

Ready to Roll

Take a look at N.C. State's 1999 women's tennis team. See page 8.



TECHNICIAN

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920 www.technicianonline.com

Indian Diva

Read about Shabana Azmi's visit to NCSU on page 3.

Outside

Today Hi 57 Lo 35 Tomorrow Hi 65 Lo 43

Debt help is on Web

For financially educated students, there is potentially big pay-off.

Allison Ballard Assistant News Editor

Debt is no stranger to many college students. In fact, in the past weeks students across campus have, undoubtedly, received bills and still owe money for holiday purchases and textbooks.

To help students get back on the plus side, Larry Chiang, credit educator and founder of United College Marketing Services, delved out tips on managing credit.

UCMS is a service that markets credit cards to college students while incorporating credit instruction through seminars on campus, said Dennis Meunier, vice president of the company.

One of the best tools out there for students is using the Internet for up-to-date financial information, according to Chiang.

"It doesn't take long to access information off the Web, and if it can save you money — great," said Anne Hamel, a junior in political science.

The easiest way for students to save money is to pay close attention to credit card interest rates. That can make a huge difference in their bank accounts. Several credit cards have Web sites with information about the credit cards available.

Chiang advises students to keep their eyes open for credit card offers with low interest rates, such as those with a 9.9 percent rate.

"I'm contentious about what I charge. I try not to spend too much money," Hamel said. "And if I see a good credit card offer, I try to apply for that one."

Also, be wary of credit cards that may entice subscribers with free T-shirts, but whose interest rates could be over 18 percent. Increasingly, credit card companies have come under attack for the way they solicit cards to students, according to news reports.

"We have recently seen credit card tabling being banned on many college campuses," Meunier said.

Chiang said it is also important for students to check with credit bureaus and make sure the correct information is on their credit reports. Several of these can be accessed on the UCMS Web site.

Because interest rates have been lowered in recent months, it is also worth students' time to look into restructuring their car loans, according to Chiang. The savings may range from \$20 to \$100 per month. Daily interest rates can be found on Yahoo!'s "My Yahoo" window.

"As more and more students are relying on college loans, it is important for them to understand how loan officers evaluate [loans and applicants]," Chiang said.

"Understanding this point system [that loan officers use] keeps you aware of the rules of the credit interest game," he said.

Despite these tips, though, many student find other ways to save money and control debt.

"I just try to stay frugal," said Josh Collins, a junior in botany. "Basically, I allow myself \$20 to spend every week."

"I eat at home to save money," Hamel said. "And I look for inexpensive entertainment."



Ben Dunn, a senior in natural resources management, picks up tickets for the Wake Forest and Duke basketball games.

Robinson returns tickets

Students who camped out this weekend will be able to sit behind the Duke bench.

Zack Mazer Assistant News Editor

In response to student concerns over tickets given to Student Government for the N.C. State-UNC-Chapel Hill basketball game, Les Robinson, NCSU's athletic director, returned tickets behind the visiting bench to the pool of seats available for students in Sunday's campout for the coming Duke and Wake Forest games.

"I understand [the students] who were upset, but there are two sides to every story," Robinson said of the controversy.

According to Robinson, ACC officials contacted him about the numerous problems in past meetings between the teams, warning that they would recommend technical fouls be called on the home team for any disturbances arising during the game.

"I did not realize it would be looked at from the standpoint that we had to campout and they didn't," Robinson said. "But obviously some felt that way, and if you feel that way I apologize... I had planned last summer to do this with different student groups, and I thought it would be logical to start with Student Government," he said.

Alexis Mei, the Student Senate president, defended Robinson's idea, pointing out that the tickets were not originally supposed to go to students anyway.

"The ticket policy says that there are a certain number of seats for ACC games that must go to the visiting team's guests, seats pulled from that section behind the bench,"

Mei said. "What [Robinson] wanted to do with the tickets, not only the Student Government, saying, 'I regret putting the student leaders in a compromising situation.'"

Mei stressed that Robinson intended to reward a number of different groups with the tickets, not only the Student Government. For the coming Duke game, the seats were to go to the intramural flag-football team who won the national championship.

Mei also pointed out the fact that to replace the lost seats for the Carolina game, Robinson added extra seats to the pool from other sections of Renshild Coliseum.

Robinson also stressed his apology to the Student Government, saying, "I regret putting the student leaders in a compromising situation."

Raj Mirchandani, a student senator who sits on the Campus Life Committee, the group that organizes campouts, noted the effects of the events on Student Government's reputation.

"I definitely did [hurt our reputation]," he said, "but Student Government is an organization that does not get much publicity, and when we do get publicity sometimes it is in the negative... and that is what happened here."

Robinson, who will no longer use the seats as rewards, said the plan might not have worked as well as he had hoped.

"The irony of the whole situation was the students being upset, thinking that I was taking away from students... But there is no way I was intending to do that," he said. "I have always supported students being a main part of our games but, in the long run, [the plan] was not really worth what I was trying to accomplish."

Telecommunications deals with challenger

Wolpack Telecom is trying to lure NCSU students to use its calling cards with the promise of lower rates.

Cathy Wilfong News Editor

As more and more organizations flood the telecommunications field, the industry has become characterized with dueling long distance telephone rates. These companies are willing to fight tooth, nail and telephone bill to win over new customers.

