

Memorial for State U Student

Stony Brook—Nearly 200 students at the State University here gathered yesterday for what one youth described as “a quiet and personal memorial” to 19-year-old Sherman Raftenberg, who died Thursday when he fell into a steaming, 25-foot-deep open manhole on campus.

Raftenberg, a freshman engineering student from Valley Stream, reportedly had tried to jump the steaming manhole in response to an offhanded dare and slipped in. At the noontime memorial service yesterday in the Student Union Building, several students read poems and offered spontaneous prayers.

Sunday night, about 150 students and faculty members met in the union for a five-hour discussion of “the urgent problem of campus health and safety conditions,” according to acting student government president Danny Weingast.