



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20057

VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN
OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

April 28, 1983

TO: All Georgetown University Students and Citizens Living
in Burleith

The Dean's Office and the Burleith Citizens Association are appealing to you to help decrease noise levels in the Burleith community. Spring at last is upon us, and from now through October noise will be a neighborhood concern. Severe noise problems are being caused by loud stereos and by loud parties, often ending at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. or when police break them up. The Georgetown Office of Student Affairs has received many complaints.

We are appealing to all households in Burleith to help solve this problem. As many as 16 households in a square block can be kept awake by a loud party. Large, late parties which take place out-of-doors can and have proved troublesome. According to the law of the District, there is a 55-decibel limit for sound at the property line after 9:00 p.m., weekends included. This is the equivalent of the volume of normal conversation. Please try therefore to keep stereo sound inside. Ask your guests not to shout. If you are planning a party, you might also consider circulating a notice to neighbors who might be affected, leaving your name and phone number and inviting them to call you if they are being disturbed. This has worked very well recently and has the practical virtue of avoiding a call to the police because of a misunderstanding.

For their part, Burleith residents are encouraged to become better acquainted with local renters and to recognize that some student renters will want to entertain their friends on occasion, especially during University events, such as Georgetown's Spring Weekend (April 29-May 1), Senior Week (May 20-27), Graduation weekend (May 27-79), and Homecoming weekend in October.

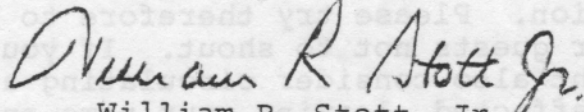
Daytime noise levels are also a problem, especially for students and professionals who work at home, homebound elderly or disabled residents, and mothers with small children. Daytime legal limits are only slightly higher: 60 decibels at the property line. This is not a level that would disturb most people if the sound is kept indoors.

The Burleith Noise Committee has been pursuing various approaches to this problem. Specific actions taken to date include news items in the Burleith newsletter, contacting and eliciting support of owners and real estate agents managing Burleith rentals, establishing liaison with the Second District Police Department, drafting noise provisions for tenant leases, meeting with tenants of selected houses, and contacting a number of concerned neighbors.

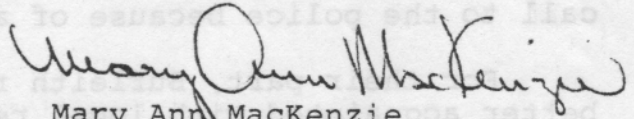
The best cure, however, is prevention; and this avoids police, realtor and legal actions. Prevention is based on communication with each other. Burleith is a diverse neighborhood. Students are a major part of the Burleith scene and community. Instances of productive cooperation already exist. For example, residents look out for one another with Neighborhood Watch. Last year, students responded quickly to a woman's scream in the early morning hours on R Street, and a serious crime was prevented. The June Burleith picnic and fall Flea Market are enjoyed by all. We feel that through mutual cooperation and a clearer understanding of our often divergent interests we can all make Burleith a better place for everyone without inhibiting any resident's enjoyment of this pleasant community.

Your help is appreciated.

Sincerely,



William R. Stott, Jr.
Vice President and Dean
of Student Affairs



Mary Ann MacKenzie
President, Burleith Citizens
Association