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“Now there is a languor ... I am fulfilled and weary. This Kentucky Derby, whatever it is — a race, an emotion, a turbulence, an explosion—is one of the most beautiful and violent and satisfying things I have ever experienced. And, I suspect that, as with other wonders, the people one by one have taken from it exactly as much good or evil as they brought to it... I am glad I have seen and felt it at last.”

-John Steinbeck (1956)

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I think you will soon agree with me that there is a great deal more annoyance and vexation in race horses than real pleasure.”

- August Belmont writing to his son August Belmont, Jr.

Rare was the voting-age American ignorant of that colossus, Secretariat, and his supra-equine achievement in the third leg of the 1973 Triple Crown. That thirty-one length score, in still world record time for a mile and a half, completed the colt's sweep of the three-year-old classic fixtures. He was acclaimed from sea to shining sea including the covers of Time, Newsweek, and Sports Illustrated.

And, no small task that because 1973 was not without many headline grabbers including the Watergate Hearings and the departure of the last U.S. soldier from Viet Nam. Of lesser note were the declaration of Ferdinand Marcos as President for Life of the Philippines, the sale of the New York Yankees to George Steinbrenner for ten million dollars, and O.J. Simpson becoming the first single-season two thousand yard rusher in the NFL. And, with the introduction of the designated hitter rule, Yankee Ron Blomberg entered trivia history as MLB's first DH.

But, few of those who toasted Big Red's win in the Belmont Stakes knew that, apart from a simple twist of fate, the race might well have been the Schoenberg Stakes. For Schoenberg was the surname, at his birth in 1816, of one of the nineteenth century's titans of business, politics, and sport to whom that prestigious competition owes its name.

August Schoenberg was born into a Prussian Jewish family of moderate means. Tolerated but not accepted would have best described the family's orbit in a community with a strict Jewish quota.

Beginning as a fifteen-year-old apprentice at the House of Rothschild headquarters in Frankfurt, August Schoenberg displayed such precocity that he was soon sent on sensitive missions within Europe on behalf of the family's interests. In 1837, he was dispatched to Cuba which required a stopover in the U.S.A.

Upon his arrival, the now twenty-one year old, found himself in the midst of the historic Panic of 1837. The serial failure of banks now included the agent for the Rothschild interests. Young August immediately seized that agency mantle much to the benefit of the Rothschilds and himself.

Schoenberg translates to English as *beautiful mountain*. Sensing a better reception in New York social circles for French over German, he changed his surname to the Gallic equivalent. Soon thereafter, he founded August Belmont and Company and applied for U.S. citizenship.

The banality of the well-worn *rest is history* phrase makes it no less appropriate. And, what a history it was replete with parallels to and ironies of the current era. Certainly the

Rothschild card afforded August the cachet that Goldman Sachs might today. But, that made his rise no less remarkable.

Almost certainly his speech would have revealed his ethnicity at a time when nativist hostility, especially to German and Irish immigration, was rampant. Nonetheless his urbane manner and business acumen soon had him well placed on the most coveted guest lists of Knickerbocker society.

While courting some of New York's finest, he got crossways with a competing dude from which a duel resulted. Augie took a bullet in the hip that left him with a macho limp the rest of his life.

Within that milieu, he met his future wife, Caroline Slidell Perry. Her father, Commodore Matthew Perry, with the aid of a couple of gunboats, convinced Imperial Japan to open trade with the West subsequently triggering a mania among fashionistas for things Japanese. Perry's action even inspired Giacomo Puccini's composition of that timeless opera *Madama Butterfly*.

Caroline's uncle, John Slidell, was a potentate in the U.S. Senate representing Louisiana and provided August his passport to the upper caste of the Democratic Party. Slidell opposed President Franklin Pierce's bid for a second term and enlisted Belmont in the successful campaign of James Buchanan.

In 1860, Belmont was named National Chairman of the Democratic Party. During his twelve year term, the party was winless in Presidential elections but his influence grew nonetheless. He supported the Union in full force and his editorial commentary was published widely. In those days, his party was the more conservative and the party of Lincoln had not yet become the party of LinkedIn.

Modern day *9-11 truthers* and *birthers* appear sober when set beside the Radical Republican press that did not buy Belmont as a member of the loyal opposition. Belmont was cast as a central figure in the Lincoln assassination even to the point of plotting with Wilkes Booth and co-conspirators at a secret dinner in the Belmont mansion. Fortunately for him, his high repute easily overcame the baseless assaults on his patriotism.

