

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

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## CRASH KILLS 49

### UK COMMUNITY MOURNS DEATHS OF THREE WITH UNIVERSITY TIES

By Sean Rose  
srose@kykernel.com

The crash of Comair Flight 5191 in Lexington yesterday took the lives of 49 people, three of whom had ties to the University of Kentucky.

Jon Hooker, 27, a former UK baseball player, and his wife, Scarlett Parsley, 23, a graduate student in communication disorders, were on their way to their honeymoon the morning after their wedding. Larry Turner, associate dean of agricultural extension, was on his way to a conference. He was 52.

"Our extended UK family — like many others in Lexington and in Kentucky — suffered a tremendous loss Sunday morning with the crash of Flight 5191," UK President Lee Todd said in a statement. "That profound sense of loss is being particularly felt by our larger UK family as three of our own were on Flight 5191."

"There are no words adequate to express the sense of sadness we feel at this time."

The craft's co-pilot was the only survivor from the plane, which crashed after it apparently took off from the wrong runway, said the National Transportation Safety Board. James Polehinke was listed in critical condition at UK Chandler Medical Center last night.

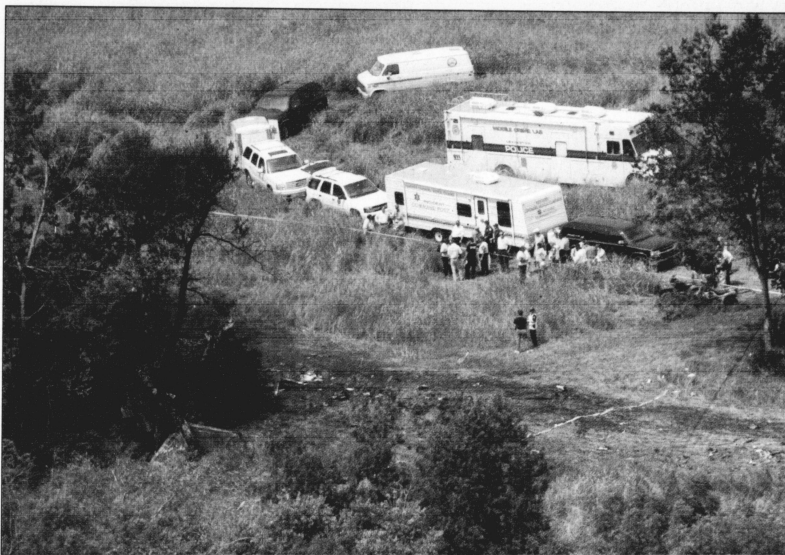
Flight 5191 took off a little after 6 a.m. and was scheduled to arrive in Atlanta at 7:18 a.m.

The crash, which occurred in hilly farmland about a quarter-mile from the airport near Versailles Road, is under investigation by the NTSB. The FBI was also on the scene, said Michael Gobb, executive director of the airport.

The cause of the crash is unknown, but the flight did take off from the wrong runway the shorter of the two at the airport. The plane broke through the security fence surrounding the property before breaking apart and exploding after a quarter-mile.

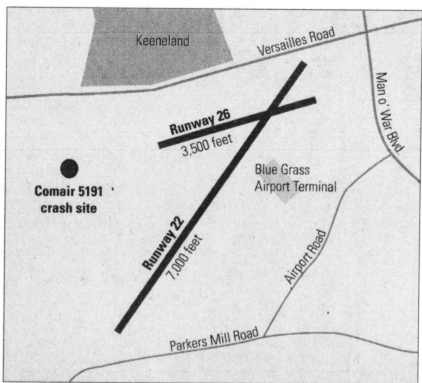
Debbie Hersman, an NTSB investigator, said in a news conference yesterday that

See **Crash** on page 6



DAVID STEPHENSON | COURTESY OF LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

The tail of Flight 5191, a Comair Delta connections flight, rested among trees at left after the plane went down at 6:07 a.m. near the runway at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington yesterday. The plane's co-pilot, James Polehinke, was the only survivor. He was rescued by the first responders to the scene and taken to UK Chandler Medical Center. The crash is the worst aviation accident in Kentucky since 1967.



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

### Comair Flight 5191 by the numbers

**49 dead**

All 47 passengers and two crew members died. The co-pilot is the sole survivor.

**6:07 a.m.**

The time Flight 5191 went down. It was scheduled to arrive in Atlanta at 7:18 a.m.

**November 2001**

The last major domestic plane crash. A plane went down in Queens, N.Y., killing 265.

**5,800 feet**

The minimal length needed for the plane to take off, only 3,500 feet was available on the runway.

**3 from UK**

Three passengers had UK ties: one administrator, a former student and a current student.

### Colleagues praise administrator's vision

By Blair Thomas  
news@kykernel.com

Larry Turner envisioned a bigger and brighter mission for the Cooperative Extension Service and made it his goal as director to see that the organization worked toward constant improvement and change.

Turner, associate dean for extension — or implementing campus research into everyday practice — was one of the 49 passengers killed on Comair Flight 5191 early Sunday morning.

Turner was on his way to a national meeting on planning for extension in Puerto Rico, said Scott Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture.

"We are very saddened to lose such a great leader," Smith said. "He was not only a good guy with a lot of integrity, but he had a very active vision for extension."