The latest target: college students. Recently, many N.C. State students living in residence halls received information about a new long distance service offered by a company called Wolpack Telecom. The company offers long distance rates of 5.9 cents a minute anywhere in the Triangle area and 9.9 cents for calls to anywhere else in the United States, compared to a flat

rate of 15 cents a minute currently available through NCSU telecommunications, which has a contract with AT&T.

But, according to Jennifer Van Horn, director of NCSU's Telecommunications, the Wolpack Telecom letter many students received is somewhat vague.

"This letter is pretty misleading," she said. "It didn't clearly state what they were selling."

Van Horn went on to say that the advertised rates are only available as a calling card, which the letter does not state. According to Van Horn, students can't change the long distance service that is available through their residence hall rooms.

"But they can use pre-paid cards or 800 numbers," she said. Since the plan offered by Wolpack Telecom actually works like a calling card, students would be able to use the service from their residence hall rooms.

The only catch, which is not men-

tioned in the Wolpack Telecom letter, is that the advertised rates are only available in the local area.

"You can use it anywhere in the local calling area," explained John Scott, vice president of the company. Students call a local number to access their account, then enter the number they are calling. Any calls made outside the local calling area, however, are billed to a separate "Travelcard" at a rate of 15 cents a minute, tacked on to a fee of 30 cents per call.

These rates are still cheaper than most currently offered by NCSU Telecommunications. Van Horn said she is aware of this fact but hopes that an upcoming meeting with AT&T representatives will yield better rates for students.

"We extended our contract for another year, but we are negotiating for better deals," she said. "[They] will better match the consumer market."

Van Horn said she has received several calls and inquiries regarding the

rates and information sent to students by Wolpack Telecom, which has led to some confusion.

"It made it sound like they were part

of the university, and they aren't," she said. "They are not affiliated in any way."

See Rates, Page 4

Comparison of Long-Distance Telephone Rates



Table with 3 columns: Call Type, NCSU Rate, Wolpack Telecom Rate, Difference Savings. Rows include 10 min. daytime call, 10 min. evening call, and 10 min. night call.

\* rates applicable only in the Raleigh area



Tender loving care

Wendy Callahan (left) and Katy Stanford, juniors in veterinary pre-medicine, work with a baby claf, born at the NCSU vet school last Friday.

In China, a telephone free-for-all sparks lawsuit

A promise of free phone minutes to the U.S. ignites a controversy in China.

John Pomret The Washington Post

FUZHOU, China — When brothers Chen Zhui and Chen Yan began enticing shoppers at their electronics store with free calls to the United States via the Internet two years ago, the pair thought they had discovered a snazzy way to hawk their wares.

"Five free minutes to the USA," read

one ad promoting the sale of video CD players. Lines formed and business boomed. The brothers even set up a phone service, selling calls to the United States at a fraction of the state monopoly's price.

Then things got ugly.

Representatives of China's telephone monopoly, China Telecom, snooped around the store, in a riverside village 20 miles south of this provincial capital. Acting on orders from China Telecom, local police arrested the pair about a year ago, seized their computer and more than \$6,000, and accused them of "endangering national security" and committing "a new type of crime."

In a case being closely watched in Beijing, Chen Zhui responded by suing the police, arguing that his actions were not criminal because there was no law banning Internet phone service. (Such a law was approved in September, nine months after the Chen brothers were shut down.) Last Wednesday, Chen won the first round in his case and now has hopes of getting his money back and clearing his name.

Chen Zhui and Chen Yan are foot soldiers in a war over how the people of the world's most populous nation will com-

See China, Page 4

## Technician's View

# Students beware of phone play

◆ A new long distance company promises students lower rates but at the expense of NCSU's good name.

Long distance service is among the many monopolies the university has control over. In addition to cable, course packets and freshman dining, N.C. State and AT&T are in cahoots when it comes to long distance phone service.

Wolfpack Telecom is trying to compete against AT&T with a marketing ploy to outwit students.

If dorm residents go with the university and AT&T for local calls, they also have to foot the bill for 15 cents a minute on long distance calls. If they go with Wolfpack Telecom, students pay less locally, but 15 cents for every call outside of the Triangle, as well as an additional 30 cents per call charge. The trick is, they don't inform students about the additional charges for outside of Raleigh calls. And both companies claim to have students' best interest at heart? Obviously, the student loses either way.

It appears as if students have to choose between a rock and a hard place when it comes to cheap, reliable telephone service. Companies like Wolfpack Telecom, who operate under the guise of the university, also mislead students by fabricating their image to each university they sell to. Any true NCSU fan or student thinks paper with the university's logo is legitimate and official.

If a company uses the logo without proper permission, NCSU should do everything within its power to ensure that action is taken to protect the student. Do faculty, staff and administrators receive lower rates while AT&T makes up the difference with inflated rates for students? It is not unreasonable to provide dorm residents with the same convenience, service and rates that a nonresident can receive from AT&T.

As advice to students, be cautious of mail that offers a too-good-to-be-true product or service and has the university's logo as a draw. It's sad when a student has to be suspicious about the university's long distance service and logo usage.

...if the 'Canes have their way with the arena...



marko1.25.99

# Advice on majoring in a successful future

## CAMPUS FORUM

### Start spreadin' the news

I have been loyally camping out for basketball tickets with hundreds of my fellow student fans. I have also been at the mercy of Student Government's whim in calling campout. I am forced to stay by a radio, listening to WKNC (which caters only to a select few) and getting a headache from all the noise that I dare call music and the unintelligent commentary from the DJs. I eagerly await the announcement that campout has been called from our one and only source. I repeat, our sole source of information regarding the campout and those ever-so-prized tickets.

