

Union film festival features female director Silver

By FRANK BRUNI
Staff Writer

In June 1980, women members of the Directors Guild of America held a grievance session during which they released statistics showing that, of the 7,332 feature films produced and given wide release by major studios in the last 30 years, only 14 were directed by women.

To Joan Micklin Silver, the news undoubtedly came as no surprise. Silver first had to direct three independently financed features before United Artists entrusted her with 1979's *Head over Heels* (re-released in 1981 with the title of the Ann Beattie novel, *Chilly Scenes of Winter*, from which it was adapted). That film, 1977's *Between the Lines*, and the 1977 short feature *Bernice Bobs Her Hair* constitute the Joan Micklin Silver

film festival put together by the Union Film Committee, with shows tonight and Sept. 20 at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

"I thought it would be good to give some exposure to a fairly permanent American woman director," said Robert McDaniel, the film committee member who proposed the idea for the festival. "There aren't very many women who make feature-length films that actually get seen."

McDaniel himself had only seen *Chilly Scenes of Winter* at the time he suggested the Silver festival, and he was not then aware of *Bernice Bobs Her Hair*, a 49-minute adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's celebrated short story that was shown as part of PBS's series on great American short stories.

Margaret O'Connor, an associate professor of English and American

studies at UNC who teaches a film criticism class, blamed both sex-role stereotyping and the inability of women to get experience for the dearth of women directors.

"There are still problems with women getting into the guilds that give production experience, early experience," O'Connor said.

O'Connor also said there was no clear line of ascension in film work. "You have to be picked out for leadership, or something dramatic," she said. "The people on top haven't yet recognized women that way."

Some women directors, however, have found television more receptive. "There's much more work available there," O'Connor said.

For Silver, dues were paid not through television work but through writing and directing short educational films. Recognizing the difficulties women directors were having with major studios, Silver found independent financing — through investors her husband knew from his real estate dealings — for her first two features, *Hester Street* and *Between the Lines*. *Hester Street*, omitted from the festival because it was shown only a few semesters ago at UNC, garnered uni-

versal critical praise. Silver won an Oscar nomination for her screenplay.

While that film was about the experiences of Jewish immigrants in New York City at the turn of the century, Silver's subsequent films have been inhabited by eccentrics whose foibles tell much about the societies in which they live. *Between the Lines* turns to the workings of an anti-establishment newspaper to find these characters, *Bernice* to the "roaring '20s," and *Chilly Scenes* to the seemingly unrequited love of an emotionally muffled young man.

With these films, Silver has helped to break ground for women directors. Amy Heckerling (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*) and Claudia Weill (*It's My Turn*, *Girlfriends*) have recently directed films that were well-received both commercially and critically. And well-known actresses — Barbra Streisand and Lee Grant, for instance — have exploited their personal backing to test their wings, with successful results, as directors.

For women directors, "there's hope," O'Connor said, "but it will take time."

Subdivision approved

By JIM HOFFMAN
Staff Writer

A Raleigh developer won approval from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen Tuesday night to build 14 units in a subdivision off of W. Main Street. But a pending law suit may enable the developer to build up to 19 units in the subdivision.

The board unanimously approved the application by White Oak Properties Inc. to build the subdivision in the lot bounded by W. Main Street, High Street and Hillsborough Road.

In August 1983 the aldermen rejected the company's request to build 19 townhouse units. That decision was overruled in Orange County Superior Court, but the N.C. Court of Appeals has yet to make a decision on the issue.

Paul Carr, representing White Oak Properties said he did not know if he would go ahead and build the 14 units or wait for the Court of Appeals decision.

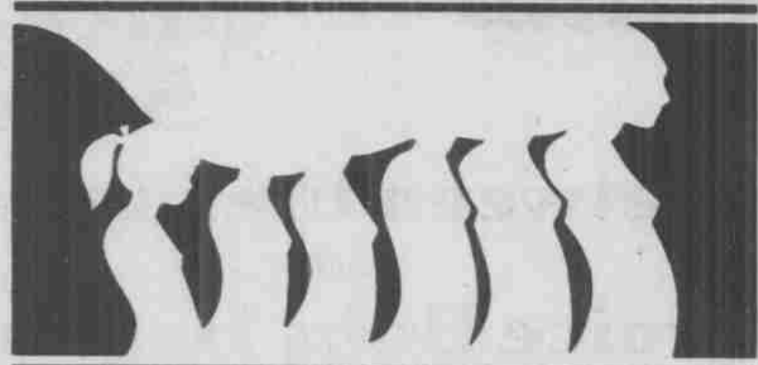
Several of the residents in the area complained during the 1½-hour public hearing that their privacy would be affected by the subdivision. The aldermen granted the application however, on the condition that suitable screening be placed between the subdivision units and neighboring residents.

