

# Study: N.C. Charter Schools on Rise Festival to Focus On Jewish Cinema

A report indicates that minorities are increasingly attracted to charter schools' alternative curriculums.

BY KRISTIAN KORDULA  
Staff Writer

Enrollment and interest in the state's charter schools are on the rise, according to a recently released N.C. Public School Forum study.

The report indicated a heightened level of competition for students between charter and public schools, as charter schools became more popular.

The study also found that minorities and struggling students were increasingly seeking the alternative curriculums that charter schools offer.

There are 82 charter schools in North Carolina currently, only three years after the state's first charter school opened.

The study indicated that the number of state-approved charter schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana has risen from 29 to 162 in four years.

John Poteat, director of research for the N.C. Public School Forum, said the study looked to improve the communication and cooperation between charter schools and traditional public schools.

"We aimed to create a connection so that charter schools could learn from public schools and vice versa," he said.

In an effort to forge a relationship between public and charter schools, researchers visited and talked to administrators across the state.

But Poteat said competition would

prevent a consistent, positive working relationship between charter and traditional schools.

"I think we were a bit naive in thinking that there would be widespread cooperation," Poteat said.

"That would be like asking Pepsi to include one can of Coke in their six-packs."

The study also indicated that the majority of the students enrolled in the state's charter schools were minorities.

Poteat said the study showed that minorities viewed charter schools as an alternative to public schools where they were being outperformed by white students.

Charter schools attempt to provide a more personal learning environment for students in need of extra attention by placing a cap on the number of students who may attend the school, Poteat said.

The compelling advantage of charter schools over traditional county schools is the favorable student-to-teacher ratio, said Daniel Munn, the operations manager at five N.C. charter schools.

"Many students needing special attention can flourish in a smaller educational community," he said.

The study also sought ways for state legislators to better support charter school programs in the early stages of development.

Munn said he condoned the efforts and cooperation of state legislators who had approved the charters.

"I think North Carolina has done a courageous thing," he said.

"It'll serve the people of North Carolina well, which is our goal."

While some areas of the state are in need of charter schools to alleviate overcrowded classrooms, local school sys-

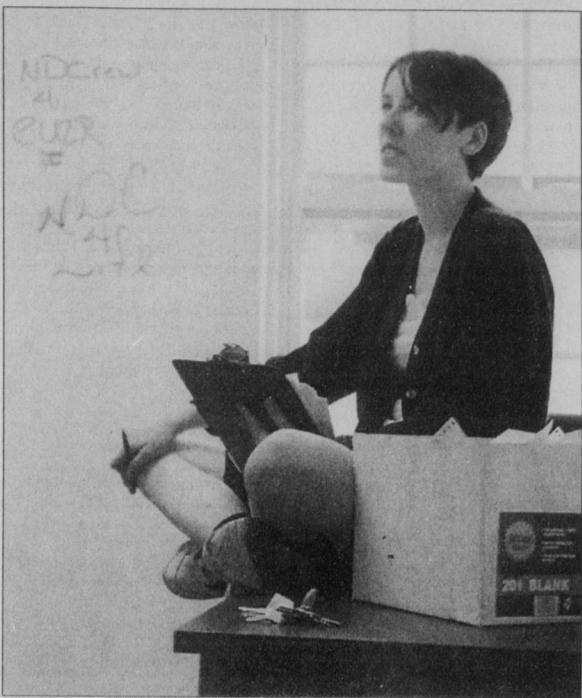
tem administrators said enrollment needs were being met.

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The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).



DTN FILE PHOTO

After this Carrboro charter school closed last year, 44 students had to look elsewhere for schooling. There are 82 such schools in the state.

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Atlanta - North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt wants his state to follow what he calls Georgia's "great example" of setting aside green space and cleaning up air pollution.

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Hunt said recent Georgia solutions, from promoting mass transit to re-inventing inner cities, should be examples for North Carolina.

"Atlanta is probably doing the best job of any place in the country in dealing with growth issues - congestion, the quality of air, green space," Hunt told reporters at a news conference.

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The N.C. Jewish Film Festival will showcase movies from comedies to a new version of the Anne Frank story.

BY CARL JACOBS  
Staff Writer

A young Jewish boy sends an e-mail message to God, an elderly Jewish woman is found dead in the corridor of a New York hotel, and an impoverished Jewish musician marries and then becomes infatuated with his wife's handsome 18-year-old brother. Mandy Patinkin sings "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" in Yiddish.

"What is the deal?" you ask, in perfect Jewish comedian Jerry Seinfeld rhetoric. The deal is the second annual N.C. Jewish Film Festival, which begins today at Carolina Theatre's Fletcher Hall in Durham.

Back after a successful first year that drew more than 2,000 people of all ages, the festival will screen 18 films. Selected by the programming committee from 60 submissions, the films will be shown today through Sunday.

David Sontag of the Steering and the Programming Committee said the festival's two main goals were to bring Jewish people in the area together and to provoke people to think and feel.

"For anybody to come and to think and to learn from the films they watch would be a wonderful plus," Sontag said. "If people go and see how other people live... then the film has performed a service."

The 18 chosen include award-winning features, documentaries and international films with varying subjects.

The festival opens today with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by a screening of "The Chosen" (1981), recently named the greatest Jewish movie of all time by critic Kathryn Bernheimer.

