

UAlbany would hurt McKownville

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 that 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 College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering.

The damage to the local environment has been severe. The loss of mature trees has caused a significant rise in the water table resulting in extensive flooding in the basements of UAlbany's neighbors.

Now UAlbany has its eye on a beautiful, forested 9-acre residential property in McKownville. Should the university obtain this land, it

would change the character of the neighborhood, add to the environmental damage and create serious animosity.

There are 1,000 homes in McKownville. Residents place great value on the quality of life here and have worked hard as a community to maintain it.

McKownville was here before the state constructed the Thruway and the Northway, before it clear cut a golf course to build the campus and before UAlbany ran its sanitary sewage through McKownville pipes into Guilderland's pumping station.

The building of the up-town campus came with the university's assurance that it would respect the boundaries of its surrounding neighborhoods. It should make good on that pledge. If UAlbany needs to expand, it should use the adjacent, underutilized Harriman State Office Campus.

HARRIET TEMPS

McKownville