Turner had faced a lot of adversity, which was reflected in his leadership, said fellow extension professor Lee Meyer.

"He was someone who has been through a lot," Meyer said. "He battled cancer, just recently returned from hip surgery and pushed through it all with confidence and became a better leader for it."

Meyer described Turner as "someone who set standards for everyone who worked with him."

Meyer said Turner was actively involved with Race for the Cure.

A graduate of Purdue University, Turner earned his doctorate at UK and began his career here in 1978 as an extension agricultural engineer for energy.

Turner became an extension professor in 1994, and in 2002 became the chief officer overseeing

See **Turner** on page 6

### Newlyweds were headed for California honeymoon

By Chris Miles  
cmiles@kykernel.com

Jon Hooker and Scarlett Parsley had married just hours before boarding Comair Flight 5191 at 6 a.m. yesterday, headed for California on their honeymoon.

The former UK baseball player and former Centre College cheerleader, both of London, Ky., were among the 49 people who died in the plane crash near Blue Grass Airport.

Hooker played for UK from 1997 to 2001 and transferred to Eastern Kentucky University, where he finished his undergraduate degree.

"Jon was a tremendous young man," former UK baseball coach Keith Madison said. "He was a good pitcher, great person and a true team player who enjoyed when his teammates had success as much as he enjoyed success himself."

Parsley, 23, graduated from Centre in 2004, and was working on her master's degree in communication disorders at UK.

"She was always terrific," said Chris Wilkie, a friend of Parsley's and 2002 graduate of Centre.

"She always had a smile and she always got along great with everybody."

"Both were happy to start a new life together," Madison said. The outdoor wedding took place at

the Headley-Whitney Museum in Lexington.

"It was beautiful," former teammate and close friend Jared Reynolds said. "(Jon) was smiling the whole time — you could tell it was the happiest day of his life."

(Scarlett) was amazing. She made him laugh. They were in love — that was obvious."

After graduating, Hooker, 27, was drafted by the Cleveland Indians. The Chicago White Sox later signed him and he played for

their Appalachian League affiliate in Bristol, Tenn. He also played for several other minor league teams until 2004.

See **Newlyweds** on page 6



# SG to address state of campus

By Blair Thomas  
news@kykernel.com

Student Government will host the first-ever State of the Campus Address tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Patterson Office Tower plaza.

"This is the first event of its kind and a great opportunity for myself as student body president to address students, introduce myself and lay out my initiatives for the school year," SG President Jonah Brown said.

Tables will be set up to pass out information about the various services provided by SG,

Brown said.

UK catering will provide free food and drinks to all students who attend, according to Robert Oakley, SG's director of constituency services.

"This was an idea started by Student Government to address one of the major complaints the students have with us (SG), which is lack of communication," Brown said. "That is something we are really working to improve."

UK President Lee Todd will be there to present his agenda for the year, introduce changes made over the summer and give his new plans to increase the

satisfaction of students on campus, Brown said.

"It is important that President Todd will be there as well," Brown said. "New students will have a chance to meet him, and we (SG) always get more coverage when Dr. Todd comes."

Student Government senators will also be walking around and meeting with students.

"Students should make an effort to come," Brown said. "It is an opportunity for everyone to meet the senators and other members of SGA and let us know how we are doing and what they want to see."

## Mae day in August



Members of the band Mae perform in the Student Center Grand Ballroom on Saturday night. Mae is currently touring nationwide and stopped in Lexington before heading to Memphis for their next show. JULIE FITZPATRICK | STAFF

kernel: we do it daily.

### Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement **CAMPUS CALENDAR**

The Campus Calendar is produced by the Office of Student Activities, Leadership & Involvement. Registered Student Orgs. and UK Depts. can submit information for FREE online ONE WEEK PRIOR to the MONDAY information is to appear. Call 252-8867 for more information.

WWW.UKY.EDU/CAMPUSCALENDAR

VISIT THE WEB SITE FOR EVENT DETAILS OR TO POST YOUR OWN UK EVENT.

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auditions for A Raisin in the Sun 4-6:45 PM Guignol Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Table Francaise 3:30 PM Student Center Rm 357</li> <li>• University Christian Fellowship 8 PM 230 Student Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Ultimate Frisbee Organization 10:00 PM</li> </ul>
<p>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callbacks for A Raisin in the Sun 4-7 PM Movement Studio, Fine Arts Bldg</li> </ul>	<p>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DanceBlue All Committee Meeting 5:30 PM 230 Student Center</li> <li>• POETRY SLAM 7:05 PM Student Center Cats Den</li> </ul>	

