

Mr. Howard ...

I can't imagine anyone on this planet I'd rather talk to than you. But you and I are in far-different camps. I have seen what you have written about me and heard what you've said about me and I don't believe accuracy is your forte. I may miss with a source every once in awhile but my batting average is pretty good when it comes to playing against the Big Lickers. (You wouldn't believe the Internet hits on my name every day ... horsemen around the world are watching you.)

What is absolutely inconceivable to me is how you, after building such a grand empire, would lose it all because the Big Lickers want to continue hurting horses. The number of people who are absolutely fed up with "the Shelbyville crowd" is incredible and I fear that until you wake up and smell the coffee, you and the Big Lickers are darn-well doomed. Just a matter of time.

Why lose it all for the likes of Jackie McConnell and Larry Joe Wheelon? I promise you, I am flabbergasted by your individual actions. You've got way too much sense than this!

You and I both know the Walking Horse world will be strengthened immeasurably by the PAST Act. People will continue to show horses, people will have more fun knowing the guy on the next nag ain't a Licker and when you bring validity and respectability back into the show ring, I can guarantee you that Calsonic Arena will not be able to hold the crowds.

It is all so very simple -- quit hurting horses.

Believe me on this ... your image right now is worse than Hitler's ... They are even calling you Herr Howard, for goodness sake. Are you proud of any of this? All you have to do is look at the losses of your show, your empty stalls at the show-grounds and a vivid hatred for the Big Lick to see the biggest change must come from within your organization. And I believe you have the power to do it!

If I were running your show I would spend every Purple Strategy penny to correct the slander that the Big Lickers have done to a magnificent animal. I would not only endorse the PAST Act but I would promote it as a real step towards ending soring in the last 50 years. I even heard that your daughter is now against the Big Lick. C'mon, every time you balk at the proposed reform it assures the public that you are indeed some deranged monster. I know; my emails confirm it and the only person who can change that perception is you.

You ought to welcome USDA inspectors, embrace the HSUS, and do side-by-side inspections where your folks would have higher standards than the USDA inspectors. You should run off the slime, insisting on "clean" judges and honesty among those who govern the TWHBEA and every other collection of silly initials horsemen the world over now despise.

I promise you -- your validity is taking a whipping. The press release from the Performance branch yesterday was ridiculous and while I have no idea what Phil Osborne is being paid, get him to send you clipping from newspapers TV outlets and web sites that used it; it's pure bunk and everybody knows it. Did you see the Al-Jazzera article? Good gosh

Mr. Howard, when this whole thing is over I would love to talk to you nose-to-nose but my main question will be why you allowed this to happen. Jackie McConnell ain't worth ruining a breed that once carried Civil War generals and true statesmen.

Trust me, my mailbox is overflowing and unless the infamous Steven B. can deliver the block in the Senate, I don't like your chances with the PAST Act. If Steven B. is successful, a new bill will be introduced within a month because the general public wants animal abuse stopped. Keep an eye on the Wheelon trial and carefully study the public reaction. You'll see what I mean.

Thanks for taking time to write to me.

Roy Exum