MR. Stephen S. Trachtenberg, July 20, 2000
President, George Washington Univ.
Wash, DC 20052

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
2000 JUL 25 P 1:00

Dear MR. Trachtenberg

Last week there was beer can bowling in the hallway of my Foggy Bottom apartment building. I mention this as just one example of the many disturbances common to area rental properties. The unfortunate truth is that, as a group, students are not good neighbors.

G.W.U. apparently has neither the will nor the ability to control the behavior of its off campus student population. Your use of campus security to patrol Columbia Plaza has not worked. Any C.P. resident will tell you that nothing improved during that time. The idea of putting R.A.s on every floor (thus creating more of a dormitory feel) may sound good, but there is a limit to their authority on private, non university property.

The only remedy is to limit the number of students in the area. In the 20 years I've been here, the off campus student population has exploded. This, even in years when G.W.U. has insisted its numbers are down. At one point the University used a convoluted statistical formula to say that more, was less. It is that kind of thing that has lead most permanent F.B. residents to believe that G.W.U. will not honestly or voluntarily keep its growth in check. It is

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 179

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.179

also why so many of us are so vocal about our distrust of the University.

When we complain and stand up for our quality of life, you assert that we are blindly and rabidly anti-development. This is an awfully convenient way of discounting and avoiding the problem. That argument allows you to ignore the fact that because of G.W.'s constant expansion, the character of this community has suffered. Life in Foggy Bottom is becoming increasingly unpleasant for those of us who are not students (and frankly, many who are).

G.W. used to be a component of this area that fit comfortably and added vibrancy to the neighborhood. It's now a destabilizing force whose ultimate goal seems to be just growth.

While I'm sure that you personally have no malice towards our neighborhood, it appears that institutionally you view its destruction as the incidental and mildly unfortunate price of G.W.U.'s "progress." This whole area will lose if growth is unlimited.

Sincerely,

Donald Ramsey

Donald Ramsey
2301 "E" st NW
Wash. DC 20037

cc: Office of Planning;
Board of Zoning; Mayors office
F.B. News, Dorothy Miller
Jack Evans