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Washington, DC 20037

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November 27, 2002

Case No. 02-26
Exhibit No. 35

Dear Ms. Kress,

Re Foggy Bottom residents having access to the GWU Health and Wellness Center, I support this proposal 100%!

Re the extended hours, I am very much in favor of students, staff, faculty, and all residents in the community being given as wide a choice as possible.

My friends and neighbors at St. Mary's Court rarely mention hearing students on their way to and from the campus. In fact, we enjoy meeting and talking with young people!

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-26
EXHIBIT NO.35

Making the Health and Wellness Center available until 1:00 a.m. most likely will be a positive alternative for all of us. Those who tend to be couch potatoes in the evening will have no excuse when exercise opportunities await just around the corner. And students may be less likely to drift into "keg" parties once they find better diversions to enjoy.

I especially look forward to the pleasure of interacting with a variety of neighbors, young and old -

Sincerely,

Joan C. Roberson
Editor, The Foghorn

THE FOGHORN

2002 Fall Issue Vol. 1, No. 3

The Foghorn salutes the citizen-patriots who gathered by the thousands at the Vietnam War Memorial last Saturday to protest the "Shoot First" policy of the Bush White House. We regret the political expediency reflected recently in Congress as they rolled over -- disregarding their constituencies' clear preference for a rational approach to the complex problems facing the world. We can only pray that the moral strength of Senator Paul Wellstone will provide a posthumous beacon for those who are having second thoughts about the price of aggression.

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Senator Paul Wellstone's sudden death leaves many of us wondering how to find meaning in the loss of this man of strength and courage, and of his wife, daughter, aides and flight crew. No words can appropriately express condolences to all the families affected by this tragedy. The memory of the honorable life he led will, we hope, be of some comfort to all who mourn.

Booknotes

"The Creative Age – Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life" deserves a much longer review than is possible here. The author, Gene D. Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., is Director of the Center on Aging, Health & Humanities at GWU. He began his career in gerontology in 1971 when, as a resident-in-psychiatry at Georgetown U., he had to fulfill a requirement in "community consultation."

He recalls: "I found the public housing high-rise that needed me, but can admit now that at the time, I hesitated to enter the building, myself affected than by negative stereotypes about aging ... ." To his surprise, Dr. Cohen found: "Instead of what others warned would be the most depressing patients, these elderly women and men proved to be among the most alert, attentive, and responsive – a satisfying kind of patient for a doctor who cares. ... As a result of my motivation and their surprising responsiveness, I fell in love: with the people, with the work, and with the potential I saw to make a difference. I was hooked."

In a later issue we will talk about Chapter 9. Its opening sentence we found intriguing:
"The quest to cheat time - extend life and enhance our bodies, our brains, and our sex lives - has been the driver of fortune as well as folly throughout history and in every culture."

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Advent Retreat

Rev. Andrew L. Sloan, Rector of St. Paul's Church (K St.) will direct a Silent Retreat, December 6-8, at the College of Preachers on the grounds of the National Cathedral. To participate in this rare spiritual experience, contact Bruce Johnson at 301.935.5382. (Or call "The Foghorn.")

Belated Welcome Back to GWU Students

While the quiet of the campus in summer offers a breather to the neighborhood, we welcome the return of that special energy–on all levels--that the students provide. (Have others noticed that the noise level seems to be lower, even on weekends?)
If there is anything we can do to lessen the stress of mid-terms, let us know. Try this timely presidential humor: "A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car, but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad." – Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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Beyond the Fringe of Foggy Bottom

Grace Church at 1041 Wisconsin Ave. (just below M St.) held its annual fund-raiser, "Taste of Georgetown" in early October. With the weather cooperating and more than 20 restaurants participating, the event was very well-attended and, as always, the profits were donated to the Georgetown Ministry Center (GMC). The GMC dedicates its time and energy to rehabilitating the homeless, doing what needs to be done, for as long as it takes, to return men and women to independent living. Call 338-8301 for more information.

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TGIF at Grace Church presents a weekly program on Fridays at 12:30 with a roster of exceptional speakers covering a wide spectrum of opinion. Bring your lunch. Refreshments are provided. Rector David Bird alerts one and all at 1:15 that the lunch hour may be ending for some. Others are welcome to stay for discussion with the speaker. Contact: Helen Buhr at 333-7100.
Grace Church is easily reached by public transportation, including the Georgetown Metro Connector (the "Blue Bus" ... see item below).

