I have been a resident of Burleith for the last two years and would like to state that I am very concerned about and opposed to GU's plans to increase student enrollment, particularly when they have no plan for where to house the new students, and when they have been ineffective in handling the problems we've had with students in the past.

Depending on what kind of students end up in the group houses that switch out every year and every summer, we can have either a relatively peaceful term or a nightmare term. Nightmare terms involve the almost weekly occurrence of very loud parties and roaming student groups until very late hours of the night; trash on the lawns following the parties, broken beer bottles, cans, litter, etc.; driving mopeds and moving trucks onto front lawns; drunken "peeling out" style of driving during and after the parties; drunks passed out on the lawn on some occasions and arrogant/obnoxious behavior from students when asking them to quite down. On the occasions when I have tried to speak to students, they have been too drunk to take me seriously and too unconcerned to pay any attention to me. It creates a lot of frustration and anger and often ruins our weekends.

The process of trying to contain the problem is totally inadequate. To get out of bed between midnight and 4am to try to find the source of the noise so that we can report it to the GU office of Student Conduct or the police is not the way I would like to spend my weekends. Furthermore, it is impossible to track down the "roamers" - loud groups of noisy, shrieking, hooting students - in time to quiet them down. The GU "Hotline" is rarely effective and only works on weekends, during term. It can take up to a couple hours to close down a party which can involve involve dumping between 50 - 100 drunk people onto the streets and alleys - not a pretty sight. It is also usually accomplished by the police and I believe they have better things to do than babysit Georgetown Students.

There is no satisfactory process for serious action to get rid of students in problem houses. The GU Office of Student Conduct can supposedly put students on some kind of probation, but this is after three police fines - a drain on public resources. And, by the time a student house might be on probation, the whole year has passed and we are left with the prospect of a new house full of new unknowns. Whether or not we can enjoy living in our house in each given year, is up to the luck of the draw.

My last point regards timing and turnover. Most students stay in the neighborhood 1- 2 years. By the time a student might be disciplined, he will probably be graduating. While some students are perfectly fine neighbors, the ones that are not, clearly have no interest or incentive in being considerate neighbors since they will be living there only a short time. This contributes to the problem and renders ineffective the very slow GU process for dealing with the problem.

The response to complaints about a house, at minimum must be swift, effective and decisive. There must be a system in place that can get problem students out of a house within one month. No matter how excellent its academic standing, GU is still responsible for keeping its students under control. Until that can be done effectively, in the eyes of the neighbors who have to live with this problem, there is no way that GU should be allowed to consider increasing its enrollment.

BZA
Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 143

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16566
EXHIBIT NO.143

and 39th Street are easily 50 percent Maryland and Virginia license plates. An educated guess is that they are neither Burleith nor ~~Foxhall~~ residents or visitors.

The use of T Street as a shortcut has turned our neighborhood into a thoroughfare. We are plagued by minivans and SUVs on a small residential street. Many drivers seem to hold little regard for the speed limit nor completing a full stop at a stop sign. My parents visited us from out-of-town this past weekend and my father remarked upon the porpoise effect at the four-way stop sign in front of our house. He was referring to the abrupt breaking (not necessarily a full stop) of a car and/or the sudden acceleration of a car at the stop sign which produces a buckling up or down motion, similar to that of a porpoise in the water. Obviously speed is also an issue.

I quite frankly fear for the safety of my soon to be born daughter due to the traffic in front of our home. I am not sure at what age she will ever be safe to cross the street as I myself find it unpleasant to cross 37th Street as most drivers are in a rush and are reluctant to wait at the stop sign for a pedestrian to cross in front of them.

My position is that of being totally and completely opposed to making any change to the Georgetown Hospital entrance. As drivers in Washington **all of us** seek the fastest route and my neighborhood presents such an opportunity if the hospital entrance is changed to align with a Burleith street. Despite what is contained in the University plan, it is highly illogical and quite improbable that Georgetown Hospital visitors and staff will not take advantage of Burleith as a shortcut and further exacerbate our traffic problem.

Thank you so very much.

Holly Fluty Dempsey

Holly Fluty Dempsey
3700 T Street, N.W.
18 July 2000