Gilbert Gude
5411 Duvall Drive
Bethesda, MD
20816

Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

June 18, 2003

Dear Commissioners

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is a unique recreational treasure where the weary urban citizen steps from the dusty inner-city streets of Georgetown, onto the towpath and hikes into the near wilderness—185 miles without a stop sign or a traffic light!

Only with compelling reason –say public safety—should the narrow, carefully drawn C&O Canal boundaries of public land be impinged upon. The reasons set forth for the location and dimensions of the proposed University boathouse are far from compelling. The proposed boathouse not only has a peaked roof and a bulky, ugly warehouse scale but for all the C&O hikers and bikers on the last leg of their journey into the city the building would blot out the monumental sweeping view of Key Bridge, its beautiful arches, and the grand vista of the Potomac estuary.

A more appropriate site for the boathouse is the river's urban section already set aside for aquatic activities: between Key Bridge and 34th Street.

Our National Parks encompass our precious, national treasures and should not be given perfunctory, cavalier treatment.

Gilbert Gude

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case No. 02-30
EXHIBIT NO. 339