

# THOROFAN VOICE

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fans,

There's no escaping it, that feeling of winter coming on, and racing being pretty much over for another year. After the Breeders' Cup it always seems that way, but truly there are many interesting races coming up. The Melbourne Cup goes off on the first Tuesday in November, so vote early and find a place to watch some great racings from down under. Racing appeals to all classes in Australia and they make a huge celebration of the cultural mix. The Cup stops the entire nation. I want to see that part of the world so of course as a fan I would choose to make the trip to coincide with the Melbourne Cup. Mark Twain once said, "Nowhere in the world have I encountered a festival that has such a magnificent appeal to the whole nation. The Cup astonishes me."



*Great Racing  
from around  
the world*

Perhaps it's too much to expect for our busied population to focus on any kind of celebration, but I think we should at least try to do it in America's premier racing city, Saratoga. Every since I moved here, I felt it would be a superb idea for downtown shops to shut down for a couple of hours on the afternoon of the Travers Stakes. Let the restaurants stay open for not everyone would find room at the track. People not inclined to be in a crowd could relax in a pub or coffee shop, watch the race on television or avoid the whole affair by taking a walk in the park or having an early dinner before the crowd gets back to town. At least we would announce to the world that we honor our great racing tradition and support the industry. You don't have to have been born in a manger to celebrate racing! NYRA showed a bit of encouragement toward this sort of thing with the window decorating contest for this year's Woodward Stakes. My advice is carry on chaps—take it another step, make the quantum leap; embrace the oldest stakes in America all the way. Traditions, after all must have a beginning and 2009 could be the start of something fabulous.

I don't know of any marquee American horses running in the Melbourne Cup, but you can be sure there will be great horses competing for the biggest of national prizes. I encourage you to take an interest. After the Melbourne Cup comes the Japan Cup. Some American horses have been invited there; Tin Cup Chalice to name one. Next we go to Hong Kong for the Cathay Pacific International at Sha Tin. Bill Nader, formerly NYRA's head of media relations is the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. He made an all-out effort to get Curlin to travel, and though that idea seems doomed, there will be American representation. In my Breeders' Cup story you will find that Desert Code is considering the Turf Sprint and I've just read that Dutrow is going to go over with Kip Deville. Mig will travel to ride Desert Code and maybe he'll get the mount on Kip Deville too. He won Santa Anita's Sir Beaufort (G3) and the Frank E. Kilroe (G1) on him. Mig might own Cathay Pacific International like Mike Smith took over Ladies Day at the BC!

At home the Cigar Mile comes up soon, and two year-olds are coming out of the gates everywhere. Churchill carded Stars of Tomorrow on Saturday, a day devoted exclusively to two year-old races. This event draws the biggest crowd of the fall meet and the horsemen love it too. Hollywood Park and Aqueduct have several main events for emerging youngsters and as we know the big-name tracks do not hold an exclusive on developing the top runners. Get to the races and look for next year's Derby horses, and if you can't make it to the track, grab a friend and head to a simulcasting outlet or OTB.

Whet your appetite for the international events, one day ThoroFan will find ways to take you racing in those far-off places. Meanwhile, who wants to go to Aqueduct for the Cigar Mile?

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