Today's lamenters of the 99%-1% wealth gap would blanch at Belmont's band of Wall Street wizards. For in his generation, the split was more the 99.99% and the .01%. Known in the press as The Magnificoes, the group of super rich conspicuous consumers lived large, larger, and largest.

Belmont's mansion, built for him on Fifth Avenue, was designed to send a message to his business rivals. The residence contained a literal ballroom where it was said the monthly wine bill alone totaled twenty thousand in gold-anchored dollars.

Before the days of personal aircraft, The Magnificoes processed through Central Park in opulent coaches. With NASCAR and *Dancing with the Stars* far off in the future, crowds of spectators gathered daily hoping to spot their favorite Magnifico driving a four-in-hand after the stock market close.

Together with William Travers and Leonard Jerome, Belmont completed a triumvirate known in print gossip as the Three Musketeers. Their lifetime friendship and sporting rivalry bequeathed lasting touchstones and traditions to the racing game.

Those amigos, imbedded Wall Street shooters all, must have been a sight. Travers spoke with an incurable stammer, Jerome's nose was nearly as long as his drooping mustache, and Belmont bounced along with his uneven gait.

Their surnames prefix three of the most prestigious stakes in the thoroughbred canon. Over a century past their collective passings, the Travers, Jerome, and Belmont remain max-play events for serious handicappers and envied trophies for horsemen. The second gem of New York's filly Triple Crown, the Coaching Club American Oaks, finds its provenance in the trio's driving association of the same name in which mastery of a four- in-hand was prerequisite to initiation.

Travers co-founded Saratoga Race Course in 1863 but it was Jerome that lured Belmont into the breeding and racing of thoroughbreds in 1866. Jerome owned 230 acres near Fordham, very near to where Yankee Stadium stands today.

He linked the founding of the American Jockey Club to construction of a Magnifico friendly racing facility there which also became the site of the first outdoor polo match in the U.S. In addition, despite Belmont's intonation that "racing is for the rich"; the meetings at Jerome Park drew massive crowds notwithstanding the steep admission charges. It was at Jerome Park that the French system of mutual betting (pari-mutuel) and bookmakers first appeared in this country.

The hook was set when Jerome wisely placed Belmont in authoritative positions at both track and club. Jerome also created the Belmont Stakes at his venue. The first running in 1867 (six years before the first Preakness and eight years before the first Kentucky Derby) was won by a filly, Ruthless. That distaff accomplishment would occur but twice more: Tanya in 1905 and Rags to Riches in 2007.

With predictable urgency, Belmont created his Nursery Stud on 1000 Long Island acres in Babylon where luxury for horse and man abounded. Commentary in *Spirit of the Times* effused that "everything is very thorough and substantial at the Nursery, and while elegance as well as utility has been consulted, nothing has been expended on tawdry ornament".

Finding the breeding timeline an impediment to action, Belmont aggressively purchased racing stock. His first significant winner was a colt named Glenelg, purchased as a yearling. Glenelg should have cantered home in the Belmont Stakes of 1869. But, the colt was hard-held to finish second to the more favored homebred, Fenian, thereby completing a Belmont exacta. Apparently “failure to persevere” had not yet been introduced as a violation of the rules of racing.

A study of Belmont’s life leaves one awestruck at his accomplishment and multitasking. How he found the time in a typical day to fiscally arm wrestle Dan Drew, Jim Fisk, Jay Gould, and Commodore Vanderbilt at the stock exchange, juggle local and national politics, spin his coach around Central Park, manage his racing interests, and attend endless bacchanals as guest and host gobsmacks a modern observer. And, he lived this high life with nary a smart phone. Social media in Augie’s day was a face-to-face and written correspondence proposition.

Gourmand diets and liberally taken drink foretold the physical demise of each musketeer. First, to pass was “Stutterin’ Bill” Travers in 1887 at age 68 who succumbed to diabetes in Bermuda. Over the next couple of years Belmont, not surprisingly, increasingly complained of dyspepsia, which afforded no improvement on his well-known irascibility.

After serving as a judge at a horse show in a chilly Madison Square Garden in 1890, he developed pneumonia and in less than a week he was gone. His pallbearers included Grover Cleveland and J.P. Morgan.

The funeral service at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on Fifth Avenue was an item of gossip itself. Belmont had baptized his first born, future U.S. Congressman Perry Belmont, and that produced alienation from the Jewish community without gaining complete acceptance from the Christian element at that time. But, over his lifetime, his resume of charitable undertakings on behalf of persons of all creeds silenced the mutterers from both sides.

