

NBA trip to Kenya opens up players' minds

NEW YORK (AP) - Ron Artest called it the worst place he'd ever seen. Maurice Evans emptied his pockets to buy shoes for kids who were walking barefoot over the filthy ground.

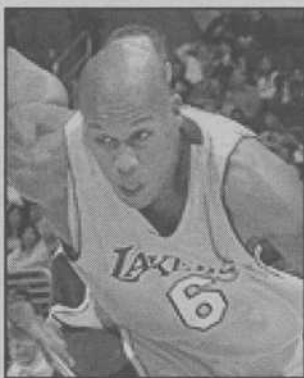
The NBA players, in Kenya to help feed children, quickly realized food wasn't all that was needed. Electricity, heat and drinking water — necessities rather than luxuries in most parts of the world — were also missing.

"It was way, way worse than what I expected," the Lakers' Evans said Tuesday from Nairobi during a phone interview.

"People are actually living in slums. We call it ghettos and we have projects and places like that, but those are like mansions in Beverly

"We call it (slums) ghettos and we have projects and places like that, but those are like mansions in Beverly Hills compared to what these people are living in."

—Maurice Evans
LA Lakers



Hills compared to what these people are living in."

Artest, the Sacramento Kings' forward, and Evans were part of the NBA players' association's "Feeding One Million" campaign, a partnership with the "Feed The Children" organization. The effort involves delivering 11 million pounds of rice

to residents of the Kawangware, Kibera and Dagoretti areas. Also participating were union vice president Theo Ratliff of the Boston Celtics and Etan Thomas of the Washington Wizards.

Artest learned during the trip that he had been suspended for the first seven games of next season by the

NBA. He pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor domestic violence charge stemming from a March 5 dispute with his wife.

Known best for charging into the stands to fight a fan in Detroit, Artest hopes that the trip shows another side of him that is not often publicized.

"I think people should know that I'm not just some knucklehead," he said. "I have a heart, too."

Artest said he signed on for the trip to see where he came from, and was moved by what he saw — children attending class in a broken-down school, a tribal chief who gave union director Billy Hunter his cane. He was so moved, in fact, he plans to have a house built

there this fall.

Used to eating only once a day, the children stuffed food in their pockets to share with family members. They didn't know they were being served by NBA players, only that, "we're tall guys," Ratliff said.

"We got the chance to see Kenya at its best and Kenya at its worst," Thomas said. "I know you can't solve their economic problems, but you can at least put a smile on a kid's face."

Evans did that for quite a few of them. After noticing

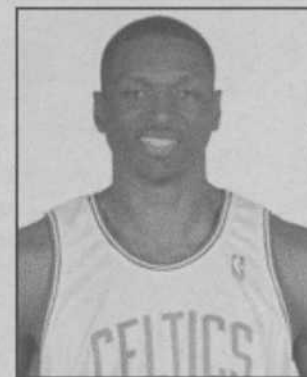
the cuts on their unprotected feet, Evans took three youngsters to buy shoes.

That turned into a line of five, which quickly doubled as word spread until Evans took out all the money he had at the time — about \$250 — to purchase as many pairs as possible. After the trips end, Ratliff said he thinks more players should consider taking part in future ones.

"It's something that definitely touches your heart," he said. "They should want to go [there]. It makes you see the blessings that you have."

"It's something that definitely touches your heart. They should want to go [there]. It makes you see the blessings that you have."

—Theo Ratliff
—Boston Celtics



Vick

(Continued from Page 1)

housed, trained and fought at a Surry County, Va., property owned by Vick.

The indictment alleges that the 27-year-old Vick and his co-defendants began a grisly dogfighting operation in early 2001 in which dogs fought to the death — or close. Losing dogs were sometimes killed by electrocution, drowning, hanging or gunshots.

If convicted, Vick and the others — Purnell A. Peace, Quanis L. Phillips and Tony Taylor — could face up to six years in prison, \$350,000 in fines and restitution.

Telephone messages left at the offices and home of Vick's attorney, Larry Woodward, were not immediately returned. A woman who answered the phone at the home of Vick's mother said the family knew nothing about the charges.

"We are disappointed that Michael Vick has put himself in a position where a federal grand jury has returned an indictment against him," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

"The activities alleged are cruel, degrading and illegal. Michael Vick's guilt has not yet been proven, and we believe that all concerned should allow the legal process to determine the facts."

After an initial raid in April, Vick said he was rarely at the house, had no idea it may have been used in a criminal enterprise and blamed family members for taking advantage of his generosity.

On Vick's website, he lists



A pit bull allegedly involved in illegal dog fights in Virginia.

his birthplace as Newport News, "a.k.a. BadNews."

The four men were accused of "knowingly sponsoring and exhibiting an animal fighting venture" and conducting a business enterprise involving gambling, as well as buying, transporting and receiving dogs for the purposes of an animal fighting venture.

Purses for the fights ranged from hundreds of dollars to the thousands, and participants and spectators placed side bets, the document said.

About eight young dogs were put to death after they were found not ready to fight in April 2007. They were killed "by hanging, drowning and/or slamming at least one dog's body to the ground," according to the indictment.

The FBI and local authorities have been investigating the allegations since an April 25 drug raid at the property Vick owned.

Authorities seized 66 dogs, including 55 pit bulls, and equipment commonly used in dogfighting. About half the dogs were tethered to car axles with heavy chains that allowed the dogs to get close to each other, but not to have contact — an arrangement typical for fight-

ing dogs, according to the search warrant affidavit.

The indictment said dogfights were held at the Virginia property and dog owners brought animals from six states, including New York and Texas.

In a search warrant executed July 7, the government said the fights usually occurred late at night or in the early morning and would last several hours.

Before fights, participating dogs of the same sex would be weighed and bathed, according to the filings. Opposing dogs would be washed to remove any poison or narcotic placed on the dog's coat that could affect the other dog's performance.

Sometimes, dogs weren't fed to "make it more hungry for the other dog," it said.

EMPLOYMENT

SAM'S TOWN

5111 Boulder Highway
Las Vegas, NV 89122
www.jobflash.com/boyd

or
1-866-562-2693

Always accepting applications.
Please visit our website for a complete
Listing of open positions.
Equal Opportunity Employer

HOSPITALITY

The Las Vegas Valley Water District

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

If you are a progressive, resourceful individual who would like to put your unique skills to work, LVVWD would like to hear from you!

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR (PRESERVE PROGRAM SPECIALIST)

Plans, coordinates and manages all support services for special events hosted by the Preserve, including catering, equipment rental, decorations, service, invitations and responses and post-event clean up; develops contract proposals for outside contractors and vendors providing special events services, participates in vendor selection and monitors vendor performance against contract provisions. Schedules and coordinates services to be provided through Preserve staff or contracts. Requires graduation from a four-year college or university with a major in museum studies, education, communications, marketing, public relations, retail studies or a related field; plus three years of increasingly responsible experience for special events in a museum, cultural or public attraction venue; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Graduate level coursework in the above-listed majors or related field is desired but not required. Salary: \$44,404 annually, DOQ, Eff. 7/14/07. Filing Deadline: 8am, 8-10-07.



LVVWD PROVIDES
OUTSTANDING BENEFITS,
VALUES DIVERSITY AND
SUSTAINS A DYNAMIC
WORK ENVIRONMENT

To place your
classified ads,
help wanted,
legal notices
just call
380-8100

Visit www.lvvwd.com to complete an application or apply in person at
1001 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89153 • (702) 258-3933 • (800) 252-2011

AA/EOE/MFD