## 2006 KENTUCKY VOLLEYBALL

**TOMORROW**

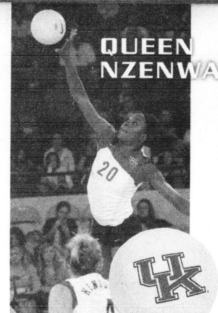
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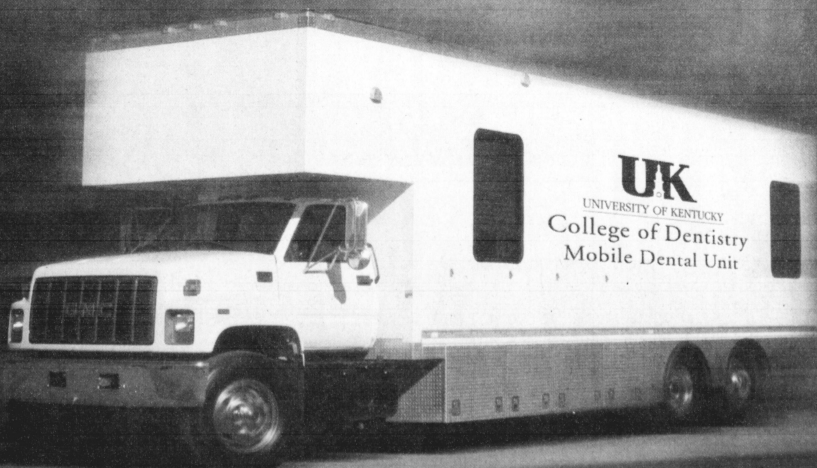
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# FEATURES

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Features Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
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## Mae: A Thinking Man's Band?

By Andy Kohler  
features@kykernel.com

Multi-sensory Aesthetic Experience stopped in Lexington this past weekend. Or, as everyone knows them, simply Mae.

Mae, along with veryEMERGENCY and Kate Yoegel, played a concert sponsored by the Student Activities Board on

Saturday night, kicking off the school year with an energetic show from a fairly well-known indie band, something UK students aren't used to seeing on campus.

"I loved it," said English and political science sophomore Jessica Rupert. "There was a lot more people there than I thought would be there. This was the first concert at UK that I've been to. I think they should try to have a lot more. I think a lot of people

would go."

The band was founded in 2001 in Norfolk, Va. and adopted the moniker Mae, an acronym for a theory conceived by drummer Jacob Marshall while he attended college.

The theory of multi-sensory aesthetic experience involves taking something, for instance, a song — and translating it into a different form of being. The theory is based largely on the ability of art to be transformed from one form to another and how it would affect people if they could feel or see a song, or hear a painting.

Mae released their first album, "Destination: Beautiful," on Tooth & Nail records in 2003 and spent the next few years touring nonstop, playing shows with bands such as Weezer, Yellowcard and Brand New.

Their constant touring and catchy songs helped them to establish a solid fan base, one that eagerly anticipated the band's 2005 sophomore release, "Everglow."

Both albums have been re-released to include demos, new songs and remixes. Their albums have combined to sell well over 100,000 copies and the band has grown to become an indie favorite.

"There's just something about their sound," Rupert said. "It's not too heavy, and it's not too soft; they rock enough so that you don't get bored and they can still have fun with the songs live."

Mae found a way to meld piano into their finely crafted rock songs, sometimes layering it into the background and other times showcasing it as the main part of a song. Some of their songs teeter on the line of pop, but there's always an energy present that keeps more akin to indie rock than anything else.

They've spent the past year touring constantly in support of "Everglow," including playing the Vans Warped Tour over the summer. More and more people are becoming familiar with Mae, and it's easy to understand why.

A band with a positive message and an uplifting sound is a rare thing these days. As music is escaping the looming shadow of grunge and the "angry white boy" music such as Limp Bizkit and Korn that dominated the '90s, hearing a talented band like Mae gives hope for the future of indie music.

If you missed Mae this weekend, you can still catch them on tour with the New Amsterdams and Vexera, but they're moving west fast. The current tour ends September 16 in California.

Hopefully they'll write a new album this winter and come back around soon — because Multi-sensory Aesthetic Experience is not something you want to miss.



BRAD LUTTRELL / STAFF  
Dave Elkins, the lead singer of Mae, takes the stage in the Student Center Grand Ballroom for a concert Saturday night sponsored by Student Activities Board.

## Shakespeare sets the stage for UK Theatre season

By Melissa Smith Mallory  
features@kykernel.com

From the usual main-stage fare to exciting new classes to a visit from a London touring company, the UK Theatre Department has several opportunities for entertainment this year.

To kick off the performance season, the Cambridge University American Stage Tour is stopping in Lexington on September 21 and 22 to present Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

While here, the company will be conducting workshops for theatre students.

"It's a great opportunity for our students," theatre department chair Nancy Jones said.

With "Twelfth Night," the student-directed, -produced,

and -performed Studio Season also begins. Several productions are beginning this week with auditions, notices of which can be found in the Fine Arts Building outside the department office.

Students from every area of the university are encouraged to audition. "Often we have people from across the university who just love being part of the shows. It can be a very enriching experience for a student," said Jones.

In addition to the student productions, the department is putting on four shows in the Guignol Theatre, beginning in October with "Summertime," a contemporary play by Charles Mee.

"Summertime" is a quirky, sexy start to the season," Jones said.

To close the semester, Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun" will be performed. This American classic about race relations in the 1950s begins at the end of November and runs through December.

Shakespeare's goriest and most violent tragedy, "Titus and Ronicus," opens the spring semester in February. Jones described it as a timely play to produce, given the current state of the world. Closing out the main-stage season is "As Bees in Honey Drown" by Douglas Carter Beane, a dark comedy about celebrity.

The theatre department is also offering several new courses for the spring semester that incorporate the community and as well as guest speakers and workshops. All of the courses are open to anyone in

the university and will be at 300-level. Topics include a black theater, Asian theater, stage managing and puppetry.