Belmont's New York Times obituary was pages long before his racing life got mention:

Mr. Belmont was a true sportsman in all that the term implies. He never started a horse but that he longed to see it win, and he never bred a horse but that he hoped it might become a winner. He was passionately fond of racing, and he was one of the most familiar figures on the racetrack. Whenever the chances of his horses were particularly good he was sure to be on hand, and this fact was so commonly known that the presence of Mr. Belmont at the track was certain to influence the general betting in favor of his entry.

Lennie Jerome proved the stayer in the group lasting a year longer before coming up on the short end of complications from rheumatism and gout. He took his last breath in Brighton, England. All of his daughters wed Englishmen. The middle of three, Jennie, married Lord Randolph Churchill. Together they produced a son, Winston, who parlayed his Army service into a career in politics.

Belmont's executors ordered a dispersal of his thoroughbred racing stock and the entire production did justice to his memory. Sons Perry and August, Jr. had been marginally involved in senior's operation but without explanation, neither was a bidder at the auction at The Nursery.

The roster of offerings included Potomac and La Tosca, leading two-year-old colt and filly respectively as well as top older horses, Raceland and Prince Royal. In all ten horses of racing age and eighteen yearlings brought \$121,600 in a driving snowstorm and temperatures approaching zero.

When the breeding stock was offered the following year Perry and Junior got involved on the buy side but the attention was all on the stallion St. Blaise who became the first horse to ever bring \$100k at auction. According to reports at the time, Mr. Charles Reed "earthquaked" the competition by topping the previous high bid of \$50k with an immediate jump to the winning level earning him a sustained standing O.

What looked like the last significant chapter of Belmonts and the turf proved to be only intermission. For the escape of August Belmont, Jr. from the umbra cast by his late father revealed another titanic generation of finance and the turf.

Li'l Aug's succession to the chairmanship of August Belmont and Company was a given but there was little expectation of his taking hold of the racing bit which he did with keen enthusiasm.

Belmont had been a rival of William Collins Whitney in the bidding for the construction of the New York City Subway System, a massive undertaking in that or any other era. An interesting side note to that project is that when completed, August Belmont, Jr. became the only person to have a private subway car (named the Mineola).

He and Whitney buried the subway hatchet, joining J.P. Morgan and a few other buds to purchase 650 acres in Queens and Nassau Counties to construct the ultimate racing facility. At Whitney's suggestion, the capacious facility in Elmont would be named for the first August Belmont.

On May 4, 1905, America's foremost racing venue, Belmont Park, opened to wide notice and attendance exceeding 40,000 patrons. The demands of operating Belmont Park combined with his business and political interests diverted Augie's attention from his racing operation. Even so, he managed to breed one of the grand racemares, Beldame. So good was that champion that at four she was spotting weight to her male opponents, as much as 35 lbs. when she took the Suburban Handicap.

But, his homebred, Fair Play, would factor in one of the most regretted transactions in the history of the sport. That colt was the leading money winning three-year-old of 1908 (though no match for his unsound stable mate, Colin) and went on to a successful career at stud for the Belmont interests. He established a sire line whose modern presence is found in the pedigrees of Bertrando, Honour and Glory, and the very important Tiznow.

The bizarre tale commences with the sixty-five-year-old August Belmont, bursting with patriotic fervor, enlisting in the U.S. Army amidst the Great War in 1917. He was commissioned a major and shipped to Spain where he oversaw supply procurement for the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

Augie had tacked well through the Panics of 1901 and 1907 but he now found himself in a financial trick bag as a result of his bold commitment to the building of the Cape Cod Canal (a story for another day).

Belmont and his wife decided to unwind their racing operation and offered all of their yearlings at Saratoga in the summer of 1918. Included in the group was a robust son of Fair Play out of Mahubah by *Rock Sand. Sold to Samuel D. Riddle for \$5000, the colt's subsequent race record was of such immense accomplishment that it surely makes him a finalist in any discussion gauging the greatest thoroughbred in American turf history.

Belmont had, in 1910, wed the notable English stage actress, Eleanor Robson, some 12 years after the death of his first wife. Eleanor took great interest in the naming of their horses and had chosen a name for the Fair Play colt to honor her husband's military service. The name she chose was Man o' War.

The great one was victorious in 20 of 21 starts losing only at 2 to the well-named Upset in the Sanford Stakes. A compromised start, a questionable ride, and poor racing luck cost the clearly superior Man o' War the decision in a narrow loss. At the stud, he sired Triple Crown Winner War Admiral and was the grandsire of the legendary Seabiscuit.