Therefore, I plea on behalf of all loyal student Wolfpack fans that the campout time and date be made known to all in Technician on Thursdays before it takes place. However, if our power-hungry peers in Student Government cannot stand to divulge specific information, at least declare a time period in the paper in which the campout will be called (i.e. Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.). This would at least supply some relief for the weary students devoted to supporting the Wolfpack but still need to allocate time for academics, work and etc.

Furthermore, in the event of adverse weather conditions, set a specific time in which a definite decision will be made on whether or not campout is

called.  
Hey Student Government, I thought you were supposed to work for us — we're students first and our time is important, too!

Laura E. Chambers,  
Se. Textile and Apparel  
Management/MDS

### No apologies needed

Bravo to the staff of Technician on the spoof of the Daily Tar Hell! I for one was not offended by anything that the paper offered. I was, however, offended that after a job well done, the staff of the paper had to apologize for the article "Coming Up From Behind."  
Every year, we have a coming-out day, and I am offended because I am straight and I am a Christian. But because this is America, I understand that free speech is a right that everyone has. This right should be applied to the straight community as well as the gay community.

The most important thing that people are forgetting is the fact that this is a joke! This is part of the tradition of the backyard battle between State and Crapple Hell! It was a joke people, give the Technician staff a break and stop requesting equal rights for one group! Bravo, Technician staff. Keep up the good work.

Brian Ray Stephenson  
Senior, Sociology and Criminal  
Justice

RYAN ADENT  
Staff Columnist

more you specialize, the more certain you can be of a job coming out of college. Well, I don't agree. There are two problems with that. First, an undergraduate degree will almost never place its recipient on the cutting edge of an industry, so your new employer will have to train you to a certain extent anyway.

Second, what happens when the global economy shifts your specialized job elsewhere? Oh sure, another job will take its place, and it very well could be higher paying, but can you adapt yourself to that position? Do you have a diverse array of skills at your command helping you to navigate the job market with ease? Probably not.

So, what to do? You can't be an expert at everything, it's true, but you can develop yourself into a strong individual with clear strengths marketable in several industries. For instance, let's say you are a chemical engineering major, but you found some free time, and instead of playing Quake or whatever for an extra three hours you took some classes on

leadership or participated in a leadership role in a campus organization. In five years, the chemical plant at which you work may find it much cheaper to operate in Germany, but they don't have enough money to send you along. If you'd be stuck with only Chem-E, you'd be stuck in the job market, but the company happens to notice that you've a fair amount of leadership potential and keeps you in their corporate headquarters (which stays in the states) as a management executive.

This is not a far-fetched scenario. You don't have to stick to the leadership stuff, either. Take some English or history or communications if you're an engineer or scientist, and if you're a humanities or business major, take some math. Read some stuff that isn't required for your classes. Do something on campus, and if you can't find an organization that fits you, start your own. Probably the best thing people could do for themselves and their future is to color outside the lines a little bit. Do something or start something of

which no one has ever conceived. Begin a new publication, or start an interest group to lobby the administration for something. It could be less stringent beer rules on campus, but you will have developed more confidence, strength, leadership and connections than you previously had, and you will have improved N.C. State in the process.

Our university has vast potential running out of its arse, but a huge percentage of those who possess it choose to sit on theirs instead. Maybe our administration encourages students to fit into a strict mold and follow a specific four-year plan, but I offer you this incentive to stick out. Companies will go for it, and you will have the capability to adapt to job uncertainty. So, get out there and branch out. Take some extra political science or some extra statistics. Join a club, or better yet, start your own. Form a campus political party to start some stuff in Student Government. Just differentiate. And if anyone wants to start working on the beer thing, just give me a call.

# Robinson should be embarrassed

AUSTIN ADAMS  
Staff Columnist

I have been a huge supporter of this university all of my life. I think I have said that in every column that I have written, and it's the truth.

I've supported N.C. State athletics through the good times and the bad (unfortunately, the whole time I have been at N.C. State with the exception of this football season). I've seen some great players come through here, but I've also seen some bad ones (eyes, I am going somewhere with this). But even through all of this, I have never been embarrassed by N.C. State (the Maryland game this year came close). No matter how bad one of our teams loses, I'm always ready to cheer for them in the next game.

Well, I'm still not embarrassed, but I am very angry. I know you have all heard this quote: "I'm trying to cut back the risk of us embarrassing ourselves." This quote came from our quality athletic director, Les Robinson. He wasn't talking about our team's chances for going to the NCAA tournament this year. He wasn't talking about how much over budget the Wendell Murphy

Dome" is going to be when completed. He wasn't even talking about his patented red sweater that he wears. What he was talking about was you and me, the students of N.C. State. He made this statement when talking about his reasoning behind giving Student Government that block of seats behind Carolina's bench for last Saturday's game. (By the way, Jenny Chang, the camera didn't get close enough to your section so that the nation could see how nice and diverse we are. Sorry that we all aren't diverse enough to sit there.)

I know you are all saying, "Blah, blah, blah. I've heard this a thousand times already." Yeah, you have, so I'm not going to go any deeper into it. I'm just trying to show you where this is coming from.

