Dear SouthEnders:

Just a few years ago, a disastrous fire almost wiped out the South End Rowing Club. But, with a great amount of work, sweat, and wonderful member-support, we turned adversity into opportunity. The result — a better, bigger, stronger, and more active club.

Again, just one month ago, on October 1st, a near-disaster hit us again. An accident on our pier rendered our pier and boat-launching facilities inoperable. Once again, your board of Directors is turning near-disaster into opportunity and improvement.

Many members, including past Officers, were called into consultation and planning. We met with many contractors, experienced in waterfront construction and repair. As a result, we have let out a contract to the Duncanson-Harrelson Company for the repair and improvement of our pier and apron.

Repairs and improvements will include; many new pilings, stringers, overhead beams, new apron, reconditioned cables and pulleys, adjusted counterweights, and a reconditioned winch. Of great interest to oarsmen, will be an overhead trolley system for launching and retrieving boats.

All of this takes money — immediate money. And, here again is where those great, loyal, big-hearted South Enders came to our rescue. Fifteen members, each putting up $500.00, made a loan to our Club for these repairs and improvements. Now I would like to name each one in this letter — but these men are so modest, they just want to help their Club.

Naturally, this money must be re-paid, in annual installments, over a four-year period. The funds for re-payment must come from the membership at large.

Your Board of Directors does not favor an assessment upon our members. Instead, we have determined the following arrangement to the least-painful, and most-equitable;

1. Effective January 1, 1973, increase the quarterly dues from $20.00 to $22.00. (An increase of 67% per month.)

2. For life members, increase the annual fee from $29.00 to $32.00. (A comparable percentage increase of 10%.)

These modest increases will fully amortize our total cost over the four-year period.

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding during our period of disablement and re-construction. We know you will be pleased with our new facilities.

But, most of all, to our great benefactors and helpers, thank you. You are great.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Chuck Walker, President
South End Rowing Club