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OPINION

Athlete's illegal actions should not be emulated

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Staff writer

I'm sure many of us have heard about the Michael Vick dogfighting scandal over the summer and we all have our opinions about it. I personally think dogfighting is a terrible thing, and it's a little sad, considering Vick's career is all but over because of it.

But this past summer something else caught my attention – the number of professional athletes having legal problems. Other than Vick, I can count at least three other athletes whose careers have been

affected because of trouble they've gotten into.

One example is Houston Rockets' point guard Rafer Alston, who was accused of stabbing a man in a club in Houston while intoxicated. Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest, for instance, will miss the first seven games of the '07-'08 season because he was arrested for domestic abuse. Yet another example is Golden State Warriors forward Stephen Jackson, who will suffer a similar punishment for his involvement in a brawl at an Indiana strip club late last year.

Both Artest and Jackson are

known for participation in the infamous brawl in Detroit back in 2005, which resulted in one of the most nightmarish events in sports history. All of this got me thinking - why don't these athletes just behave themselves?

I realize that athletes have to live in the limelight without room for error. What I don't understand is precisely how hard it is to deal with all the fame and attention they're getting. There is no question that anything these athletes do will be blown up to extreme proportions because of their celebrity status.

Michael Vick getting involved

with dog-fighting wouldn't be nearly as bad as your average Joe committing with the same crime. Why? Because Michael Vick is the famous Atlanta Falcons' quarterback whose actions on and off the field are likely to be emulated by impressionable young football fans.

Living under that kind of scrutiny – knowing that you have to watch everything you say and do – would probably be extremely difficult. Athletes aren't necessarily expected to be "goodie goodies" every second of their lives, but they are expected not to go jumping into the stands

attacking random fans.

Pro athletes face tons of hecklers who try to break their spirits and get in their heads. It's really hard to keep your cool when a person is screaming obscenities at you while you're doing your job. But that's what these athletes have to face almost everywhere they go; it's hard not to get angry.

I finally realized that no matter how great these athletes are, in the end, they're human, too. The main difference is that it's a bigger deal when they make these mistakes and in many ways they face worse consequences than regular folks.

Environmentally friendly is not wallet friendly

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

Buy a Prius. It will pollute less and you will obtain that DiCaprio chic - it costs \$22,000.

Or buy a '85 Nissan Sentra, battle the "smog check guy" every year and have Leo's unmitigated scorn - it costs \$1,000.

Buy cloth bags.

Remember to bring them to the

supermarket every week.

Or don't spend \$10 on an empty bag.

Say "paper" or "plastic" to the cashier and remember, instead, to calculate the price of applesauce per fluid ounce.

Buy furniture made from local, sustainable lumber.

The old growth will be left alone and the proximity will cut down on emissions.

Or go to WalMart and get a Mission-Style End Table in Light

Oak for \$30.

Sure, it was shipped across the Pacific from China.

Of course the timber was rapidly clear-cut, displacing animals and eroding the land, but you can pick it up between your two jobs.

Take the kids, you might get to spend time with them today.

One of the biggest challenges to environmentalism is the fact that it is far less expensive not to care.

It is hard to be poor and save the Earth.

Many people with low incomes have neither the capital nor the time to invest in that which might do the Earth some good, even if it would save them money in the long run.

In fact, the long run is often a luxury item.

Clearly, being poor does not inherently equate to environmental damage, but your money and your time is often invested in things like rent, food and your child's education.

When being green doesn't cost

more, it's a hell of a lot of work.

From the Mission area, it will take you over an hour to cycle to Newpark Mall and then you will have to carry your new shirt (and your complete *Firefly* series on DVD) back home.

Yes, it's good for the planet and I have that kind of time, but do you?

Does the nice woman cleaning your parents' house have that kind of time?

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CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

How high would gas go for you to stop driving?



MIRIAM COOPER
Biology

"Over \$7. I'd probably run everywhere."



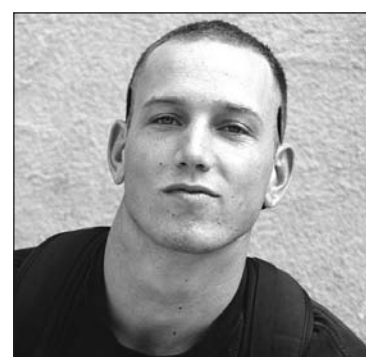
MICHAEL SCHOEN
Undecided

"I'm not paying any more than \$3.50."



ANDIE MORHOUS
Math

"\$4."



PERRY RICHARDS
Respiratory therapy

"5 bucks a gallon."



KRISTA IMUS
Film and Television

"I drive, but I like to take the bus sometimes."