When Les Robinson came to N.C. State after the late, great Jim Valvano was forced out, everything looked like it would be OK. Les was a former N.C. State player who had had success at East Tennessee State. But now that I look back at it, why did it look like everything was going to be OK? I'm a huge sports fan, and I don't even know what conference East Tennessee State is in. I know it isn't in the ACC so, now that I look back, success at East Tennessee State doesn't mean squat in the

ACC.

Les Robinson is a nice guy and after you talk to him, you may forget about how bad our basketball program was when he was head coach. The athletic department will give you the excuse that he was here to graduate players, not win the national championship. Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't graduation the point of college (it is regardless of what some of us think) and isn't the point of coaching basketball to try to win the national championship? Other universities graduate their players and also have good basketball teams (UNC, DUKE, etc.). N.C. State has a rich basketball tradition and should be able to get deeper into it. I'm just trying to show you where this is coming from. The fact that Robinson didn't do this simply means he couldn't recruit and was one of the worst mistakes in N.C. State history (note to Les: IA high schools usually aren't loaded with ACC caliber players).

It seems like I am going nowhere with this, but I promise that I am. It just seems strange to me that an athletic director that stocks our schedule with cream-puff opponents every year can talk about being embarrassed. Les, I'm embarrassed that we play Wofford almost as

much as we play Carolina. Les, I'm embarrassed that you never took us to the NCAA tournament and that you lost to teams like Florida Atlantic.

Les Robinson and the athletic department need not look at the students as a source of embarrassment. God forbid we embarrass them with our cheers (gasp!), the money we spend at the games (oh no!) and our loyalty (gasp!). At last year's Carolina game, in which the students supposedly embarrassed the athletic department, the first cups that came raining down on the court were from the alumni. Are you going to get embarrassed by them and take away their seats, too, Les? You are just lucky they didn't run you out of town on a rail when they had the chance. In retrospect, they should have and I would have been right behind them.

So, this statement goes out to Les Robinson and his buddies down at the athletic department: Think about what you say next time you think you are embarrassed by the students and alumni of this university, who are some of the most loyal in the country. Look at where our athletic programs has been since you got here

# TECHNICIAN

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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Shabana Azmi has starred in over 100 films and is a member of the Indian Parliament.

# Spotlight

Quote of the day:

"It is impossible not to see change happen — it's a question of attitude." - Shabana Azmi

**Shabana Azmi stars in Godmother as a woman who dared to rule a man's world.**

## INDIAN ACTRESS

**NATLIE DUGGINS**  
Spotlight Editor

Robert Frost once said, "Two roads parted in the woods and I chose the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

Somewhere along the journey that is life, Shabana Azmi opted to take the road less traveled. And for the fans of her films, the beneficiaries of her activism and those inspired by her words, that has made all the difference.

Shabana Azmi arrived at N.C. State courtesy of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS). Dr. Afroz Taj, a professor in the department of foreign languages and literature, and numerous local businesses and organizations.

According to Dr. Robert Kochersberger, chairman of the CHASS International Studies Committee, Azmi's visit marks an annual event sponsored by the committee. Dr. Afroz Taj then came to the committee with the idea of inviting Shabana Azmi to campus.

"Shabana Azmi is a huge star in India. This is like having Meryl Streep come to N.C. State," said Taj, who is also the director of the Triangle South Asia Consortium.

Shabana Azmi's journey to NCSU was her first visit to the Triangle area. During her three-day visit, the actress participated in several formal seminars, guest lectured for various classes and met with students and members of the faculty at an informal reception in Caldwell Lounge. The culmination of her visit came Saturday, as Shabana Azmi unveiled her latest film *Godmother* to an audience at Witherspoon Student Center.

**Who Is Shabana Azmi?**

**The Person**

Some people are born with natural ability — they are granted talent that far exceeds our capacity to comprehend. Shabana Azmi is one of those people.

She seemed predestined to aspire to a level of greatness unbeknownst to those who came before her. Her father is Kaifi Azmi, the celebrated poet, and her mother, Shaukat Kaifi, is a veteran of the stage as well.

"When I was growing up, I never especially wanted to become an actress, but I suppose that her being an actress made me aware of acting as a possible career," Azmi said in a 1995 interview with NCSU professor Dr. Afroz Taj at the Smithsonian Institute. "My father's poetry had an influence on me, too, of course, particularly in my social projects... I guess I've inherited many of his beliefs."

Eventually, she would graduate from St. Xavier's College in Bombay, India, with a degree in psychology. Despite what seems like a predisposition to greatness, Azmi still forces herself to work hard.

"Just because it comes naturally, doesn't mean you shouldn't work hard at all. Because to improve something you have to out your mind to it," she responded in an interview with Haresh Pandya.

**The Actress**

Shabana Azmi reigns as one of the world's foremost dramatic actresses. Newspapers and magazines the

world over have raved over her work as a film star since she first appeared in cinema 25 years ago. Azmi has managed to captivate audiences the world over with her work in all facets of the acting world, whether it be on the stage of theaters, in acclaimed art films or mainstream "big budget movies."

Upon entrance into the film world, the indisputable talent of Shabana Azmi quickly impressed cinema audiences. She was awarded the National Award for Best Actress at India's equivalent to the Oscars for her first film role in 1974.

In a film industry that is three times the size of Hollywood, Azmi's talent still manages to outshine all others. The seasoned veteran has starred in 110 movies and films since she stepped into the limelight of Indian films. Also, she has won every acting award that India offers at least three times over.

Azmi's roles have often found her at the center of much controversy in the Indian entertainment industry. She rarely shies away from the opportunity to express her own personal opinions and views through the characters that she portrays. Shabana has even gone to so far as to turn down films that are inconsistent with the way she believes.