At the outset, the Belmont story appeared easy to synopsise but as each peel came forth, the complexity of the family did as well. Nowhere in this treatment is there any account of August, Sr.'s influence in the collection of art. Also unmentioned is the death of a young daughter from illness or the loss of a son from suicide. Lives are difficult to summarize in this brief space.

So too with Junior. As a harrier at Harvard, he introduced spiked track shoes (Air Augie?) to America and was later an avid steeplechaser and poloist. In spite of Belmont's civic generosity, fellow Democrat and three-time losing Presidential nominee, William Jennings Bryan, at the 1912 party convention called him "a member of the privilege-hunting and favor-seeking class". Bryan was wrong. Belmont was born into privilege and had no need to seek favor. It sought him.

His first wife died age 36 and his son August III also preceded him in death. He was a literal savior of East Coast horseracing after the Church Lady Lobby outlawed the sport in New York. He organized a track in Havre De Grace, Maryland that kept the denizens of the game alive until he got it reinstated in Gotham two years later. He was also an organizer and long serving president of the American Kennel Club.

As his father had been, Augie was stricken with a sudden and fatal illness. Surgery to relieve an infection in his arm produced complications that felled him in the space of three days. At his death at age 71 in 1924, The New York Times said that "his was a life richly colored and abundantly lived." But, not nearly as abundantly as his widow, who expired at age 99 in 1979. Now Eleanor could get a route of ground!

In his youth, August Schoenberg may not have fully sensed the beautiful mountain of opportunity that confronted him in his adopted nation. But, by his death, he had negotiated that mountain's peak and, along with his son, left a legacy that should be celebrated by all lovers of our great game.

No more fitting coda could be offered to this tale than the running of the 1983 Belmont Stakes won by Caveat. That was the second in a row for trainer Woody Stephens who would go on to win an unprecedented five straight. When Caveat appeared in the winners' circle after the race, one of his co-owners appeared with him. He was a 74 year-old retired Wall Street investment banker who, together with his wife, had purchased an interest in the winner when the colt was a yearling. His name was August Belmont IV, great grandson of August Schoenberg.

THIS YEAR'S RACE:

The last several Derbies have been as painful for us as sitting through six hours of *Gottterdammerung*. Our picks have varied between not so hot and embarrassing. Derby wise we have been living the George Orwell observation: "any life when viewed from the inside is simply a series of defeats." The frustration brought back a memorable Dylan lyric from his Huck's Song: "The game's gotten old, the deck's gone cold, I'm gonna have to put you down for awhile."

But then the early Derby preps crank up in the dead of winter and the Derby version of baseball's Hot Stove League rekindles that competitive angst. Long memories are helpful in handicapping the Derby, but short memories on bad picks are best held for one's confidence, if not sanity. So in hopes of restoring the glory of yesteryear, we will commence this year's effort with a bettor's *tabula rasa*. And, as always we are searching for that candidate that, in boxing terms, can punch above his weight. Here is the field:

DADDY LONG LEGS- One of two sons of hot young sire SCATDADDY. Transoceanic shippers have not fared too well here and he bombed in the BC Juvenile after taking some action at the window. That said, never count trainer O'Brien out anytime he leads one over as he shipped MASTER OF HOUNDS last year to a close fifth. LEGS was an impressive winner in the UAE Derby at a mile and 3/16 so prob stays the distance, which makes it difficult to dismiss him. If he steps forward on those LONG LEGS, he could give the opponents a case of arachnophobia.

OPTIMIZER- Multiple winning Derby trainer D. Wayne Lukas draws in as number 20 after the defection of MARK VALESKI. OPTI's sire, ENGLISH CHANNEL, was a grasser but has produced this year's S.A. Derby third place finisher. A.P. INDY mama lends lots of staying power as well. Was a fast closing second in the Rebel Stakes but then failed to show after being well-backed in the ARKANSAS DERBY. If he runs to his pedigree, the pessimizers will turn to OPTIMIZERS.

TAKE CHARGE INDY- Upset winner of the Florida Derby stole it on the front end while UNION RAGS was held in a blind switch lacking racing room. No apologies needed for TCI's win but RAGS appeared to have a lot more left at the wire. Pedigree certainly speaks the Derby distance but running style suggests he may need another CHARGE before the finish.