Right now in the Tuska Gallery in the Fine Arts Building is an exhibit showcasing the costume work of Robert Haven, a professor of costume design. UK participates with an academic exchange with a university in England to study costuming, and the exhibit is part of a visit from Graham Cottenden, a professor from Bournemouth, England. The exhibit lasts through Aug. 30.

For the rest of the year, there is plenty to do and participate in with the theatre department. More information can be found by calling the department at 257-3297 or visiting the Web site [www.uky.edu/finearts/theatre](http://www.uky.edu/finearts/theatre).

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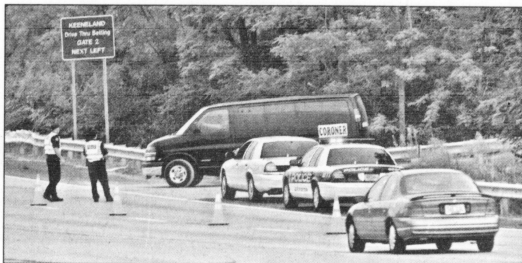
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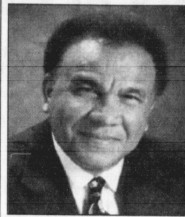
Gov. ERNIE FLETCHER



PHOTOS BY BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF  
Jodi Whitaker, press secretary for Gov. Ernie Fletcher, holds a cell phone set to speaker phone so Fletcher could give a statement at a news conference at Keeneland Race Course across from Blue Grass Airport. Fletcher was in Germany attending the 2006 World Equestrian Games.



A coroner's van leaves the site of the crash yesterday evening. Fayette County Coroner Gary Ginn said he was working with coroners from surrounding counties who volunteered their help.



### Samuel Betances

Monday, August 28

12 noon to 1 p.m.

&

7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Student Center Grand Ballroom

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# Lone survivor goes through surgery at UK

By Shannon Mason

The sole survivor of the Flight 5191 crash at Blue Grass Airport yesterday was in intensive care at UK's Chandler Medical Center and listed as "critically ill," said Dr. Andrew C. Bernard, trauma surgeon and assistant professor of surgery at UK.

First Officer James Polchinski survived the crash, but others were confirmed dead. Bernard told the media he was present in the trauma center when Polchinski was brought in and that Polchinski is now under his care. Other than saying Pol-

chinski was listed as critically ill, Bernard declined to comment further on the patient and his family.

Bernard said when a person is listed in critical condition, it means that his or her "life is in danger."

"He is very lucky," Bernard said of Polchinski's survival. Bernard could not comment on the nature of Polchinski's injuries, the length of the surgery, the type of the surgery, where he was from or even if his family was in Lexington.

"I give them my word," he said.

UK Public Relations Director Jay Blanton said he had been

in contact with Polchinski's family and that they did not wish to speak with the media.

When asked how important the next few days were in Polchinski's recovery, Bernard again responded in general terms.

"The first couple days in any trauma are very important," Bernard said.

Bernard told reporters that Polchinski was not in the burn unit, but that did not mean he did not suffer burn-related injuries. Bernard did not confirm or deny burn injuries.

Bernard said future updates on Polchinski's condition would depend upon the willingness of the family.

## CRASH

Continued from page 1

"ground scars" — indentations on the plane in the ground found at the end of the shorter runway made it clear the flight took off from there. Herunan also said that it was her understanding that the plane "did go through the perimeter fence" rounding the airport before ending up a quarter-mile down in a field.

Runway 22, which was recently repaved, is about 7,000 feet long and is the main runway for commercial planes and night landings.

Runway 26, which Flight 5191 used, is 3,500 feet long and handles lighter planes and day landings only. The plane was a CRJ-200, which seats a maximum of 50 passengers.

According to the Web site for Bombardier, the Canadian company that makes the planes, the CRJ-200 aircraft has a Federal Air Regulation takeoff field length of 4,000 to 4,200 feet. The distance includes extra space to account for emergencies and unexpected situations.

James Cox, a writer for Aviation Week Magazine, said that he believed a plane like the CRJ-200 could take off on a runway as short as 3,500 feet.

"It has to do with lift-over-drag and the power to give you lift over the weight," Cox said, "but that's not my specialization."

Cox said "ground effect" is a fairly common danger to low-flying planes. Air near the ground creates sudden, unexpected increases of drag that slow the speed of the aircraft. Conditions like ground effect make it possible for a plane to take off but not have enough speed to sustain airborne.

Herunan and other officials would not comment on which runway the plane was scheduled to take off from yesterday. She would only say that there are "references" to the longer runway 22 found on the flight data recorder. She said they would look into whether the plane's usage of the shorter runway caused the crash.

The flight data recorder, or "black boxes," are being examined in Washington, D.C.

Debris from the crash was

found in a 100-yard perimeter.

The wings and tail were separated from the airplane, but the fuselage was "fairly intact," officials said.

Nick Bentley, who owns the farm where the crash occurred, said he thought the plane took off from the wrong runway, judging from the damage to the surrounding area. He said the fence surrounding the airport was "crushed on right at the end of the runway" and that nearby trees were "sheared off."

