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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Former Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick is escorted out of the Sussex County Courthouse after pleading guilty to dogfighting charges in Sussex, Va., on Tuesday.

Vick cops pleas to Va. dogfights

NORFOLK, Virginia (AFP) — Former National Football League star Michael Vick pleaded guilty to a state dogfighting charge on Tuesday in a deal that will keep him from serving more prison time if he stays on good behaviour.

The 28-year-old's plea deal resulted in a sentence of three years of jail time with all of them suspended as long as he stays out of trouble for the next four years he will spend on probation. Vick was also fined \$2,500.

"I would like to apologize to the court, my family and to the kids that I let down as a role model. I'm very remorseful for my actions," Vick said.

Vick is serving a 23-month sentence in a Leavenworth, Kan., prison for a federal conspiracy charge related to the dogfighting ring he financed, an operation that was based at kennels upon land he owned in rural Sussex County.

State charges were filed against Vick and three other defendants after they pleaded guilty last year to federal charges. A request by Vick to plea by video link from prison was denied last month.

The new deal paves the way for Vick's possible return to American football. Vick had to resolve all charges before he could be

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Bond gives up NAACP job

By Sean Yoes

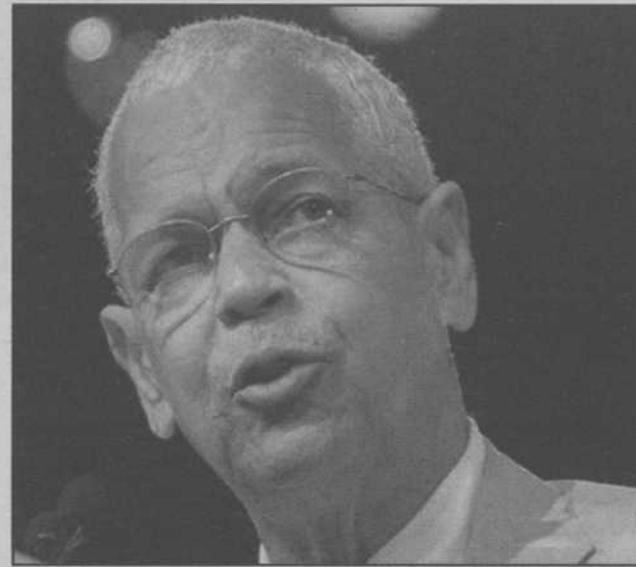
Special to Sentinel-Voice

"This is the time for renewal. We have dynamic new leadership," Bond said in a statement.

"The country has a new president in Barack Obama; the organization has a new CEO in Benjamin Jealous, and we'll soon have a new chairman of the NAACP board. The NAACP and the country are in good hands."

The NAACP said that Bond informed board members in a letter that, although he would not run for re-election as chairman of the national board, he will remain on the board and run for re-election to the board when his three-year term ends.

"It has always been my plan to serve until the centennial which will be underway in February when my term ends," said Bond, referring to the centennial celebration of the birth of the



Julian Bond has indicated that he doesn't plan to run for re-election as board chairman for the national NAACP.

nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

"I'm not resigning. I'm just not running for re-election."

Bond was elected chairman of the board of the NAACP in 1998. But he began his career in the Civil Rights Movement when, as student at then-Morehouse

College in 1960, he was a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

From 1960 to 1963, Bond led student protests against segregated public facilities in Georgia.

In 1965, Bond was one of eight Blacks elected to the Georgia House of Repre-

sentatives. However, Georgia state representatives voted 184-12 not to seat him because of his support of SNCC's opposition to the Vietnam War.

But in 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Georgia House denied Bond his right to free speech and they were forced to seat him. He went on to serve four terms in the Georgia House from 1965 to 1975 and six terms in the Georgia Senate from 1975-1986.

Bond, 68, said it was time for him to step back from the rigors of being the organization's chairman.

"Being chairman has been a wonderful honor. However, it has been more time demanding than anything I've ever done," Bond said. "I'm ready to let a new generation of leaders lead."

Sean Yoes writes for the Afro-American Newspapers.

Brown, West win American Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Brown was the big winner, but it was Kanye

West's night at the American Music Awards.

Instead of his typical

tantrum — a trend West started four years ago when he lost the favorite new artist prize — the rapper claimed two trophies Sunday and called on his colleagues to up their game.

"It's our responsibility as musicians to keep pushing each other," West said. "We will be the new Beatles, the new [Jimi] Hendrix. I want to be Elvis."

West was named favorite male rap/hip-hop artist and his CD, "Graduation," won favorite rap/hip-hop album.

Brown took the night's top honors — artist of the year — as well as favorite male artist in both the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories.

"I was shocked," the 19-year-old crooner said backstage. "I'm so thankful and grateful. I thought Coldplay should have won the award, but I'll take it."

Brown's gal pal, Rihanna — who wore chains and a

leather corset to perform her love ballad, "Rehab" — was named favorite female artist in both the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories. Alicia Keys was another double winner: Her CD, "As I Am," was both pop/rock and soul/R&B album winner.

The American Music Awards traditionally centers

on its performances, and Sunday was no exception. The show featured high-energy sets from Ne-Yo and Beyonce, though a pair of lackluster medleys opened the program at the Nokia Theatre.

Fans chose the night's winners through online votes.



Rihanna performs during the American Music Awards. She won awards in the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories.



Chris Brown, left, accepts the award for favorite pop/rock music male artist award at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. T-Pain, right, served as presenter.