UNION RAGS- Just missed in last year's BC Juvenile and has to be in any winner discussion here. In the capable hands of Mike Matz, trainer of the sainted BARBARO. Looked to be the locked down fave until his stumble in the Florida Derby which can probably be blamed on pilot error. A clean Derby trip might well lead RAGS to RICHES.

DULLAHAN- Named for a headless creature in Irish mythology, DULLI took the heads off the competition in the Blue Grass with ease. Figures to love the route he will face this weekend but will probably be heavily played. Rider Kent Desormeaux certainly knows the way home. Only risk of a DULL effort would be track surface as he might be better on grass and synthetics. Serious player.

BODEMEISTER- August Belmont, Jr. was a mere 29 years of age the last time an unraced two-year-old won this race. In that 1882 contest, Apollo faced only 5 opponents and the odds on favorite, RUNNYMEADE, had no 3yo prep races while Apollo had 3. Impressive resume is crammed into very recent performance in head bob loss to CREATIVE CAUSE and devastating runaway in the Ark Derby. Named for his trainer's young son, BODE. Front-running style belies his router pedigree and Baffert-Smith partners a pair of Hall Of Famers as trainer-jock combo. That has to BODE well for this MEISTER.

ROUSING SERMON- That is exactly what this guy needs in Louisville as he tends to just hang around in his races. A certified deep closer that will probably be overlooked and should love the extra eighth of a mile. Just remember this race is run at CHURCH. If the speed collapses, you might find this SERMON on the Mount.

CREATIVE CAUSE- Was on this guy from the get-go and still can't believe he didn't get there in the B.C. Juvenile. Has been pointed to Louisville since on a carefully constructed schedule with no detours. Senior Cal conditioner Harrington is old schooler who seems to be bringing a full tank to Kentucky. CC is a relentless grinder with a pedigree that cries out for a mile and a quarter. See removal of blinkers as a plus. No need for top rider Rosario to be CREATIVE, he could be sitting on the CAUSE célèbre on Saturday.

TRINNIBERG- Name is apparently a play on the sire (Teufelsberg) and owner/trainer Parboo's country of origin (Trinidad). This is a very fast horse but is our candidate to finish last in this race. He has never raced beyond seven furlongs and is a last minute go for the Derby. Parboo will almost assuredly get to hear his horse's name in the lead for probably half the race. He should know better.

DADDY NOSE BEST- This is SCATDADDY baby number two and brings back-to-back Grade III (El Camino Real and Sunland Derby) stakes wins to Louisville. Have to respect trainer Asmussen but think this DADDY would be BEST placed in a lesser Derby than this one.

ALPHA- Hard to get past this purple pedigree. Dad, BERNARDINI (proud father of ZENYATTA's baby), is a boiling point young sire. Mom is by NIJINSKY II, a perennial top ten broodmare sire whose mares have all but disappeared from the current racing scene as he passed twenty years ago. Godolphin is owned by the monarch of Dubai, Al Maktoum, who has failed to rule in previous Derby tries. Colt was pummeled in the early stages of the Wood but still managed to pressure GEMOLOGIST late. If you are looking for beta in this year's Derby you could do worse than ALPHA and you will get a fair Sheikh on the odds.

PROSPECTIVE- Owner Oxley looking for second Derby winner (MONARCHOS '01) but although colt has solid Derby distance genes, Tampa Bay Derby winners do not normally leave competitors awestruck in Louisville and his sixth place finish in the Blue Grass does not inspire. Without a big step forward, looks more suspect than PROSPECT for this race.

WENT THE DAY WELL- Same connections and same major prep (Spiral Stakes) as last year's winner ANIMAL KINGDOM. Have to respect but hasn't faced the likes of this field. Distance not an issue from pedigree or running style aspect, but you may be sorry if you WENT to the Team Valor WELL too often.

HANSEN- Humbly named by his owner after himself, a Kentucky pain physician. Lasted in the BC Juvenile over RAGS and CREATIVE CAUSE. Looked to have the Blue Grass in his pocket 'til DULLAHAN blew by him. An obvious talent and sire, TAPIT, could stay but Mom's pedigree is pretty light. HANSY looks distance challenged at a mile and a quarter. The Doc may administer self-medication after this race.

GEMOLOGIST- No carat and stick needed for this jewel of a runner. He sports the only flawless record in the race with most recent win in the Wood Memorial, a hallowed stepping stone to Louisville. Son of one of our all-time faves, TIZNOW, is trained by the seemingly unbeatable Todd Pletcher. Also partial to the front end but doesn't need the lead. Definitely a cut above if you get the GIST of our comment.