Fayette County coroner Gary Ginn said after looking over the damage and the interior of the plane, he suspected he killed the passengers, not smoke inhalation or the impact. He described it as a "hot fire" that burned intensely for a short time.

Ginn, also the coordinator of the body recuperation program at UK's College of Medicine, said he was coordinating with several coroners from throughout Central Kentucky.

"This is the largest (accident) that I've worked, in terms of fatalities," Ginn said. "My job is to help put the pieces back together for the summer questions for the families."

Ginn said early in the day that retrieving the 49 bodies would take several hours. Temporary morgues were set up in Frankfort, where autopsies would be performed. News reports confirmed that by the end of yesterday, all 49 bodies were in Frankfort. Ginn estimated it would be a three-day cleanup.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, in Germany for the World Equine Games, called in a statement from a cell phone during a news conference at Keeneland Race Course yesterday, saying his prayers were with the families of those who lost loved ones.

"This is probably one of the largest tragedies we've seen in Kentucky," Fletcher said. "Comair President Don Bonebrake said in a news conference yesterday that he felt 'complete emotional devastation' over this. 'This is indeed a risk of our industry,' Bonebrake said. 'What we are going to do is take care of the family members any way we can.'"

Bombardier said that the flight crew was experienced. Capt. Jeff

## Comair crash

Flight 5191, a regional jet carrying 47 passengers and three crew members, crashed just after takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Ky.

Lexington, Ky. Police Officer F3105 is seen at the scene of the crash. The aircraft is a Bombardier CRJ-200.

The aircraft is a Bombardier CRJ-200. It is a regional jet carrying 47 passengers and three crew members.

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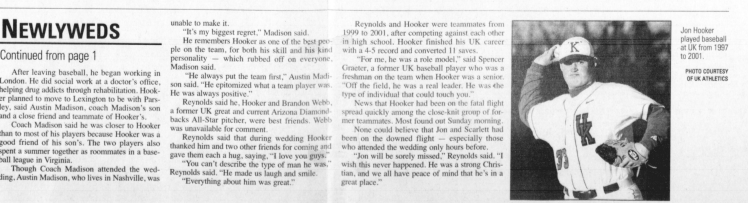
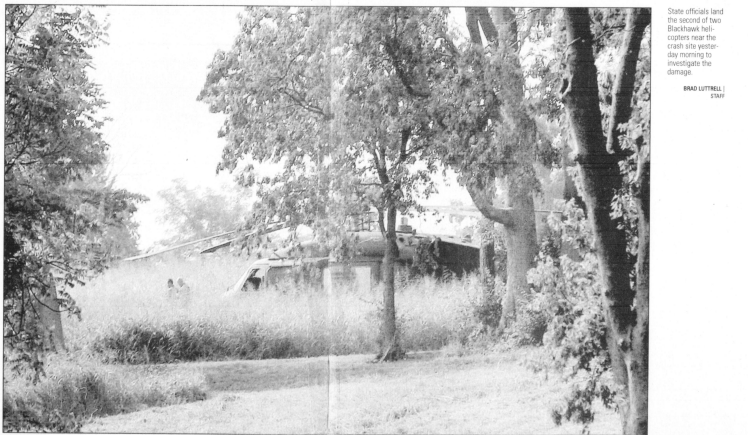
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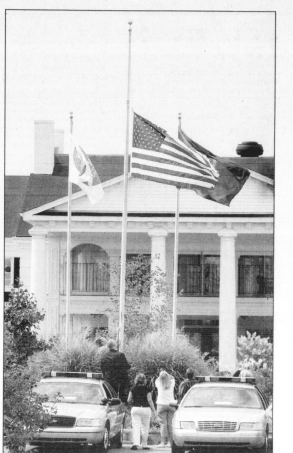
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Left: Lexington police officers provide security at the Campbell House where Comair provided accommodations for families at victims. Below: Workers lower the flag to half-staff at the Campbell House.



State officials laid the second of two Blackhawk helicopters near the crash site yesterday morning to investigate the damage.

## Statement from President Todd

Our extended UK family — like many others in Lexington and in Kentucky — suffered a tremendous loss Sunday morning with the crash of Flight 5191. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of all those who lost their lives this morning. That profound sense of loss is being particularly felt by our larger UK family as three of our own were on Flight 5191.

Larry Turner was Associate Dean for Extension and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service. Larry began his extension career at UK in 1978. Much of his life revolved around farming and agriculture. A native of Rising Sun, Ind., Larry grew up on a family farm. But his love for — and commitment to — his adopted state ran deep.

Since 2002, he has been the chief officer overseeing the University of Kentucky extension service, which has offices in each of the state's 120 counties. Larry oversees the work of more than 1,000 people, but he undoubtedly touched countless lives with his deep integrity, commitment and gentle nature. He often said the extension service could be described in three words — people, programs and partnerships.

Today, we have lost one of our best partners. Jim Hooker and Scarlett Parsley Hooker were just married. They were leaving Lexington for their honeymoon. Jim was a former UK baseball player. Scarlett was a graduate student in our College of Health Sciences. They were adored by their family and friends, here at UK and elsewhere.