Other notable films include "Commissar" (1967), a Russian drama about the Bolshevik Revolution that was banned by the Soviet government for 21 years due to its anti-militaristic tone and acknowledgement of Russian persecution of Jews, "The Giraffe" (1999), a thriller and German award-winner for cinematography, direction and acting; and "Man is a Woman" (1999), a gay Jewish comedy.

Also showing are several children's films including the recently completed "Anne Frank's Diary" (1999), an animated version of the famous story.

Several screenings will be followed by forums where viewers will have the opportunity to ask questions and talk with directors and festival organizers.

In addition to films, the festival will include Sherry Glaser in "Family Secrets," the longest-running one-person show in off-Broadway history.

The dramatic comedy presents three generations of one Jewish-American family, where Glaser transforms herself from male to female, from 16 to 80 years old.

Sontag said he hoped the festival would provide something for everyone. "You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy this festival," he said. "It's a wonderful way to get the Triangle together to share an experience."

"This is a chance to see a film that (people in the Triangle) otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to see."

Festival Passes, \$62 each, must be bought before 8 p.m. today. Tickets to the Sherry Glaser performance are \$15 for general admission, and tickets to individual films can be bought for \$6.50 each the day of the show.

The Arts & Entertainment editors can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

CAT'S CRADLE 967-9053 300 E. Main Street - Carrboro JANUARY 20 TH MANDORICO 21 FR DUEL OF THE IRON MICS 22 SA CRAVIN' MELON w/ Agents of Good Roots 24 MO DROP KICK MURPHYS\*\* 25 TU funky METERS\*\* 26 WE THE BUSINESS\*\* (SB) 27 TH FIGHTING GRAVITY / COLLAPIS 28 FR "MANIA" (Dance party) 29 SA SNAPCASE / ANTI FLAG / BURIED ALIVE / SAVE THE DAY FEBRUARY 1 TU MU330 & LINK 80 3 TH Cowboy Mouth\*\* (\$12) 4 FR Bio Rhythms\*\* (\$7) 5 SA Jets To Brazil\*\* (\$8) 6 SU Machine Head\*\* (\$10) 7 MO Old 97's\*\* (\$8) 8 TU STEEL PULSE\*\* (\$17) 9 WE GUSTER (\$8/\$10) 10 TH WEEKEND EXCURSION 11 FR CARY PIERCE\*\* (\$8) 12 SA GRAN TORINO 13 SU FLICKER 14 MO THE SAMPLES\*\* (\$10) 15 TU TOM MAXWELL & THE MINOR DRAG 16 WE STEVE FORBERT\*\* (\$12) 17 TH & 18 FR moe\*\* (\$12) 19 SA HOT WATER MUSIC 20 SU DONNA THE BUFFALO\*\* (\$10) 22 TU REVEREND HORTON HEAT / HANK WILLIAMS III\*\* (\$11) 24 TH Lamb Chop 25 FR 20 MILES / BOB LOG III 26 SA THE CONNELLS\*\* (\$12) 28 MO KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD\*\* (\$17) 29 TU JONATHAN RICHMAN\*\* (\$8) COMING MARCH 4: HI MOMI FILM FESTIVAL MARCH 9: PAULA COLE\*\* (\$15) SHOWS @ GO! Room 4: JANUARY 20 TH AMISH JIHAD 21 FR John Svara, RUBEO, NIKKI... 22 SA Half Japanese, Clock-Lok 27 TH Danielle Howe, Old Pike, Sue Elliot FEBRUARY 2 WE Crooked Fingers 3 TH Dismemberment Plan, Alkaline Trio, Fura 4 FR Royal Trux \*\*Advance ticket sales at SchoolKids (in Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh). For Credit Card orders CALL 919-967-9053 www.catscradle.com

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## Nuclear Weapons Labs Accused of Prejudices

WASHINGTON - A six-month Energy Department investigation has found evidence of racial profiling and an "atmosphere of distrust and suspicion" toward Asian Americans at nuclear weapons labs because of the uproar over alleged Chinese espionage.

But Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, vowing to stamp out such profiling, insisted Wednesday that Taiwan-born scientist Wen Ho Lee was never singled out or fired from his job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory because of his race.

However, Asian-American scientists widely believe they have been unfairly targeted because of their race since Lee's dismissal last March for security violations, according to a task force report in the department.

Lee, at the center of a three-year espionage investigation, was indicted in December for copying top-secret nuclear weapons files and remains in

## Navy Restores Ties With Aviation Group

WASHINGTON - The Navy said Wednesday it is restoring relations with the Tailhook Association, the naval aviators group whose 1991 Las Vegas convention produced a sex scandal that forced the resignation of the Navy's civilian chief and focused attention on sexual harassment in the military.

"We've concluded that the time is right to restore ties," Navy Secretary Richard Danzig said in announcing the decision, which was made jointly with the Navy's top officer, Adm. Jay Johnson, and the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Jones.

The decision means Navy and Marine Corps aviators will once again be allowed to attend Tailhook conventions and professional development seminars on official military business. Ties were severed in October 1991 after word got out about drunken sexual debauchery at the Las Vegas convention

at that date. Federal forces pushed toward the center of Grozny from several directions, trying to squeeze rebel fighters into an ever-tightening circle, the military said.

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