EL PADRINO- His name is Spanish for Godfather and this well-bred Pletcherite made his bones at two. He was on a lot of short lists after his score in the final La. Derby Prep (Risen Star) at Fair Grounds. Then a lot of his underbosses went to the mattresses after his dull fourth in the Florida Derby. Not expected to sleep with the fishes as distance is no problem. Almost a cinch to be in the front half of the field at least and is our pick to be, literally, the wise guy horse.

DONE TALKING- Won the slowest Illinois Derby in a long time and although WAR EMBLEM did couple that race into roses (2002), if this guy did the same we would definitely be DONE TALKING.

SABERCAT- The other Asmussen-trained candidate was a distant third in the Ark Derby. His win in the Delta Jackpot gave him the winnings to be eligible which is a good reason to change the rules.

I'LL HAVE ANOTHER- And the connections very well might come sundown Saturday. Son of the very legit, FLOWER ALLEY; he has a star-studded female family that oozes Derby. Only blemish is a no-show in the Saratoga slop at 2 which is a distant memory after his game duke over CREATIVE CAUSE in the S.A. Derby. Trainer Doug O'Neill is a perennial leader on the California circuit and sticks with his previously obscure rider, Guttierrez. Dougie and team might be about to live Van Morrison's *Drinkin' Wine in the Alley*.

LIAISON- Baffert's second teamer has had nothing but trouble since his impressive winner in the G-1 Cash Call at the end of his 2 YO season. Remember Baffert's #2, REAL QUIET, took this event in '98 over his #1, INDIAN CHARLIE. Would normally dismiss a son of CHARLIE on distance here but gets stamina from his dam sire, Belmont winner VICTORY GALLOP. Another who could benefit from a speed collapse that could set the stage for a dangerous LIAISON.

OUR PICK-

As a group, this is surely the deepest in quality we have seen in some time making a difficult job nearly impossible. Can BODEMEISTER break the Apollo jinx? Can DULLIHAN transfer his grass and synthetic form to dirt? Can I'LL HAVE ANOTHER take another step forward? Can UNION RAGS and CREATIVE CAUSE reverse their last prep upsets? Can GEMOLOGIST remain undefeated? Those are a lot of cans and unlike those confronting our pals in D.C., these are not down the road kickable. So, we will strive to answer those questions herewith with a can-do spirit.

The second POTUS, John Adams, once said that "facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence". And, the economist, John Maynard Keynes, offered this response to an accusation of flip-flopping: "When the facts change, I change my

mind. What do you do, sir?" Well neither "Old Sink or Swim" nor his Lordship faced the awesome task that lies before us. Following ye shall find our best shot:

The facts, as we see them, have not altered a bit since we saw our pick win at first asking last July. He has never been worse than third nor has he been more than a length behind the winner on the four occasions in his eight starts when he failed to win. There was no disgrace in his S.A. Derby nose loss in his first race without blinkers.

While he may lack an electrifying turn of foot possessed by some rivals, he possesses crucial tactical speed and should be able to sustain his rally in the gut check stages of the mile and a quarter journey. His sire, GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, has achieved stardom on the track and at stud. His dam, DREAM OF SUMMER (by the much underrated SIBERIAN SUMMER) made her own pedigree with multiple Graded Stakes wins going short and long.

His trainer, Mike Harrington, is a fourth generation horseman and was a practicing veterinarian before commencing training on a full time full basis in the early nineties. Our pick's rider is Joel Rosario, who tops the list on the Southern California circuit.

We expect our pick to be no better than fifth choice in the betting. He is an easy to spot smoky-tinted grey with lots of scope and should settle somewhere between fourth and tenth in the early going. He should begin making steady progress beginning about the half-mile marker. If all goes well, we should make the lead a bit inside the eighth pole at which point we hope to hold off the deep closers.

In these uncertain political and economic times, we should all embrace a

CREATIVE CAUSE

LONGSHOT-

Our long shot play will be the beautifully bred ALPHA who is likely to be overlooked in spite of his game second in the Wood Memorial to GEMOLOGIST. The latter has an excellent shot as well but is likely to be the second choice.

OUR BET- We will bet CREATIVE to win and place and ALPHA win, place, and show. We will box them in exactas with GEMOLOGIST.

If that is not enough action, we will offer a trifecta box prop with the above 3 and UNION RAGS.

Need more? How about a superfecta \$.50 box with those four and our ultra mega longshot ROUSING SERMON.

**IF THIS ONE HITS THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF CREATIVE CAWS
FROM THE CROW'S NEST**