Together, they held all the promise that youth and love carry, which makes their loss to us even more tragic. There are, of course, no easy answers when such a tragedy occurs. The loss is beyond our ability to grasp or comprehend. And there are no words adequate to express the sense of sadness we feel at this time. The book of Isaiah promises that God will bind up the brokenhearted ... to comfort all who mourn. That is our humble prayer as we seek to comfort those in the UK family and in Lexington who are grieving today.

## TURNER

Continued from page 1

the UK Extension Service. The service brings education-based research to all 120 counties in Kentucky, Smith said.

As an extension professor and chair in the Department of BioSystems and Agricultural Engineering, Turner specializes in and teaches engineering planning, design and analysis in the areas of livestock, environment and facilities, biological systems simulation, and energy utilization and management.

In February 2002, Turner helped orchestrate the Re-evaluating Cooperative Extension Service goal to enhance program-

ing support for county extension programs.

This program helped to improve coaching for extension representatives and helped link them across the state to UK and Kentucky State University campuses.

"I worked with Dr. Turner on projects within the Cooperative Extension Service and was impressed not only with his intellect but also with where he was taking the extension program," Smith said. "He had an inspired plan and was really working toward positive change."

Kelli Bonifer, the Adair County extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, worked with Turner on several of his extension programs.

"Dr. Turner was a great leader," Bonifer said. "He was

supportive in what we did outside of UK's campus and firmly believed in extension and the work that it did."

Leo Edgerton, professor of Reproductive Physiology in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, worked alongside Turner in the College of Agriculture.

"I know who all has been affected by this loss," Edgerton said. "Everyone who has ever been taught by Dr. Turner, worked with Dr. Turner, or in other ways been touched by him will surely be changed."

Meyer said Turner's death would be a "huge loss for the extension program and the university."

"I'm really at a loss for words at this point," Meyer said. "This is someone that we all admire and will greatly miss."

Though Coach Madison attended the wedding, Austin Madison, who lives in Nashville, was

unable to make it.

"It's my biggest regret," Madison said. "He remembers Hooker as one of the best people on the team, for both his skill and his kind personality — which rubbed off on everyone, Madison said."

"He always put the team first," Austin Madison said. "He epitomized what a team player was. He was always positive."

Reynolds said he, Hooker and Brandon Webb, a former UK great and current Arizona Diamondbacks All-Star pitcher, were best friends. Webb was unavailable for comment.

Reynolds said that during wedding Hooker thanked him and two other friends for coming and spent a summer together as roommates in a baseball league in Virginia.

"You can't describe the type of man he was," Reynolds said. "He made us laugh and smile. Everything about him was great."

Reynolds and Hooker were teammates from 1999 to 2001, after competing against each other in high school. Hooker finished his UK career with a 4.5 record and converted 11 saves.

"For me, he was a role model," said Spencer Granger, a former UK baseball player who was a freshman on the team when Hooker was a senior. "Off the field, he was a real leader. He was the type of individual that could touch you."

News that Hooker had been on the fatal flight spread quickly among the close-knit group of former teammates. Most found out on Sunday morning.

"None could believe that Jim and Scarlett had been on the deadly flight — especially those who attended the wedding only hours before."

"Jim will be sorely missed," Reynolds said. "I wish this never happened. He was a strong Christian, and we all have peace of mind that he's in a great place."

## NEWLYWEDS

Continued from page 1

After leaving baseball, he began working in London. He did social work at a doctor's office, at this point," Meyer said. "This is someone that we all admire and will greatly miss."

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"He had an inspired plan and was really working toward positive change."

SCOTT SMITH is a staff writer of the College of Agriculture.

Jon Hooker played baseball at UK from 1997 to 2001.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UK ATHLETICS

## Fletcher agreement a slap in the face of voters

Kentucky has been spared — for the time being, at least — of any further legal embarrassment regarding the investigation surrounding Gov. Ernie Fletcher's hiring scandal.

On Thursday, Fletcher and Attorney General Greg Stumbo agreed to end the criminal investigation over the fiasco.

In exchange for Stumbo's office dropping three misdemeanor charges of political patronage against Fletcher, the governor will take responsibility for "inappropriate" acts by members of his administration.

Fletcher also concedes that evidence in the case "strongly indicates wrongdoing" in state hiring practices, as reported in the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Almost immediately, the spin machines on both sides started rolling out their victory rhetoric.

In a statement, Fletcher's office claimed the governor has been "cleared of all charges" and "exonerated of all allegations."

### KERNEL EDITORIAL

Stumbo responded by rightly claiming Fletcher's statements were "just spin." He then added a bit of his own:

"I have a great deal of confidence that ... people will come to the conclusion that obviously this administration is by and large guilty of what the grand jury found as violations of the law," he told the Courier-Journal.

What's certain — and unfortunate — under these circumstances is that the people of Kentucky will likely never know all the facts in this case.

When there is wrongdoing by elected government officials — no matter what their station on the governmental totem pole — the public deserves to know the details of that wrongdoing.

Another questionable detail in the deal is the fact that Stumbo admitted he came to the agree-

ment without himself seeing all the evidence involved.

Stumbo and Deputy Attorney General Pierce Whites told the Courier-Journal they gave up pursuing further evidence after a judge ruled that Fletcher would not have to stand trial until after he leaves office.

Whites said in an interview with the Courier-Journal, "When the possibility of a trial is removed, the impetus for that fight is removed." This attitude toward the responsibilities of his position is inexcusable. The attorney general's office is obligated to follow through on every investigation that passes through the coffee.