The public hearing was continued from July.

In another related matter, the board passed an ordinance amendment reducing the width of the right-of-way on local streets.

Aldermen Zona Norwood and Jim White voted against the amendment, saying it was being proposed solely to accommodate the developer. The N.C. Department of Transportation reduced their minimum requirements for the right-of-way on state streets from 50 to 40 feet last May, according to zoning administrator Greg Sheppard. The local ordinance reduces the width from 60 to 50 feet.

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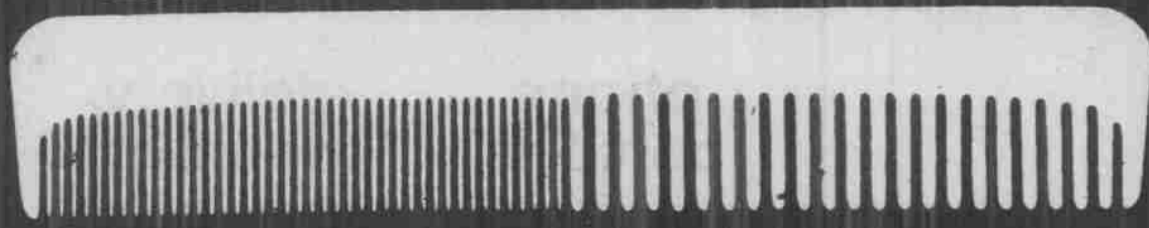
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Campus Calendar

The Carolina Student Fund/DTH Campus Calendar will appear daily. Announcements to be run in the expanded version on Mondays and Thursdays must be placed in the box outside the Carolina Student Fund office on the third floor of South Building by 5 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Wednesday, respectively. The deadlines for the limited editions will be noon one day before the announcement is to run. Only announcements from University recognized and campus organizations will be printed.

Thursday

- 2 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Orientation and Resume Writing Workshop in 209 Hanes.
- 4 p.m. Carolina Student Fund Steering Committee meeting in 300 South Building.
- Senior Class Volunteer meeting for all Seniors interested in working with the class in the Union.
- Womens' Lacrosse Organizational meeting on Ehringhaus Field. Call 967-6568.
- 4:30 p.m. Campus Y Membership meeting in Gerrard Hall.
- 5 p.m. Students Older Than Average open meeting in the Campus Y Upstairs Lounge.
- 5:30 p.m. UNC Rugby Club practice on Glen Lennox Field.
- 7 p.m. GRE Information Session in 208 of the Union.

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship - South Campus Fellowship meeting in Ehringhaus Social Room.

UNC Cycling Club fall planning meeting in 220 Union.

Carolina Gay Association business meeting followed by Lambda Newsletter meeting.

IVCF Large Group meeting in Chapel of the Cross Parlor.

Outing Club Kayak Roll Clinic at the Indoor Pool. Call 933-7705.

Campus Crusade for Christ, large group meeting in the Union.

The Carolina Union present the films *Between the Lines* and *Bernice Bobs Her Hair*. No admission; shown also at 9 p.m. Taking the GRE in October? Informational meeting in 208 Union.

7:30 p.m. Chimera convention planning meeting in the Union.

STAND agenda meeting in the Campus Y Lounge. Call 933-5186.

Parachute Club meeting in the Union.

Carolina Students for Life meeting in the Union.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddle group meeting in 205 Union.

Friday

7 p.m. The Carolina Union presents *Gorky Park*. Admission is

\$1.25; shown also at 9:30 p.m. and midnite.

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Anglican Student Fellowship breakfast at Chapel of the Cross.

7 p.m. The Carolina Union presents *Alexander Nevsky*. Admission is free; shown also at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday

7 p.m. The Carolina Union presents *St. Louis Blues*. Admission is free, shown also at 9:30 p.m.

Monday

7:30 p.m. American Association of University Women new members' dessert at Binkley Baptist Church. Call 929-9265.

8 p.m. Campus Crusade for Christ presents Josh McDowell.

Items of Interest

The Graduate Record Exam is Oct. 13. Registration must be postmarked by Thursday, Sept. 13. Registration material available in Nash Hall.

To Pre-Vet Students: did you know you can take the GRE Advanced test in Biology instead of the VAT for Vet School? Contact the pre-med advising office in 201D Steele for information.



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