

September 29, 2009

## **"America's Best Idea" Message Linked to Boathouse Issue**

The acclaimed television miniseries, ["The National Parks: America's Best Idea,"](#) by noted filmmaker Ken Burns, presents a compelling documentary of the long and often intense struggles that have been required to create and preserve many of the nation's most outstanding natural and historical treasures. Burns' theme is clearly relevant to the efforts of supporters of the C&O Canal National Historical Park to prevent the establishment of a massive private boathouse within the park's borders. In a September 29, 2009, letter to Dr. John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University, the Defenders pointed out this linkage:

Dear President DeGioia:

We hope you have time this week to see the new Ken Burns miniseries "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," September 27-October 2, 8-10 p.m. on WETA TV 26, and WETA HD.

The six-part film celebrates the beauty of our national parks, and the vision, passion and foresight of the people who devoted themselves in decades-long crusades to the protection of special places for the enjoyment of everyone.

The series also provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the history of our national parks, and the challenge that lies ahead to ensure the continued protection of their land. Given GU's proximity to the C&O Canal National Historical Park (one of the crown jewels of the national park system), and the frequent use of the park by students and faculty for recreation and reflection, you can certainly appreciate the importance of preserving such a treasure.

We hope that you will join our efforts to protect from development the C&O Canal National Historical Park in your back yard, and that you will find a location outside of the borders of the Park to build a boathouse for your rowing teams.

Sincerely,

Sally C. Strain  
DC Coordinator, Defenders of Potomac River Parkland