Setbacks are part of the job for prosecutors. If there truly was wrongdoing on the part of the governor or persons in his administration, Stumbo should have pursued the case regardless of how long it might take to bring charges against those responsible.

The most disturbing part of the agreement is

how convenient it appears for both parties.

Stumbo has shown interest in running for governor in 2007. Fletcher wants to run for re-election.

However, Stumbo had said he would not run while also prosecuting Fletcher. And the Courier-Journal reported that Fletcher, who has said he would be running all along, told supporters at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville that he will press on with his bid for re-election.

With the prospect for criminal charges no longer looming, both men are now free to focus on the election, although Stumbo said he has no plans to run "at this time."

Forgive us if we're skeptical of Stumbo's statements.

It appears that this agreement benefits both Fletcher and Stumbo, at least for their 2007 prospects.

Unfortunately, it comes at the expense of Kentucky's voters, who will likely never know the entire story.

## UK rankings a positive step toward reaching Top 20

U.S. News & World Report recently revealed its 2007 rankings of American colleges and universities.

In what is good news for both present, past and future students, UK rose from No. 59 to No. 54 among public universities.

Among all colleges and universities, including private schools, UK rose from No. 120 to No. 112.

UK President Lee Todd told The Kernel that the university's rise in rankings demonstrates "the positive momentum UK has gained in striving to achieve top-20 status by 2020."

According to UK spokesman Jay Blanton, the university looks at rankings such as those of U.S. News as signs of progress.

But administrators have their own ranking system, which statistically evaluates UK's position among the nation's 88 public research institutions.

These factors include undergraduate education, graduate education, research and faculty recognition.

Based on internal rankings, UK

### KERNEL EDITORIAL

is currently ranked No. 35, up from No. 40 in 1997, when the Kentucky General Assembly voted to mandate UK's top-20 status by 2020.

Todd said in The Kernel, "I've been gratified that we have come so far, so fast and often with limited financial resources."

Blanton said U.S. News rankings provide a basis for determining success in such factors as quality of students, graduation and retention rates and research growth.

However, he admitted these rankings leave out other factors, such as efforts state universities put into making their states better places to live, work and raise families.

In order to reach Top-20 status by 2020, UK will need cooperation from state legislators and other local leaders.

Those in power must ensure — mostly through the budget process — that UK can fulfill its mandated goals in the allotted amount of time.

## Poverty in Africa continues to produce child labor

I give my little 6-year-old cousin a ride on my back. She wraps her young, fragile arms tightly around my neck. I watch as she walks timidly among adults. I listen as she shyly asks her dad if she can drink her fruit punch. He politely says, "Diamond, no; finish your food."

The reality is as I watch

my cousin, I think about the article I just read in The New York Times about a little boy by the name of Alone, living in sub-Saharan Africa in a place called Lusaka.

He is currently working at the age of nine. Not a part-time job, but full-time.

Not throwing newspapers, but according to the Times, he "breaks rocks for gravel to help his family subsist."

It brings chills up my back. Staring at his picture in the paper, I try to imagine how he feels.

What if he wants to play catch instead of working, or run around freely with his friends, or go to school, as I did when I was nine?

According to The Times, "Across the globe, the number of children forced to work is in sharp decline."

By the United Nations' latest estimate, more than 49 million sub-Saharan children age 14 and under worked in 2004 — 1.3 million more than at the turn of the century, only four years earlier.

The article explains how Alone

takes football-sized chunks of fractured rock and beats them into powder.

Sadly, he can only make enough powder to fill half a bag.

Remember, he is only nine years old and working. When you were nine, would you still be able to find joy while saddled with the responsibility of providing for your family?

The Times article states, "His grandmother, Mary Mulelema, sells each bag, to be used to make concrete, for 10,000 kwacha, less than \$3."

"Often, she said, it is the difference between eating and going hungry."

This is not only happening in Lusaka, but Kenya, Tanzania and more countries.

In Kenya, nearly a third of the coffee pickers were children, a 2001 World Bank report found.

In Tanzania, 25,000 children worked in hazardous jobs on plantations and in mines.

If the tables were turned, it could be my cousin, or your younger sister and brother.

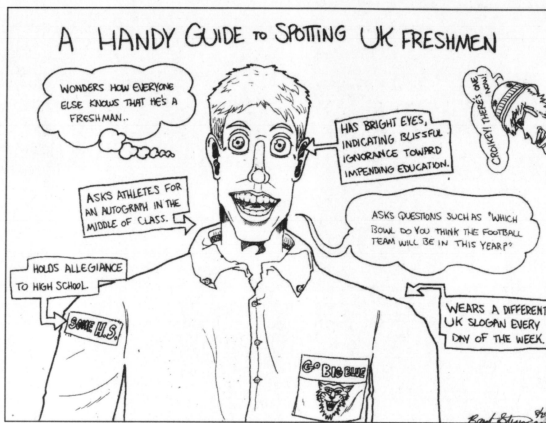
For a second, I wonder exactly how germane is this article? Very, relevant!

There are many student organizations on campus that are geared toward helping these countries. Joshua Odoi, a member of the African Student Association said, "We are always fighting for the rights of other people around the world."