Azmi also recognizes the necessity to align herself among those she portrays, the sign of a true professional. "An actor's business is to observe life. So if I'm playing a slum-dweller, I spend a lot of time with the slum-dwellers. If I'm playing a politician, I spend a lot of time with politicians," Azmi said in an interview on Friday.

Her last release, *Fire*, stirred up inconceivable amounts of controversy. Shabana Azmi portrayed a married woman who finds solace in the arms of her sister-in-law after her marriage goes awry. Despite the conflict, Azmi was presented the prestigious Silver Hugo Award at the Chicago Film Festival.

In the film *Godmother*, which premiered at Witherspoon Student Center on Saturday, Azmi continues to break new ground and spearhead the burgeoning feminist movement. While the subject may be still controversial, a revolution is slowly occurring...where women's roles are evolving dramatically.

Indiamovies.com calls Azmi a "stunning heroine." Others have called her the "pre-eminent actress of India," Satyajit Ray, Indian filmmaker who also gained a following amongst Western audiences, called Shabana Azmi "the finest dramatic actress in [India]."

**The Activist**

"[Shabana Azmi] has embraced the causes of those that have been forgotten," NCSU Chancellor Marye Anne Fox said at Friday's reception for the famed actress. Nonetheless, Azmi refuses to view herself as an activist.

"I don't consider myself to be an activist. I regard myself as being a catalyst for change," she said to the crowd in attendance. "And everyone has the potential to be a catalyst."

"It is impossible not to see change happen — it's a question of attitude."

Her continued work in the movie arena, as well as

advocacy, separates Azmi from numerous other world-famous people. She utilizes her position as a famed actress to garner support for worthy causes, rather than abstaining from public displays of her viewpoints.

Shabana Azmi is intimately involved with an organization called Nivara Hakk, which, when translated, means "the right to shelter." This program seeks to empower the dwellers to come together and unify. The organization also seeks the aid of the government to upgrade current rural living conditions, including the improvement of sanitation, electricity and water. According to Azmi, Nivara Hakk also seeks to provide slum-dwellers with employment and unconditional land in the name of the resident and his wife.

"We look upon ourselves as catalysts for change because we make people self-reliant and stand on their feet," Azmi answers in her interview with Haresh Pandya.

She has also taken her fight for the empowerment of slum-dwellers and women to the floor of India's Parliament. Azmi is currently a member of Rajya Sabha, India's Upper House. Shabana feels that women should take advantage of the 33-percent reservation for women in local institutions.

Shabana Azmi acknowledges the importance of education among the female population who wishes to involve themselves in politics and become a part of what Azmi refers to as the "global dialogue."

"Women coming into politics need to be informed of the agenda, and they need to address themselves to issues of development," Azmi said, during our interview. "They need to be educated on health issues."

"Part of the complexity of India is that we live in several centuries simultaneously, from the 19th to the 21st century," Azmi responded.

In her attempts to enable slum-dwellers and women to gain stature, Azmi said, "People should rely on their own capacity. We need to turn people into active participants rather than passive recipients."

Her humanitarian efforts have not gone unnoticed by the philanthropic agencies of the world. In 1989, President Mitter-and of France, who awarded Azmi the International Human Rights Award, recognized her, alongside Mother Teresa.

Shabana Azmi's visit was inspirational, compelling those who heard her message to think about their views and perceptions. Her words were truly a beacon of hope



Photo courtesy of Gemini Films

**Indian actress and "catalyst" brings philosophies and new film to the NCSU campus. Shabana Azmi has captivated audiences in India for 25 years.**

for the efforts to continue empowerment movements.

As a speaker at Friday's reception pointed out, her presence has enriched India for years and her three-day visit to campus helped to enrich N.C. State.

## Indian Film Festival

**All showings are FREE**  
Erdahl-Cloyd Theater, D.H. Hill Library  
Feb. 3 -- Masoom  
Feb. 17 -- In Custody\*  
Mar. 3 -- Swami\*  
Apr. 7 -- City of Joy\*\*

## Godmother: the rising of a new don

**NATLIE DUGGINS**  
Spotlight Editor

Shabana Azmi continues her reign atop the Indian Film Empire with her latest effort, *Godmother*. The actress whose career has spanned more than two decades continues to impress audiences with her flair for drama.

The movie focuses on the lives of a rural couple, Rambhiden (Azmi) and Veeram (played superbly by Milind Gunaji), who return to the city following the birth of their son (this scene is the first indication of Rambhiden's strength, as she risks her life to have her child). Circumstances in the city compel Veeram to take leadership in the community, which includes killing and beating those who seek to disgrace the community.

It is only when an innocent man falls victim to his wrath that Veeram commits himself to adopting a non-violent opposition. Veeram's assassination comes after his catharsis at the hands of those who refused to accept the "new Veeram."

Azmi's character soon fills the void left by her husband's death, as she takes over as the town's "don." At first, her fellow politicians view her as a stooge, who will easily submit to their whims. Her inaugural action, providing the town's women with a working water pump, proves to the politicians that she will not be the

puppet for their type of rule. Rambhiden soon adopts a violent repertoire and even learns how to shoot a gun and drive herself.

The most memorable scene in the film was the emotional plea made by Rambhiden when she recognizes the error of her ways. She stands before a group of men — those that wish to have her ousted from office and killed — appealing to their human side and admitting her shortcomings. Rambhiden proclaims that community serves to unite people but, at the same time, alienates them from others.

