State College gears up for another year of activity

Town prepares for HUB shooting trial, demolition of fraternity house, diverter controversy and new library.

By DARREN ROBERTSON Collegian Staff Writer

Just as University students are gearing up for another semester of classes, the State College Borough is gearing up for the students.

With all the excitement on the University campus a new school year brings, it is easy to overlook the events and issues on the "other side" of College Avenue.

events and changes to the State protests, have taken effect. College area.

University students will be the trial of the alleged HUB lawn shooter Jillian Robbins.

More than a year after the shoot-

ber, said an official in the Centre County District Court Administrator's office.

Robbins has been charged with first- and third-degree murder, and multiple counts of attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar said he will seek the death penalty.

Robbins now awaits her trial in Clinton County Prison.

Other issues, such as last spring's borough housing ordinance dispute, have subsided, said secretaries in the borough council and planning offices.

New zoning ordinances, passed Fall '97 will bring a number of last spring in the face of student

The ordinances place restric-Certain to catch the attention of tions on homeowners who wish to convert their properties to student housing

In the wake of the housing dispute, few significant zoning

ing, jury selection for Robbins's changes are expected in the comtrial is expected to begin in Octo- ing months, said Rochelle Paletta, borough planner.

She said the planning commission is looking into some zoning problems in the Highlands neighborhood, which is the area between University Drive and South Atherton Street, from the downtown to Westerly Parkway.

However, these problems do not relate to student housing.

Some scenery changes will be evident in State College, especially downtown, during the next few months, Paletta said.

He said the recently vacated yet found committed business ten-Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity house at 329 E. Beaver Ave. will soon be demolished, adding that developer A.W. & Sons plans to build an apartment complex on the property.

The new building will house 24 two-bedroom units, with retail storefronts on the first floor of the

However, the developer has not

"We'll have most of the usual problems, alcohol-related and students learning how to be good neighbors again, I suppose."

> — Lt. Diane Conrad **State College Police** Department

ants so it has not announced what kind of businesses would occupy the structure, Paletta said.

Another major change in the downtown scenery will be a new library for the Centre Region.

The Centre Region Council of Governments recently backed plans to relocate the Schlow Memorial Library to a newer, larger facility.

The library has outgrown the building at 100 E. Beaver Ave., which was built in 1924.

A study conducted recently by the library's planning commission suggested a new site at Foster and Allen Streets, one block from the library's current location, said Betsy Allen, library director.

Some municipalities in Centre County have expressed concern about the location, and want further assurance that the new library will serve their residents as well.

"I think we are a long way still from a new building," Allen said. "We are in the process, though."

Something else will be happening for the first time ever in State College this weekend when two historic houses are moved from their current locations on the 200 block of South Atherton Street by Habitat for Humanity.

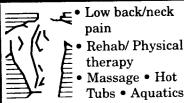
The homes will be renovated for families with housing needs, Paletta said. The homes will be relocat-Please see ACTIVITY, Page 30.



Collegian File Photo

Jillan Robbins accused HUB Lawn shooter



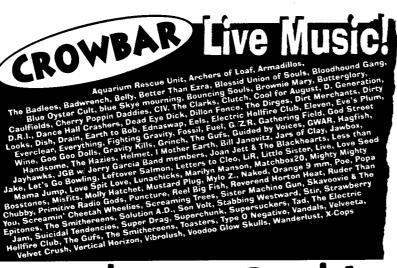


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Brad Young, left, and Michael Signora covered football and men's basketball at the Collegian. Now they both work in New York City — Brad at Sports Illustrated and Michael at the NFL.

What's the best part of working for the Collegian? That's like trying to pick a favorite Rockette.

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> 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 or 3-4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5

All tryouts will be at the Collegian office. 123 S. Burrowes St. (see man below)

If you have questions about the tryouts, call News Adviser Kyle Heim at 865-1828. If you are interested in being a columnist or editorial cartoonist, watch for announcements on the Opinions page. If you are interested in applying for the photography or graphics staffs, watch for upcoming ads.

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