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Temps
Harriet. doe

Letter to the Editor, Times Union

For the last decade, the University at Albany has engaged in a massive building campaign on the Uptown Campus. It has clear-cut hundreds of acres, which nurtured thousands of trees and a great diversity of wildlife. It has changed from a campus with significant stretches of mature woods to a campus where most of the land has been converted to parking lots, dormitories and the School of Nanoscience. The damage to the local environment has been severe. Mature trees have been lost and there has been a significant rise in the water table in the area. 307

Now the University has its eye on land outside its current perimeter--a beautiful, forested 9-acre piece of residential property in the hamlet of McKownville. Should the University obtain this land, it would change the character of the neighborhood, add significantly to the environmental damage already done by the University, and create serious animosity at its doorstep.

There are 1000 homes in McKownville. Its residents place great value on the quality of life here. It is an ideal neighborhood.—something rare today. An intrusion into it by the University would destroy a neighborhood that existed long before the Uptown campus was built. Many universities spend significant sums to protect their campuses from the neighborhoods bordering them. The University at Albany has the good fortune of being surrounded by a beautiful residential area and peaceful neighbors who respect and care for their property.

The building of the Uptown campus came with the University's assurance that it would respect the boundaries of its surrounding neighborhoods. It should make good on that pledge.

McKownville was here before the State constructed the Thruway and the Northway, before it leveled and clear-cut a golf course to build the University, before Nanotech ran its stormwater into McKownville, before the University ran its sanitary sewage through McKownville pipes into Guilderland's pumping station and even before it removed a lake

This neighborhood has worked hard to maintain its residential quality—we deserve a little more protection by the State, not the loss of a beautiful piece of forested residential land.

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