Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
Suite 210
441 4th St. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20001

2003 MAY 29 PM 4:12
D.C. ZONING COMMISSION

Re: Georgetown University Boathouse
"boathouse" definition

5/23/03

Dear Commission:

I am writing to you to strongly protest the inclusion of the term "rowing tank" in the definition of a boathouse. I referred to the Oxford American Dictionary which included the term "boathouse" in its edition. They defined boathouse as "a shed at the edge of the water for housing boats." Georgetown University is planning on something a bit larger that a Shed but nonetheless the definition should serve you well for what is usually included in a boathouse.

This is the difference between what is wanted verses what is needed. I personally have been to the majority of the boathouses along the east coast and the vast majority DO NOT include a rowing tank. Additionally, Georgetown's claim that a tank is used for teaching is true, however it is also true that they use the stationary rowers for teaching as well as using video taping of training from the "on water work outs" for teaching.

Additionally, it seems beyond the realm of logic that a building of this size will have no parking spaces. The Georgetown University has stated that it will not allow parking at the building however there is no codicil that restricts their parking, therefore if granted approval for the building they will ultimately be allowed to guide themselves in the use of vehicular traffic. Has Georgetown really proven to this Commission that they are able to do what is in the best interests of the community?

Lastly, the commission must realize that this boathouse is the first of many planned new buildings along the Washington waterfront and what is decided by this commission will have a far ranging impact toward the design of future boathouses. There is no NEED for a rowing tank to be included in the design of a boathouse on the river. If Georgetown has the money and desire to include a tank in their training program then they can put one up on their campus where it will be out of the flood plain and allow this planned boathouse to be scaled back to an appropriate size.

Thank you

James Ross

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 229

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.229