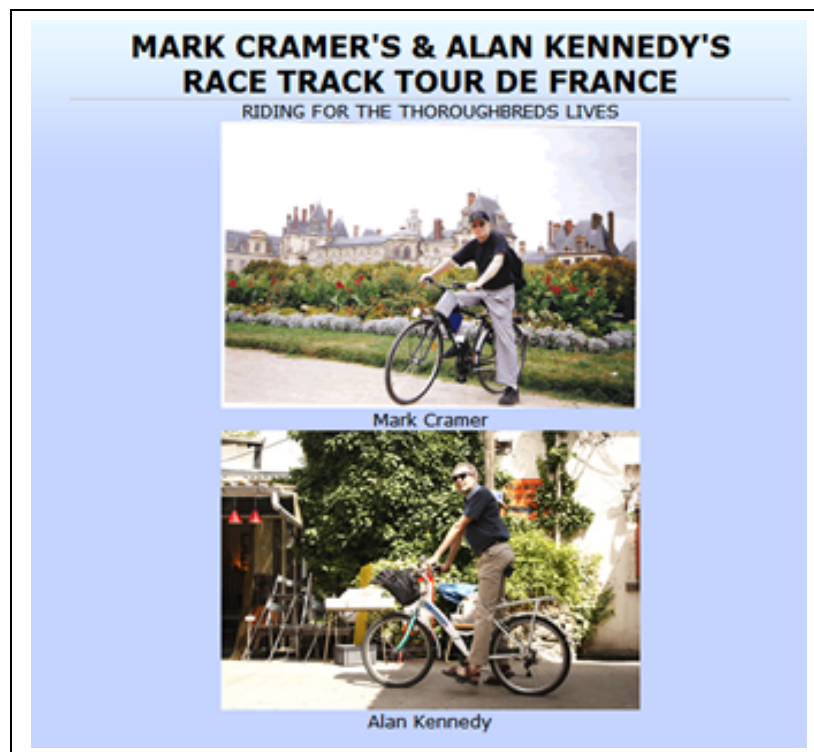
As the industry's breed registry, however, they don't have the authority to make the checkoff mandatory. Their charter is quite specific.

"Thank you, Sue. This interview is just the beginning for us." -

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ABOUT OUR WRITERS:



ED BAIN

Ed is often mistaken for Jack Nicholson when he wears his sunglasses especially when he is visiting his favorite racetrack Santa Anita.

Ed was introduced to racing at an early age by his Uncle Frankie Sostillio who to this day does not remember taking Ed to the track however he loves taking the credit and Ed's been attending the races ever since.

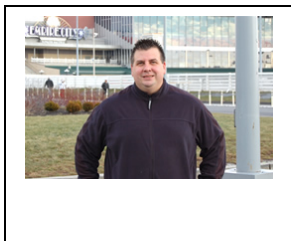
Ed is the first to admit that even though he's been betting all these years he did not make a living betting on the horses until 1994 after he tracked his own racing statistics.



MARK CRAMER

Mark Cramer, a well known and respected horse racing handicapper is the author of over 20 books, including Travel books on International travel, horse racing books and Newsletters. Mark currently authors the C & X report, a monthly Newsletter on horse racing and just recently completed a novel titled *Tropical Downs*. For details on these publications please visit Mark's website: www.altiplanopublications.com

Mark and his wife Martha reside in France where Mark has the opportunity to enjoy his second passion, bicycling.



DEAN KEPPLER

Dean Keppler is the former Director of DRF Press for *Daily Racing Form* where he orchestrated the organizing and creation of over 40 horse racing titles. He is a regular contributor to *The Horseplayer Magazine* and has authored several books including *Trainer Angles: Maximizing Profits using Formulator and Advanced Trainer Stats* and *Betting the Kentucky Derby: How to Wager and Win on America's Biggest Horse Race*. Keppler was the 2005 winner of the Freehold Raceway Thoroughbred handicapping contest, and was the proud owner of a 2006 Easter Sunday \$91,000 pick-six ticket at Santa Anita Park.



SUSAN SWEENEY BAIN

Susan met Ed Bain in 1991. Ed introduced Susan to racing on their first date where Ed won a dollar Trifecta wager for \$1,100. Ed backed this bet up with another win, an exacta for \$250 and Ed had Susan collect the winnings which he split fully with her that same day. From that point on Susan was hooked. Though she did not make her own wagers for 3 years, Susan enjoyed a first hand account of Ed's success, from the development of his 4 + 30 statistics to his progression into a full time professional player. Along with Ed's statistics Susan applies physicality and other statistical factors to her daily bets.