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Death penalty option dropped

Michael Madeira says he won't seek the death penalty for a man who is accused of murdering a Penn State student.

By Halle Stockton

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The county district attorney announced yesterday he will not seek the death penalty in the murder case involving a former Penn State football player.

LaVon Chisley, 23, of Waldorf, Md., now faces life in prison if convicted of the first-degree murder of Penn State student Langston Carraway, 26, whose body was found with 93 stab and slash wounds June 5 in his apartment, 110 Northbrook Lane.



Chisley

Police have said Chisley, who maintains his innocence, and Carraway were known to be friends.

Chisley also faces a third-degree murder charge.

Centre County District Attorney Michael Madeira said he determined the case lacked elements that would constitute seeking the death penalty for Chisley.

Karen Muir, Chisley's lawyer, could not be reached for comment on the decision as of press time yesterday.

The Pennsylvania Judicial Code lays out 18 aggravating circumstances as requirements for a death penalty case and "those circumstances do not exist in this case," Madeira said.

Robbery is being investigated as Chisley's alleged motive, but to be considered an aggravated circumstance it must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, which Madeira said he isn't sure he could do.

According to court documents,

COLLEGIAN IN-DEPTH



Cassie Leymarie/Collegian

Jarret Hitchens (senior-political science) receives beads from his friend Jen Garrison (senior-economics) in celebration of Mardi Gras at Tony's Big Easy, 129 S. Pugh St., last night.

Hot bars stress fire safety

Local bar owners say they are taking precautions to keep their bars safe during busy nights.

By Claudia Vargas

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Last night, hundreds of students invaded downtown bars for Mardi Gras — the day when people indulge in guilty pleasures, such as food and alcohol, before lent season.

However, this is one of the many holidays during which bar owners are a bit more careful about who and what they allow in their bars.

Tony Sapia, owner of Tony's Big Easy, said he knows that on Mardi Gras a lot of people come out to the bars, so he prepares

accordingly by having extra employees working to make sure everything runs smoothly.

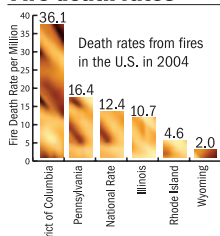
"Any club, bar or restaurant situation, you want to have all those areas clear — bathrooms, exits," Sapia said, adding that his establishment has a full sprinkler system in place.

Like Tony's, many bars downtown have started taking safety a little more seriously and the Centre Region Code Administration has started to crack down harder with safety regulations to make sure all bars are in full compliance with the code.

After two tragedies occurred in the U.S. nightlife four years ago, bars and nightclub owners have become more vigilant about what goes on in their establishments — and so have building code and law enforcement officers.

This week celebrates the four-

Fire death rates



Source: U.S. Fire Administration
Justin Caly/Collegian

year anniversary of The Station Nightclub fire in West Warwick, R.I. The station went up in flames Feb. 20, 2003, trapping more than 300 people in a deadly inferno. One hundred people died after a spark from a

Bloody print brings doubts

Police say the bloody footprints found at a murder scene, almost one year ago, do not match the victim's nor the accused murderer's.

By Matthew Spolar

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Three bloody footprints found at the murder scene of a Penn State student cannot be linked to the victim or the man accused of the murder, the defense attorney said yesterday.

Andrew A. Rogers, 28, of 224 Nimitz Ave., is charged with first- and third-degree murder for his alleged role in the Feb. 23 death of Penn State student Youngcheol Park, 24. Rogers has said another man — known only as "Sweet" — instigated a fight and forced Rogers to physically defend himself. Police have not been able to identify a third party in the crime, which occurred nearly a year ago.

The defense has been waiting for the crime lab analysis of the footprints since evidence was submitted to the lab Oct. 18, believing that the report would reveal that a third person was at the scene of the murder, defense attorney David Crowley said.

"It's the biggest [development in the case] so

Council seeks fine increase

State Rep. Scott Conklin and the Borough hope to create an extra fine for alcohol-related crimes.

By Megan McKeever

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At the request of the State College Borough Council, State Rep. Scott Conklin (D-Centre) has drafted legislation to create an additional \$150 to \$250 fine for alcohol-related crimes.

The Borough Council is also still considering a per-drink alcohol tax, introduced in January, as part of its plans to recover borough costs for alcohol-related incidents, Borough Manager Tom Fontaine said.

The proposal for additional fines for crimes comes "on the heels of a request from Tom Fontaine and borough council" to create legislation, Conklin's chief of staff Tor Michaels said.

State College Police Sgt. Keith Robb said the borough currently has a sliding fine from \$50 to \$300 depending on the severity of the alcohol-related crimes such as underage drinking citations. Adding an additional \$150 to \$250 would create a steep fine, he said.

"I clearly think the cost defined would be

HANG IN THERE



Andrew Lala/Collegian

Cirque Eloize opens their production of 'Rain' last night in Eisenhower Auditorium. The Montreal-based artistic theater group has performed more than 1,400 shows in 200 cities.

Professors petition to drop sanctions

By Alyssa Owens

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A letter signed by 48 professors was delivered to Penn State President Graham Spanier yesterday asking that university approved sanctions against an anti-sweatshop activist be dropped and voicing support for anti-sweatshop policies.

The letter requested that Olivia Guevara, a graduate student recently found in violation of Penn State's code of conduct for allegedly chalking university buildings with anti-sweatshop messages, be cleared of all charges. The university said

Guevara, who received a \$400 fine and a seven-year citation on her academic record, vandalized the buildings.

Guevara also faced criminal mischief charges involving tampering with private property in Centre County District Court, but the charges were dismissed Feb. 5, citing lack of evidence.

"In the interest of moving forward with this issue, we would like the university to make the appropriate gesture and drop Olivia's charges," Penn State Professor Mark Anner said.

Guevara is a member of the Stu-

Council to discuss graffiti

By Megan McKeever and Vincent Ross

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Simon Hawk, local graffiti artist and owner of JJ by Maxwell, 109 S. Pugh St., will be approaching the State College Borough Council Friday to introduce plans for a public graffiti space.

Hawk was charged with eight counts of misdemeanor criminal mischief for vandalizing private property with graffiti by the State College Police Department. He plans to work with Borough Council to amend a graffiti ordinance proposal, he said.

"I don't want to see people go down the

road that I did. I think I lost some respect with some people," he said, adding that he hopes a public forum would allow the art form to gain respect within the community.

State College Police Sgt. Keith Robb said graffiti is allowed in the borough with a property owner's consent.

"If the people want to express themselves through painting and such that's pretty much constitutionally protected, as long as it's not considered obscene," Robb said.

Currently there is no graffiti ordinance that is in effect within the borough, Cynthia Hanscom, borough secretary, said.

However, at a Feb. 5 Borough Council

Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow
High 42	Low 28	High 40

View the extended forecast | WEATHER, Page 2
Courtesy of Campus Weather Service
cws.met.psu.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS	NEWS DIVISION
Briefs 2	865-1828
Local 3	BUSINESS DIVISION
On Tap 7	865-2531
Comics 13	ON THE WEB
Crossword 13	www.collegian.psu.edu
Horoscope 11	
Sports 8	©2007 Collegian Inc.