Invisible Children, African Student Association, and Amnesty International — to these organizations I want to personally say thank you. It's good to see people making a difference.

Joshua Odoi is a journalism senior. E-mail [jwo200@kykernel.com](mailto:jwo200@kykernel.com).

Jenisha Watts is a journalism senior. E-mail [jwatts@kykernel.com](mailto:jwatts@kykernel.com).

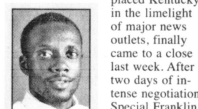


BRAD STURGEON, Kernel cartoonist

## Hiring scandal provides multiple scenarios for 2007 election

After dismissing charges, now what?

The saga in Frankfort, which placed Kentucky in the limelight of major news outlets, finally came to a close last week. After two days of intense negotiation, Special Franklin District Judge David E. Melcher signed an agreement on Thursday dismissing charges brought against Gov. Ernie Fletcher in a state hiring scandal.



JOSHUA ODOI  
Columnist

In his five-page order dismissing the charges, the Melcher said, "The governor acknowledges that the evidence strongly indicates wrongdoing by his administration with regard to personnel actions with the merit system."

When Judge Melcher ruled on Aug. 12 that the governor could remain under indictment on three criminal misdemeanor charges related to the state hiring scandal but could not be tried until he is impeached or is out of office, it was all too clear that Kentucky's global news appeal was climaxing and readying itself for an ending.

The world has watched, with keen interest, how Kentucky's unique brand of politics can captivate this entire nation's political landscape.

Many in the global community are used to the fact that checks and balances exist to ensure that no single branch of government exceeds the power within its realm. Many are baffled by what they see here in the Commonwealth, where we have the executive branch vigorously exercising checks within it.

The laws in Kentucky have been framed in such a way that it makes elected executive positions in the state available to members of any eli-

gible political parties. Whereas at the federal level, one would hardly see a sitting attorney general taking on the head of government in a court of law, the laws of the Commonwealth and several other states encourage this behavior in a good way.

People on the outside watch in amazement as they learned that a governor cannot pick or hire his own people, preferably party loyalists who he thinks would best pursue his agenda for the state.

This practice may have some ethical questions when it comes to state jobs, but it is a common practice in several other democracies. Such hiring would not have been a major issue in certain parts of world, especially if the ruling party had been out of power for close to two decades.

The rest of the nation — for that matter, the world — may choose to see things in Kentucky how they want, but Kentucky voters are more than ever looking to see what would really become of this whole situation.

The what-ifs in this whole debate are countless.

One could inquire: What if the governor had not accepted responsibility for hiring wrongly? For one, that would have meant Kentucky would still be headlining national news until next year's gubernatorial election. Gov. Fletcher would probably have had a better chance of winning against Democrat Attorney General Greg Stumbo — that is, if they both get nominations from their parties.

In the above scenario of no deal yet, Stumbo would have been seen as having been motivated by his ambitions to attack his opponent.

This scenario is not as simple as it may seem. The governor would have had to go for an all-out primary battle against Secretary of State Trey Grayson, who gained momentum for his candidacy while the case was still unresolved. This is clearly still possible.

With Fletcher having a 24 percent

approval rating in a recent SurveyUSA poll, Grayson was probably right to come out so early as being a potential challenger for the seat.

But time would tell if his move was the best one. Now one may think Grayson's interest has been victimized by Stumbo's self-assurance that he could beat the governor in the general election, once he has had clearance to run himself.

Stumbo's wish may not be a total certainty, since Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Versailles, who narrowly lost the last gubernatorial race, could emerge as the best Democratic candidate.

Then again, we cannot close an eye on a possible final race between Trey Grayson and Ben Chandler. This matchup would surely get national attention, as it would so much resemble Sen. John Kerry's comeback against a new Republican challenger.

In all this, one wonders whether it would have been better for Fletcher to pardon himself. Would it really have come off as weak or bold? It certainly depends on where one is coming from. It looks like he has survived this one on a temporary basis.

His political skills are going to be tested in the coming months.

We've had a 15-month-long legal saga unfold in front us, but that which lies ahead is even more important. It looks like a long political battle awaits us, and we are all to watch with keen interest.

For independents, the question should be: Which of these emerging candidates has the best pragmatic plan of seeing our school pursue its full potential? It would be in the interest of any Republican hopeful to court Sen. Mitch McConnell the Majority Whip of the U.S. Senate, who is more like a chief maker in Kentucky.

For the Democrats, recapturing the governorship has never been more plausible.

Joshua Odoi is a mechanical engineering senior. E-mail [jwo200@uky.edu](mailto:jwo200@uky.edu).

### Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Bleivins or Assistant Opinions Editor Jonathan Meador. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

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BABYSITTER NEEDED. Tu. 7:30-9:30pm. Thurs. 12:30-5:00pm. 859-423-3224

BUSINESS VALETS EVENING HRS. Please apply at The Merrick Inn, 3800 Tates Creek Rd.

CHARLE BROWNS is hiring bartenders/cooks + servers. 229-2185. 859-8154

CHEVY CHASE HARDWARE. PT cashier. Flex. Work schedule, apply in person Sat. 8am-3pm. 880 E. High St. 269-961

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FOOD SERVICE. Part time. 2.4M. 408. Nicholasville. 224-9411

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