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Georgetown Metro Connector (the "Blue Bus") operates two routes that intersect at Wisconsin Ave. & M St. -- one between Rosslyn Metro and Dupont Circle; the other between Foggy Bottom Metro and Wisconsin Ave. & R St. The fare is .50 for adults (.25 with a Metro transfer). Senior citizens ride for .25. Buses are on a ten-minute schedule (traffic permitting). Call 645-RIDE.

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Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (ABCD)

A list of all the people in the neighborhood and beyond who take the time to go the extra mile will be given more space in our next issue ("Thanksgiving"). Here are a few:

The Allen Lee Hotel displays a charming garden that brightens its corner at 2224 F Street. Another landscaping success is in front of Potomac Terrace at 730 - 24th St. Neighbors across the street, as well as passersby, appreciate this cheerful pick-up every day.

KUDOS

Desmond Abban, Housing Operations Director at St. Mary's Court, has come to the technical rescue of The Foghorn on numerous occasions. Even on a busy Friday afternoon, Desmond came through. Whatta guy!

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Also at St. Mary's Court, two veteran employees of Sodexho (Food Service) have earned the gratitude of the residents and staff. Frances Ball (20 years) and Pearl Mallory (15 years) perform with dedication and humor, no matter what provocations come their way. And when the spirit moves her, Pearl even performs on the piano. Brava!

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At the Kennedy Center, audiences are well cared for by the usher corps. A professional group, they clearly take pride in their mission. Jacqueline Lenchak, in her 15th year, is one among the many who treat patrons with courtesy and respect. .

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Linda Harper, an Urgent Care nurse at Medical Faculty Associates (GWU), nimbly makes her way through the MFA obstacle course, serving patients with efficiency and good humor. (The latter is especially necessary, given the maddening wait-time that patients experience as they try to get through to a human being.) Nurse Harper has earned a medal for valor -- and deserves a raise.

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Secretary of HUD, Mel Martinez, earns praise for leadership: his staff knows that their first priority is to serve the public! AndHUD's e-mail system must be state-of-the-art. An inquiry sent Sunday night was answered--personally--before noon the following morning. Thank you, Robert Sacchi, for your courtesy and promptness.

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At the CVS (19th & E St.), Pharmacy Assistant, Dolores, saved the day. When a customer's wallet temporarily vanished, Dolores offered to cover the cost of the medicine until said customer could return home for a cash infusion.

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HUMOR BREAK (FROM CYBERSPACE)

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to show up.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

I don't jog, it makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

HEALTH & HA. . .NESS

All seriousness aside, walking for an hour a day does wonders for the soul and body. We find the Crescent Trail a perfect place to escape from city noises. A young heron is the only wildlife that's made itself known -- if you don't count cyclists (most of whom give fair warning before passing).

WINDS OF CHANGE

Residents at St. Mary's Court (SMC) will be learning about HUD's Revised 202 Lease soon. Para. 16 (on p. 20) states:

"The TENANT is permitted to keep common household pets in his/her dwelling unit."

Sadly, this news offers little comfort to those who were told they had to leave beloved pets behind when they came to SMC, even though experts have long urged pet-ownership for the elderly. Until nowHUD looked the other way when Management refused to follow this recommendation.

Personally, we have a yen for a pot-bellied pig, but some legal eagle will have to broadly define "common household pets." (Counselor Matthew, come out, come out, wherever you are ....)

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SOUND OFF QUERIES

Who remembers this elegant statement: "The economy is poised to resume a pattern of significant growth." (Congr. Hearing in July 2002)

Was Alan Greenspan counting on major expansion of the munitions industry, perhaps?

Who knows more about Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people: Ramsey Clark, who has met with the leader and who visits in hospitals and homes annually or George XLIII and his advisers, who have never bothered to inform themselves about a country that they plan to destroy ... in order to save it?

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Editor's God-Talk

"God, Who is our absolute future, is the incomprehensible mystery." – Karl Rahner

"Because our spiritual journey is not a theological exercise, it does not reward us with increasing clarity. Rather it submerges us ever more deeply in mystery. ... Our future, however, is not in knowing. It is not *in* God or *about* God. Our future is an incomprehensible mystery. It is God."

"Raw Faith" by John Kirvan

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