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8th case of meningitis at Princeton

By Mike Davis
STAFF WRITER

PRINCETON — Another Princeton University student was diagnosed with type B meningitis yesterday, the school's eighth case this year.

According to an e-mail bulletin from Princeton's vice president, Cynthia Cherrey, a student developed symptoms of meningitis on Wednesday night and was hospitalized Thursday.

"A Princeton University student is receiving treatment after she was diagnosed with meningitis (Thursday). The student developed symptoms Wednesday night and went to the university's McCosh Health Center, from where she was taken to a local hospital on Thursday," said university spokesman Martin Mbugua. "Health officials will be conducting tests to determine if this latest case is related to the

seven cases of meningitis associated with the university since March."

In the last eight months, six students and a campus visitor have been stricken with the uncommon "serogroup B" strain of meningitis, a common occurrence in Europe and Australia but rarely encountered in the United States, according to health officials. Type A meningitis is more common in this

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KENNEDY ASSASSINATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY



LM OTERO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solemn memorial

50 years after thousands cheered President John F. Kennedy in Dallas' Dealey Plaza, another great crowd mourns his assassination there. Page A5.

What lessons learned?

Times columnist Sharon Schlegel remembers a political awakening in the wake of the assassination, and the many conspiracy theories that followed. Page A3.

Check and inmate

Princeton U. chess players find worthy opponents behind bars



"They have this expectation coming in that they are going to beat us ... Some of us, we got really good game, so it's a challenge."

Prison inmate Santise Robinson

Second bidder for hotel emerges

Both potential buyers would keep building operating as an inn

By Jenna Pizzi
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — A second bidder has come forward and put in an offer to buy the downtown hotel from the city-backed nonprofit that has been running operations there for more than a decade.

Yesterday was the deadline to step forward, which means just two bidders will vie for the former Marriott hotel in Monday's auction, with a starting price of under \$6 million — a tenth of the entire complex's \$60 million construction price, but they won't be getting the parking garage.

City officials had hoped for a bigger crowd of potential bidders to help drive up the price and offset much of the accumulated debt on the 197-room Lafayette Hotel and Conference Center, which has not been a financial success and is under bankruptcy protection. The total debt is \$29.9 million, of which \$14 million is Trenton's share.

The latest bidder, VBCE of Winslow Township in Camden County, submitted a bid of just under \$5.7 million on Thursday. The company owns several Dunkin' Donuts franchises throughout the state. The company's CEO, Sam Patel said they also own hotels in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. Patel declined to comment further about the business or the company's interest in the hotel until after Monday's auction.

Last month, Edison Broadcasting, a New York-based company that owns television and radio stations, was the first interested buyer to put in an offer on the 11-year-old hotel. Edison, owned by husband-and-wife couple Dr. Banad and Sathya Viswanath of Queens, N.Y., put in an offer of slightly over \$5.5 million.

The two companies will participate in SEE HOTEL, PAGE A10



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MILLER/FOR THE TIMES

Sally Yu, 19, a sophomore at Princeton University, makes her move against Phillip Dixon as five students face off against inmates in a chess competition at the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton yesterday. At top, sophomore Andrew Ng reaches for his king. At left, freshman Anna Matlin, 18, considers her tactical position.

By Jon Offredo
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — Santise Robinson leaned back in his chair, arms crossed and chewing on a plastic spoon. Crowded around him were five other inmates at New Jersey State Prison in Trenton dressed in khaki uniforms, as security guards and prison officials watched and waited.

Robinson, originally from Harlem, was one of the last men still alive in the "Ivies vs. Inmates" chess challenge yesterday. Eleven other inmates had

already been bested by Sally Yu, 19, a Princeton University sophomore from Melbourne, Australia. Yu pulled her hair back behind her ears, then slid her rook down a few squares.

"Good one, good one," Robinson said softly.

A few moves later, Yu had him. Checkmate.

"I messed up three moves prior to the end of the game," said Robinson. "I give her credit, her game is good."

The five Princeton University students participating in the

"Ivies vs. Inmates" competition went undefeated yesterday with two draws. The students played multiple games simultaneously against roughly 60 inmates during the hour-long challenge.

"They were tough. They were really good and definitely gave me a battle," Yu said. "It was definitely a bit of a surprise. I have to be careful more. Some people can be really tricky."

For Robinson, who has served 23 years for murder, the event was a welcome distraction

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View an online gallery at photos.nj.com/the-times.

At 50, 'Doctor Who' has gone from cultish to cool

NJN played a big role in introducing the British sci-fi show to an American audience

By Jon Offredo
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — One night in early August, Brian Kelley walked into a pizza shop in Hamilton wearing a "Doctor Who" shirt.

It was the night that the Scottish actor, Peter Capaldi, was named as the 12th actor to play the role of the time-traveling Doctor in the seminal British sci-fi series, "Doctor Who," which celebrates its 50th anniversary today.

"I have my 'Doctor Who'

shirt on and this teenager, maybe 18, 19 — he's probably a driver — says 'Oh man, you like 'Doctor Who'? Did you hear they announced the next Doctor?'" Kelley said, recalling the conversation.

A Whovian since the '80s, Kelley said he's a huge fan of the show. But the sci-fi epic — known for its elaborate aliens, quirky characters and tomes upon tomes of lore and plot lines stretching across time and space — was always sort of a fringe thing, until a reboot

of the series picked up steam with the younger crowd over the past few years.

Its second-half season premiere brought in about 1.5 million viewers on BBC America. Now, ahead of the anniversary episode's broadcast tonight, the show is more mainstream than ever.

But standing there in that pizza shop, talking to the teenager, Kelley felt vindicated.

"As a kid, he was the last person that I thought would be a 'Doctor Who' fan. He looked

cool. He was cool," Kelley said. "I was onboard when it wasn't cool to like 'Doctor Who' and now it's cool and I feel like everyone else has caught up with me. I think all 'Doctor Who' fans feel that way, we were ahead of the curve."

Today countless "Doctor Who" fans across Mercer County, the state, country and world will be tuning in to the show's 50th anniversary special. Some will dress up in suits, wear bow ties, fezes and

SEE DOCTOR WHO, PAGE A10



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC LUSKIN

Patrick Troughton, the second actor to play Doctor Who, center, poses with crew members from the New Jersey Network at Grover's Mill in West Windsor sometime in the mid-1980s. Eric Luskin, looking over Troughton's shoulder, recalls the PBS station helping to bring the British hit to the United States.