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Carol Mitten, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington DC 20001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 DEC 23 PM 3:28

Ref. Case No. 02-30

Dear Sir,

I, and many of my friends, Georgetown neighbors and colleagues, are disturbed and distressed to learn of the details of the proposal of Georgetown University to occupy a large tract of land just upriver from the Washington Canoe Club in Georgetown, an historic building that dates back to the early 20th century, devoted to paddled boats, canoes and kayaks.

We understand the following:

1. The proposed structure is planned to be some twice as tall as any neighboring structure, and tall enough to block any view of the river from the Capital Crescent Trail as well as the C&O Canal, much used walking and biking paths. In addition, no other boating facility, indeed no other structure upriver from the Watergate is so tall, large and obtrusive.

2. Plans include a dock that that will encroach over 50 feet into the river and block a portion of the paddlers' race course in use for decades. This could drive the paddlers of small boats onto the other side of the river among powerboats and the much larger rowing shells.

3. The blue herons, seen more often only recently, and the turtles and cormorants will certainly be displaced.

4. Public parkland, especially along this part of the river, is extremely valuable to the citizenry and one questions the wisdom, if not the legality, of putting it at the disposal of a private organization for its private use, especially when such organization is affluent enough to acquire land in many other places.

We urge you to give the utmost weight to our objections and concerns in the upcoming meeting of the Commission and to reject the proposal.

Sincerely,

Tenley M. Jones

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 27

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.27