Vinay Shukla, the person responsible for scripting *Godmother*, obviously crafted Rambhiden's character with Shabana Azmi in mind.

"[Shabana Azmi] is a wonderful actress. She is the most competent actress that we have got. She is able to put across what is in the mind of the character so easily. She can get every expression and thought that has gone into the making of the character," Shukla said in an interview with Indiamovies.com.

Past performances by Shabana Azmi have been extremely controversial, particularly *Fire*, a film that featured a lesbian relationship, something unprecedented in Indian film.

"I certainly hope that this film will be taken separately," Azmi responded to a sold-out audience at the premiere

of *Godmother*, Saturday afternoon in Witherspoon Student Center.

Nonetheless, *Godmother* certainly maintains a level of controversy, by dealing with political issues, female empowerment and violence. The corruption of the political system depicted in this movie is a relative view of a problem that plagues much of the modern world.

"There is a nexus between the politicians and criminals, and it is increasing," Azmi said. "If you bring the problem out, it will bring about change."

Past films starring Azmi have been predominantly of the art/film genre; instead, *Godmother* seeks to appeal to the mainstream audiences in India by offering songs, melodrama and heightened reality and a constructed language. With this broadened base, Shabana Azmi hopes that the movie's themes will speak to an audience that doesn't already accept them.

Addressing the role of females in Indian society continues to be issue in film. According to Azmi, "There has been a move...the standard stereotypical role of the Indian woman is changing."

"Indian film in the last five years has also changed; you are now seeing more films with women that are 40+ years old as the protagonist," said Azmi, who also fits into that category.

Audiences at the premiere of *Godmother* were shocked by the film's violence — to which, even Azmi's character, Rambhiden, succumbs to in the end. The famed actress admits that the violence was a bit of an exaggeration of the current status in India, but she hopes that her character's death at the movie's end teaches a lesson that one cannot readily escape violence.

Azmi continues to say that none of the violence featured in the film was gratuitous; instead, the scenes of violence are sporadic and, hence, tend to leave a stronger impression on viewers. She promised the audience that their qualms about the violence would be relayed to Vinay Shukla, the film's writer/director, prior to the release of the film in India.

Shabana Azmi re-establishes herself as India's most pre-eminent actress with her portrayal of Rambhiden in Shukla's *Godmother*. The film echoes numerous themes plaguing India and society as a whole. For a woman that dares to be more than a submissive wife, subtle relative or alluring wizen...for the woman that dares to excel in a male-dominated society...there is *Godmother*.



Far left photo: Natlíe Duggins/Staff

Right and below photos courtesy of members@indianfilmfestival.org/shabana.html



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## Rates

Continued from Page 1

way." One reason for the confusion is that the company, which is actually a small division of a larger organization called United Telesis, based in Athens, Ga., uses the Wolfpack logo in its letters and business cards.

"At each school, we do business under a different name," said Scott. "We use the mascot's name. We kind of like to get in the spirit of the school."

School spirit or not, this use of the Wolfpack trademark has not been welcomed by NCSU Telecommunications.

"We've actually had our legal department send them a letter," Van Horn said. "They kind of went around the back door on this."

Despite the possibility of a brewing confrontation, both groups claim to have the students' best interests at heart.

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Seizing that sentiment, Van Horn is intent to future changes in telecommunications rates.

"We are coming out with exciting new rates next fall," she said. "We really are trying to get the best rates for students."

## China

Continued from Page 1

communicate. The little battle in Fuzhou also cuts to the heart of other issues that are key to China's future — such as how much market competition will be allowed, whether Prime Minister Zhu Rongji can overcome bureaucratic obstacles blocking economic reforms and whether the free flow of information, crucial for economic development, will be hindered by political concerns.

On one side of the barricades, bustling with cash and political heft, is China Telecom, a gargantuan telephone monopoly that employs 1 million people and raked in \$21 billion in revenue last year.

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# ACC

Continued from Page 1

of Jan. 22, and is expected to resume practicing with the women's basketball team in approximately three weeks.

Davis had been experiencing pain and weakness in her knee since a fall during a game in mid-December. The surgery, performed by Dr. Tim Talc, director of Sports Medicine at UNC, revealed bruising of the bone in Davis' knee. The injury did not need to be surgically repaired and is expected to require several more weeks of rehabilitation.

Davis, a 6-foot-2-inch player from Morganton, N.C., has appeared in 14 of the Tar Heels' 21 games this season and six of the team's seven ACC games. She is scoring 2.2 points per game in an average of 7.4 minutes of playing time.

## Tech surprise of the season

After finishing in the bottom tier of the Atlantic Coast Conference for the past three seasons, Georgia Tech is working its way back up the ACC ladder, picking off Goliaths as they go.

The Yellow Jackets' run started with a victory in Raleigh in December. The 74-73 win over the Kristen Gillespie-less Wolfpack was Coach Agnis Bernamo's first win in Reynolds Coliseum since 1993.

Tech backed the win up with a more convincing 91-84 win over the UNC-Chapel Hill Tar Heels this past weekend.

Niesha Butler, the team's leader all season, again led the Jackets with a 29-point performance. Butler picked up her fourth foul with just under eight minutes left in the contest, but managed to keep from fouling out.

Junior Guard Danielle Danteweh added a career-high 27 points for the Jackets, who, at 4-5 in the conference are tied with the Wolfpack women for fifth place in the ACC.

