

Chisley requests new trial

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Former Penn State football player and convicted murderer LaVon Chisley is seeking a new trial after claiming that his original trial three years ago was unfair for multiple reasons — one being an all-white jury.

On Sept. 28, 2007, Chisley was convicted of first- and third-degree murder in the death of Penn State senior Langston Carraway. Chisley was sentenced to life in prison without parole, according to court documents.

Carraway was stabbed 93 times in the chest, neck and abdomen, according to court documents. His body — as well as bloody footprints matching Chisley's shoe size and tread style — were found in Carraway's Patton Township apartment in June 2006, according to court documents.

Chisley's appeal requests his release from custody and discharge, a new trial, an expert forensic scientist and "constitutionally effective counsel," according to court documents.

Chisley cited ineffective assistance of counsel and race-related issues in calling for a new trial, according to court documents. In addition to ineffective assistance of counsel in regard to Chisley's then attorney Karen Muir, Chisley said the all-white jury during his trial violated his equal



Collegian file photo

LaVon Chisley exits the Centre County Courthouse Annex in Bellefonte after being found guilty of first- and third-degree murder in September 2007. The former Penn State football player is now seeking a new trial.

protection rights, according to court documents.

Chisley said Muir failed to uphold a pre-trial motion to hire DNA experts and failed to conduct a pretrial investigation which denied Chisley of his sixth amendment rights to effective assistance of counsel, according to court documents.

The appeal also claims that testimony of several witnesses who claimed that Chisley owed them money wrongfully established a motive to kill and deprived him of a fair trial, according to court documents. The appeal also stated that the commonwealth failed to prove Chisley's guilt beyond reasonable doubt, according to court documents.

Chisley said the confusion of the first- and third-degree murder charges amongst the jurors also violated Chisley's sixth amendment rights, according to court documents.

Chisley was not able to pay the cost of the proceeding or legal counsel, stating that he only had \$25 in his prison account, according to court documents. Attorney Edward Blarrik was appointed as counsel to represent Chisley on Aug. 12 in the event of a new trial, according to court documents.

Carraway's father, Dr. Vernon Carraway, a counselor in the Multicultural Research Center, declined comment.

To e-mail reporter: zlg5012@psu.edu

Win or lose, police are ready for unruly crowd

Taking cues from past post-game incidents, State College police gear up for Alabama.

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State and the University of Alabama will be duking it out on a turf more than 900 miles away Saturday — but as far as police are concerned, this showdown still calls for "home game" levels of law enforcement.

Normally, State College Police Department operations are lower during non-football weekends in Happy Valley. Lt. Mark Argiro said. But this Saturday's away game calls for the same approach to security downtown as Beaver Stadium games, presidential visits and other high-profile events, he said.

And the outcome of the game, Argiro said, could be a deciding factor in how much activity police see this weekend.

"There's a likelihood that a victory by Penn State is going to cause some problems," he said.

In his experience controlling past riots, Argiro said the events can often start out tame — with lots of high fives and "We Are" chants — but the mood can turn sour even if just a few students become reckless.

Past riots include one that occurred following a 1990 football win against Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., and another after a

2008 football win against Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio.

But it's not only victories that have triggered State College riots before. Crowds also erupted after a loss to Temple at the 2001 NCAA Men's Basketball regional semifinals in Atlanta, Ga.

When it comes to bracing for potentially volatile crowds, Argiro said police are getting better at gauging what might spark a potentially dangerous situation.

"We had to adjust the first time this happened," he said. "But we're more prepared today than we were 10 years ago."

Argiro said some factors always tend to be catalysts for possible post-game riots: the stakes are high, the kickoff is late and by the time the clock runs out, the alcohol has typically been flowing for hours.

And the Alabama game, he said, fits the bill on all of those measures.

Even the demography of State College provides an opportunity for unruly crowds to get out of hand, senior sociology lecturer Vanitha Dayananda said.

State College experiences a "youth boom," Dayananda said — and it can become more vulnerable to radical activity.

But State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said students have been relatively well-behaved thus far this semester, and she's looking to students to celebrate the football game with-in reason.

To e-mail reporter: cmm5773@psu.edu

State College man given 10 to 20 years for drug trafficking

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A State College man involved in a drug trafficking ring was sentenced Thursday to 10 to 20 years in state prison, Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller said.

Mario Rincon, 28, of 621 Elmwood St., was given an aggregate sentence of 10 to 20 years, Parks Miller said. Rincon was found guilty on one count of fleeing or attempting to elude an officer and five counts of delivery of

cocaine, Parks Miller said.

Rincon was wanted in 2009 by police for his involvement in a State College drug network based out of a local gas station.

Rincon turned himself in on Aug. 25, 2009 after a four-day manhunt. Rincon managed to evade police in a high-speed car chase that exceeded speeds of 100 mph, according to court documents.

A confidential informant first purchased drugs from Rincon in June 2009 at the Nittany Mall, 2900 E. College Ave., according to court documents.

During the two-month investigation, police determined that Rincon sold Gregory Palazzari, of 2243 Bristol Ave., an ounce of cocaine every few days, and Palazzari sold about \$50,000 worth of cocaine per month, according to court documents.

The former owner of Greg's Sunoco, 605 University Dr., Palazzari was arrested Aug. 21, 2009 in connection with the drug trafficking ring after the Centre County Drug Taskforce surrounded his gas station.

Following Palazzari's arrest,

Rincon's roommate, Curtis Vonada, attempted to flee from police and threw away 20 ounces of cocaine valued at \$28,500 during the pursuit, according to court documents.

Vonada, a former Centre County Correctional Facility employee, was charged with possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, felony conspiracy and misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, according to court documents.

Police served a search warrant for Rincon's residence Aug. 21,

2009, according to court documents. In addition to an ounce and a half of cocaine and about \$16,000 in cash, other drugs and drug paraphernalia were also recovered, according to court documents.

The drugs seized from Rincon's residence totaled more than \$37,000 in street value, according to court documents. The case against Palazzari is still open and Vonada pleaded guilty in exchange for one year's probation, according to court documents.

To e-mail reporter: zlg5012@psu.edu

7 DAYS

Featured Employer

HOW THE DIRT UNDER
OUR NAILS
— HELPED US BUILD A —
FORTUNE 500[®] COMPANY

The secret of our success is hard work. Roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty, kind of work. And though this may not seem like a secret at all, it's helped us stay focused during the unpredictable market trends that have taken over the business world.

As for being a Fortune 500 company, sure we are proud of that. But it doesn't begin to compare to what our hard work has done for our clients, our employees and our earth.

It's Our Nature.

www.nails.com/education