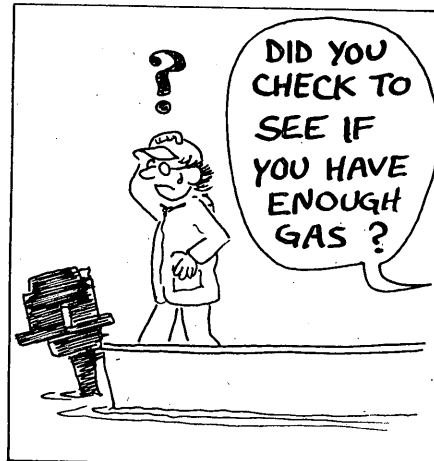
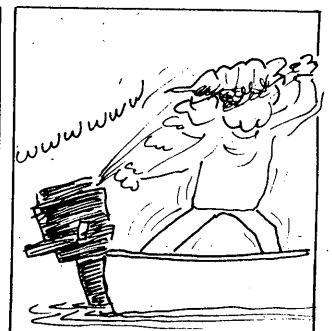
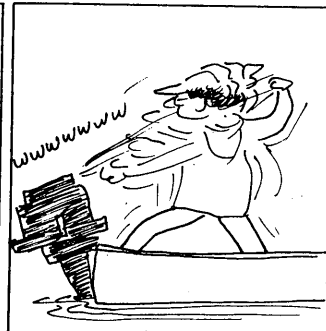
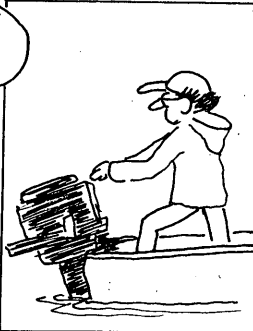




OARSMEN'S CORNER

Bruce Beall
60 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02138

In a moment of sheer insanity yours truly volunteered to take over *The Oarsman's* infamous "Corner." As I walked away I realized I had backed myself into a hole: hadn't we (your editor and former curator of the "Corner") just spent 15 minutes agreeing that people complained no matter what was written? Behind the scenes looks at National Team selection and lyrical prose received the same irate mail. People claimed it was just not fit to print.

To be truthful I was quite surprised. Isn't that the idea behind the people's voice in the first place? Don't we want to be able to hear the other side of the party line and make the decisions and changes based on both sides of the story? Shouldn't we have a place to air grievances if the Nationals are run with more thought towards the officials than the competitors? I think so.

What I think is required is the use of tact. If both sides (and I emphasize *both*) make suggestions rather than threats, then compromise is more likely to take place.

Yes, I'm arguing for diplomacy and I can hear certain factions screaming that the establishment must be bludgeoned to understand. I don't agree. We must take the emotion out of our problems and look at them objectively. That's the only way to find the solutions equitable to the majority. As human beings we tend to not see the other side, and look at the sport from the perspective of what we, as individuals, can get out of it. Our self-centered approach only brings out the worst in us and does very little positively for the sport.

Enough from the soap box.

So let's hear what's on your mind. I'll keep the editorializing out of this column and on the back page where it's supposed to be. We'll use this space for constructive suggestions as how to better our sport. There is a need to know what concerns the competitor — the good and the bad. Each has its place.

CORNER QUOTES:

... the easy way is efficacious and speedy — the hard way arduous and long. But as the clock ticks, the easy way becomes harder and the hard way becomes easier. And as the calendar records the years it becomes increasingly evident that the easy way rests hazardously upon shifting sands, whereas the hard way builds solidly a foundation of confidence that cannot be swept away.

— Anonymous

Exposed by my freshman coach many years ago, I have over the years not only cultivated an interest in but also an inventory of — quotes. It has always amazed me how many parallels can be drawn from other sports and professions to the sport of rowing. The pursuit of excellence has been expressed by many people in many ways. If any of you have favorites to share with fellow oarsmen send them in for publication, care of the "Corner." Posted on the bulletin board and read some morning when it's dark and cold outside might make the difference between getting in a good workout and just going through the motions.

Sometimes we just need to be reminded:

It was a thrill to return to Everest and camp on the snow in these glorious surroundings and know that this time we had the equipment and the men to really thrust towards the summit. I have never had a conviction of success in any challenging project — certainly not on a big unclimbed mountain. What's the point in starting if you always know you're going to succeed? I felt we would give Everest all we had — but there was no certainty of success — and that's the way I liked it.

— from *Nothing Ventured, Nothin Won* by Sir Edmund Hillary

By the way, I consider this a temporary appointment. As I personally phase myself into coaching and out of active competition, I feel that my views will be somewhat clouded and, after all, this is "The Oarsmen's Corner," not "The Coaches'." Interested applicants should contact Peter Raymond. 

SCHOENBROD

We specialize exclusively in the design and construction of fiber re-enforced

RACING EIGHTS & FOURS

Schoenbrod Racing Shells, Ltd., 596 Elm Street,
Biddeford, Maine 04005 • Tel. (207) 283-3026