# State

Continued from Page 6

spectacular. At the first meet of the new season against James Madison and Towson State, Langendorf blew the competition away, winning every individual event, with the exception of vault. She easily won the all-around with a score of 39.025, currently with the 12th best score in the nation. To top it all off, her performance earned her the title of EAGL Gymnast of the Week.

Against Penn State this past

weekend, her performance was still impressive, but she showed that there is still work to be done. For the second consecutive meet, she took the individual title on bars. Her 37.825 all-around score, while not as good as the previous meet, trailed Penn State star Missy Lepoldus by only .225 points.

"For the most part, I was pleased with it, but I wish some things were better," said Langendorf, as always, looking for improvement.

As the Wolfpack continues on its quest to become one of the nation's elite, it is nice to know that Amy Langendorf is around to lead the way.

# Les

Continued from Page 2

and think about where it is now. Think about what kind of job you would have if it wasn't for the students and alumni of this university. Now who should be embarrassed?"

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# Tough act to follow

◆ The Wolfpack women's tennis team hopes to expand its success.

**JEREMY RSHTON**  
Staff Writer

It is with feelings of anticipation in the air that the N.C. State women's tennis team heads into the 1999 season.

The Wolfpack enters the year riding the momentum of 1998, the most successful in school history. The team is loaded with a talented, young core of players that is continually improving. Throw in a new coach who knows a thing or two about winning, and the future is looking brilliant.

"I think I'm really lucky to have stepped into a group that's so coachable and likeable," said first-year Head Coach Kay Louthian. "In many ways, 1998 was new territory for women's tennis at State. The team marched through the regular season compiling a school-record 16 victories along the way. That was good enough to produce a third-place finish in the Atlantic Coast Conference behind only national runner-up and 11-time ACC Champion Duke and Wake Forest. To top it all off, the Pack earned its first-ever appearance in the NCAA tournament with a trip to Knoxville, Tenn. for the Southeast Regional."

Last season's team was defined by its heart and unity — two qualities that got Louthian's attention as an assistant at Vanderbilt where she distinguished herself last season as Regional Assistant Tennis Coach of the Year. According to the first-year head coach, the spirit that she saw in that team helped convince her to accept the position as State's new head coach.

"The first time I saw the team play was at Regionals last year in Knoxville," remembers Louthian. "I just saw a feisty, competitive, cohesive group that came together under pressure."

The team that she inherits has lots of potential, but is still very young with only one senior on the roster, Nena Bonacic. Bonacic has made great strides in the off-season and more than likely will be expected to shoulder the burden as the Pack's top singles competitor.

"Nena is looking really good," observed Louthian. "I think she's primed for her best season yet."

Other returns include junior Marissa Gildemeister, whose 16-7 record in singles last season was the best on the team.

"She's really responded well to the coaching change," said Louthian. "She has really had a couple of her best tournaments ever. She's fit, she's in shape and, mentally, I think, she's ready to go."

Fellow junior Brië Glover also had a solid record in singles at 14-9 and will carry a leadership role as the team's captain.

In addition to the returning players, Louthian will have an extraordinary class of freshmen to work with. The headliner of the group is Pilar Piana, who was recently ranked as the top under-18 player out of Ecuador. Another addition is Gildemeister's sister, Katrina, who could make a significant impact in doubles this season.

With so much going for them right now, the N.C. State women's tennis team should be on the winning track again this year.



N.C. State has its work cut out for them, following a school record 16-win performance and third place finish in the ACC in 1998.

# ACC ready to roll

◆ The ACC enters the women's tennis season as deep as ever.

**JEREMY RSHTON**  
Staff Writer

Entering the 1999 women's tennis season, the Atlantic Coast Conference may be deeper and tougher than it's ever been.

With several teams receiving national attention heading into the season, there seems to be no end to the talent pouring from the ACC's tennis programs.

"The conference this year, I believe, is going to be extremely competitive," said N.C. State Head Coach Kay Louthian. "It's getting tougher every single year."

The Pack is coming off of its best conference performance ever, earning a No. 3 seed at the ACC's post-season tournament in 1998.

But while it would seem that the ACC title would be completely up for grabs, once again, the question on everyone's mind is, can anyone stop Duke?

The Blue Devils have won every conference regular-season and tournament

title in the last 11 years and are expected to do the same this year, as well as contend for a national title.

Last season, The Blue Devils advanced all the way to the national championship match before succumbing to Florida and enter this season ranked second in the country.

The Devils return five significant players, including defending national champion and three-time All-American Vanessa Webb. Honored as the ACC's Female Athlete of the Year, in any sport, Webb enters her senior season ranked No. 1 in the country in both singles and doubles, paired with fellow senior Karen Goldstein. Add All-ACC players like senior Kristin Sanderson and sophomore Megan Miller, and Duke looks almost unstopable.

The most likely challenger to the throne is Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons finished second in the ACC last season and made it to the national quarterfinals before being bounced by Stanford. They will start the year ranked No. 9 nationally and have a legitimate star in sophomore Mariel Verban who is currently ranked among the top 10 sin-



The rest of the ACC looks to dethrone 11-time champ Duke.

gles players in the nation.

While Duke and Wake are clearly the class of the conference, five other teams, including N.C. State, are coming off of NCAA appearances. Maryland ended last season fourth in the conference and returns a team loaded with upperclassmen including nationally ranked Meg Griffin. In contrast, Virginia will be made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores but should still be tough led by

senior Paige Boiko.

