Rachel L. Stewart
5914 N. Washington Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22205

May 14, 2003

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 MAY 15 PM 3:27

Director, Office of Zoning
Room 2108
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Georgetown University proposal re Boat House to be constructed

Dear Sir/Madam:

Although I am not a resident of the District of Columbia, I have a lively and long-standing interest in the Potomac River and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historic Park. So I am opposed to new construction on parkland - and particularly to what would appear from the drawings on the Georgetown University website to be an oversized structure.

The C&O Canal Park at its Georgetown terminus is very popular with walkers, joggers, cyclists, and nature lovers generally. Rare is the urban area with such access to undeveloped land and with unimpeded views across the Potomac River. I have walked that area many times and enjoyed watching the foliage change with the seasons, watching just hatched goslings grow, and just this past January observed a beaver sunning itself below the Capital Crescent trail–perhaps the location of this proposal..

I'm also concerned that the proposed change of zoning might violate the general public's rights to commerce and navigation and fishery in the Potomac River banks. The rights measure 60 feet out from the bulkhead line established by the Chief of Engineering in June 1939 and are shown on a topographical survey dated May 1982. I believe it was those rights that prohibited the developers of Washington Harbour complex from establishing private boat slips. As you no doubt know, the Washington Harbour complex now has public boat access and a public boardwalk.

Forty years ago, citizens fought successfully to keep the proposed Three Sisters Bridge project from despoiling the Potomac River and its viewshed. I hope the citizens are equally successful again in opposing construction of the Georgetown University Boat House.

Respectfully yours,

Rachel L. Stewart

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 136

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.136