



TOO MUCH Stuff



By Libbie Johnson

I moved barns recently. I think I got evicted from my old barn for being too compulsive. The forks have to be hung just right or I go crazy. The brushes have to line up in the tote according to size first and then color. The water hose has to hang just a certain way, and no one knows what it is but me. You can understand why there might be some problems.

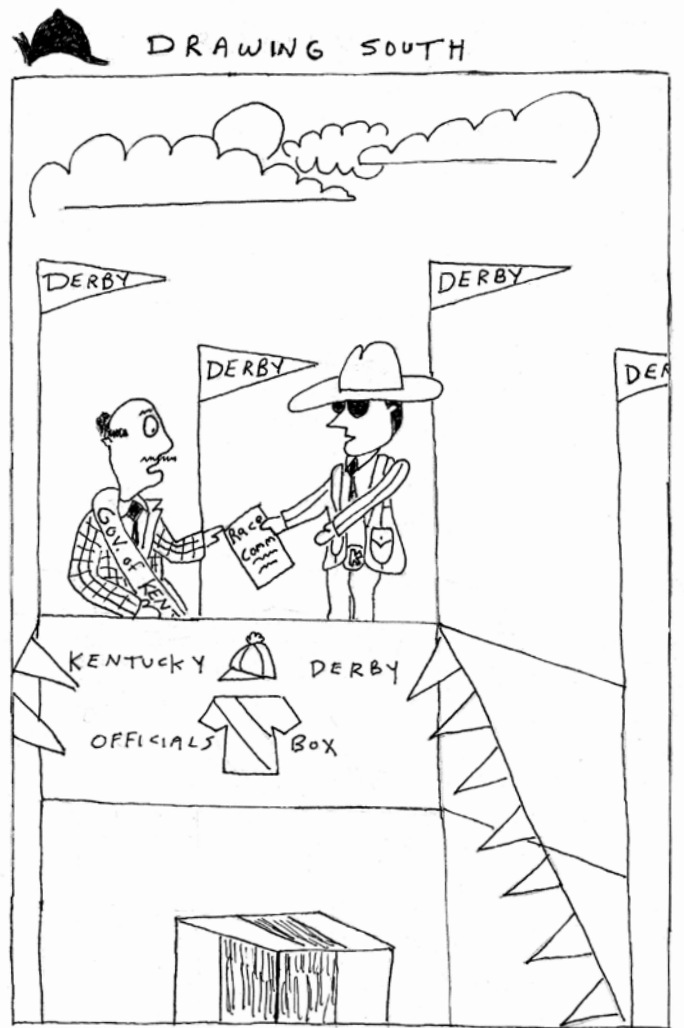
Anyway, my horses have new digs on the trail system now and I am thrilled. But in the actual moving process, which involved no less than 2 trucks and multiple trips in my old Tahoe, I had that Eureka! moment: I have too much stuff...for my horses. Granted I used to work in a tack shop, and all the newest of the new was just too tempting, but taking inventory of the sheer number of the same items I have is, well, embarrassing. And, the worst part is, I can't throw it out. When my kids grew up and finally left home, I had no qualms at all about ditching their stuff. I will admit that I am probably a terrible mother to human children (first tooth - gone! Homemade Christmas orna-



ments of papier mache - gone! Brownie badges - gone! Vacation Bible School crafts - gone!) but my four legged children

equipment, clothes and stuff that I no longer use and taken it to the consignment tack shop. I have everything cleaned first, I stroke it, I bid it farewell. And then, sooner or later, (and I admit, I do need help), I actually go back to the store, and BUY ALL MY STUFF BACK. Stuff, mind you, that I neither need nor use.

There's got to be a 12-step support group for this sickness. In the meantime, I'll just go buy another one of those Rubber-Maid storage trunks. Or maybe two.



I KNOW THE ECONOMY IS BAD BUT I JUST SAW BOB BAFFERT AND KANYE WEST DRINKING MINT JULEPS OUT OF A DIXIE CUP

**Do I need 24 fleece saddle pads that I never use?
Do I need to hang on to every bit I've ever bought?
I even kept an almost empty,
totally gross jar of ichtalmol. Yuk.**

are somehow different. Do I need 24 fleece saddle pads that I never use? Do I need to hang on to every bit I've ever bought? I even kept an almost empty, totally gross jar of ichtalmol. Yuk.

Some stuff I actually tossed, and then quickly went to the bottom of the garbage to retrieve. It's pathetic. I have, at certain intervals, with all good intentions, packed up all the tack,