In the rest of the ACC, Clemson and Florida State bring back teams with NCAA experience. Georgia Tech should show improvement this year. And, although they are still a year or two away, North Carolina is loading up on young talent.

With depth like this, it is shaping up to be another exciting season of women's tennis action in the ACC.

# ACC ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE WOMEN'S basketball notebook

◆ Duke's Erickson earns honors, Davis undergoes surgery, Tech still surprising.

Sports Staff Report

**Duke's Erickson earns ACC Women's Basketball Player of the Week Honors**

GREENSBORO, NC — Duke's Nicole Erickson was tabbed Atlantic Coast Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week, while Maryland's Ginji Perry garnered her first league Rookie-of-the-Week award.

A senior guard from Fullerton, Calif., Erickson led the Blue Devils to two ACC victories last week — an 86-77 win at home against No. 16-ranked Clemson on Thursday, then a 67-62 victory at N.C. State on Sunday.

Against the Tigers, she came in off the bench and poured in a season-high 28 points, including 25 in the second half. Erickson broke the school record for three-pointers in a game, nailing seven treys, including six in the second half. She was nearly perfect from the free-throw line, going 7-of-8 (.875). She also tallied two assists and one steal.

Erickson was Duke's high scorer again against N.C. State, scoring 17 points after moving back into the starting line-up. She went 6-of-11 from the floor, including three three-pointers. She also distributed a game-



N.C. State's will have to battle to hold on to No. 5 in the conference.

high five assists and grabbed two steals against the Wolfpack.

For the week, Erickson averaged 22.5 points per game and shot .542 percent from the field, including .526 percent from three-point range. She currently ranks as tied for second in the league in three-point field-goal percentage (.400), and fourth in three-pointers made per game (1.8).

**UNC-CH women's hoops standout returns to action in three weeks**

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Senior center Natasha Davis underwent diagnostic arthroscopic surgery on her right knee the morning

See ACC, Page 2

# Langendorf takes over leadership

◆ Gymnast Amy Langendorf is fast becoming a star for N.C. State.

**JEREMY RSHTON**  
Staff Writer

On a squad rocketing up the national rankings the way N.C. State gymnastics team is, it is normally hard to pick out a star.

Nevertheless, Wolfpack sophomore Amy Langendorf is quickly earning that reputation. Through the first two meets of the young season, Langendorf has been absolutely brilliant in all-around competition.

"Amy's done just a great job the whole

way around," said Head Coach Mark Stevenson.

Langendorf came to Raleigh last season as part of a much-celebrated recruiting class.

During her high school career in Maryland, she competed in USAIGC (United States Association of Independent Gymnastic Clubs) Nationals four years in a row. Her versatility in every event made her a key recruit for the Pack.

Her freshman season saw her enjoy a certain amount of success.

She managed to make her way into the team's lineup at every single meet despite suffering a serious injury during the middle of the season. Langendorf

only went all-around three times in 1998 but made the most of those opportunities with top-three finishes at each meet.

For the most part, though, her focus last season was on uneven bars, where she earned All-East Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL) honors, and vault.

With the departure of the multi-talented Stephanie Wall, Langendorf knew that she would have the chance to step into a full-time role as an all-arounder this year. During the off-season, she strove to improve her skills in each event.

"I was just really focused and have been training hard," said Langendorf.

Thus far, the results have been simply

See State, Page 5

◆ N.C. State competes at second indoor meet.

Sports Staff Report

Two weekends ago, N.C. State's track and field team kicked off the indoor season at Virginia Tech.

This past weekend, the Pack got comfortable with the Blacksburg, Va., venue, which will host the Atlantic Coast Conference Indoor meet in late February.

Five members of the Pack men's team bettered their times or jumps from two weeks ago.

Senior Butch McClelland finished seventh in the 60-meter hurdles, taking three one-hundredths of a second off of his time. Tyrone Dozier took seventh overall in the 400m dash. The sophomore bettered his top season time by 27 one-hundredths of a

second. Ricky Duncan improved more than two and a half seconds over his previous time in the 800-meter run, finishing 21st. Dan Smitas took 10th in the same event, posting a time of 1:54.14, the best for the Wolfpack this season.

In the 35-pound weight throw, Eric Cannon improved over a foot on his mark from two weekends ago.

Vince Williams posted a season-high mark of 14.28 meters in the triple jump. Brent Underwood finished 10th in the 60-meter dash, while the Pack placed five runners in the top 15 in the 1-mile run.

Sophomore Chris Dugan led the way with a second-place time of 4:07.43.

In the 3,000m run, junior Abdul Alzindani took eighth, with a time of 8:24.31, the top time posted by a Wolfpack runner this season.

On the women's side, Monique Judkins cleared 1.68 meters in the high jump to take home seventh place.

Keione Covington and Anitra Henry handed in season-best performances finishing 15th and 14th in the long jump and the weight throw, respectively.

Both Melinda Dubose and Karen Sykes bettered times from two weeks ago in the 800-meter run, while Amy Beykirch, Katie Sabino and Jackie Coscia all finished in the top 10 in the 3,000-meter run.

Michele Hudson and Crystal Broxton also posted season highs, competing in the 200m dash.

In the mile run, senior Laura Rhoads and freshmen Beth Fomner and Molly Purser finished in the top 25 in their first performances of the season.

State also posted its fastest 4X400 meter relay time.