# Pep Talk Continued from page 8

A little boy in a small town idolized this big time running back. He had who knows how many jerseys with the number 38 on them. He remembered the day vividly as he sat in middle school and heard the principal come over P.A. system and announce, corge Rogers has won the Heisman.'

I was the first to jump for joy. I slapped hands with all of my friends as the Clemson faithful cursed in the background.

Then, it was announced that my hero was coming to our town for an autograph session at a newly opened pool shop.

I stood in line and waited for hours until George and fellow Gamecock Robert Perlotte pulled up in their sports car. I waited even longer to get through the ed to get George to sign my USC rag and get a picture with

I still have the rag and the picture. I also have a poster in my dorm room of a picture that appeared in a newspaper. It is a picture of George rushing through some N.C. State tacklers. Above, the headline reads, "Rogers wins the Heisman."

I also remember a field trip to Columbia and McKissick Musuem. The art was nice but the highlight was getting to look at the Heisman Trophy inside of a glass case.

Sorry to bother you, the intelligent reader, with my long childhood tales, but it shows how I idolized this man. Notice the word "idolized" is in past tense.

The most disgusting part of this whole ordeal is that it brings to mind the names of other heroes who've screwed up with drugs.

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Names like Dexter Manley, Ten-

nessee's Tony Robinson and Reggie Cobb and, the most tragic, Len Bias.

The lucky ones, and dedicated ones, are the ones who get help and still succeed, Lawrence Taylor and Dwight Gooden to name a

I don't know what to think of George now. He is certainly not my hero anymore, but he was a good player. I don't know the circumstances. I just know USC has had enough trouble as it is with athletes getting in trouble. There was Coach Joe's scandal and death . . . . George, we didn't need another one.

This doesn't directly involve us, but Rogers is, without a doubt, the most well-known Gamecock to wear the garnet-and-black in the past 20 years, if not the past 100 years. His action still reflects our university.

## **SPORTS** BRIEFS

#### Tennis teams both at 17th in poll

The latest Volvo Tennis/ Collegiate team rankings have both the USC men's and women's tennis teams ranked 17th nationally.

The men, with a record of 15-6, are coming off of a loss to fifthranked Tennessee and a win over third-ranked Georgia. USC moved up two places from 19th.

In individual men's rankings, the Gamecocks have three players in the top 100. At eighth is senior Stephane Simian. Sophomore Louie Gloria is ranked at 41st, and junior Dave Hopper is at 65th.

Two USC doubles teams are also ranked in the top 35. The duo of Gloria and Erick Sydow is ranked 17th while Simian and Hopper are at 33rd.

On the women's side, the Gamecocks, 16-5, dropped one notch from the 16th to the 17th

Individually, freshman Nathalie Rodriquez and sophomore Michelle Duda are ranked in the top 100 players in the country. Rodriquez is 44th while Duda enters the rankings at 56th.

The doubles team of Rodriguez and Duda is ranked 36th

nationally. Next action for the men is Thursday at 2 p.m. as they travel

#### to Atlanta to face Georgia Tech. Lady Gamecocks win home matches

USC's women's tennis team won two home matches this weekend, disposing of NAIA power North Florida 6-0 on Saturday and downing Metro conference foe Florida State 6-2 on

The Lady Gamecocks were led by Nathalie Rodriquez and Michelle Duda. Rodriguez's season record now stands at 31-16 while Duda is at 20-9.

USC will return to the court in its season finale on Friday in Winston-Salem, N.C. against Wake Forest.

The Lady Gamecocks will then participate in the Metro Conference Tournament to be held April 20-22 in Louisville, Kentucky.

#### Golfers place 11th in weekend tourney

pated in The American at McGregor Downs in Cary, N.C. this 244. Sophomore Vikki Valentine weekend against some of the top tied for 27th place with scores of teams in the country.

The Gamecocks finished in 11th place with a three-day team total

USC's low man was senior Rick Williams, who posted rounds of 73-76-73 for a three-day total of

222 to take 21st place. Brett Quigley finished in a tie for 32nd place with scores of 75-75-77 for a three-day total of

#### USC lady golfers tie for fifth place

USC's women's golf team tied for fifth place at the 19th annual Furman Lady Paladin Golf Tournament held this past weekend with a team score of 972.

USC was led by 23rd-ranked sophomore Debbie Eckroth. She posted scores of 83-78-77 for a three-day total of 238 to put her in a three-way tie for eighth place. It was Eckroth's third top 10 finish out of four spring tournaments.

Junior Aileen Robertson finished in 12th place after posting scores of 75-84-82 for a three-day total of 241.

Senior Cathy Rumfelt finished USC's men's golf team partici- in 19th place with rounds of 82-82-80 for a three-day total of

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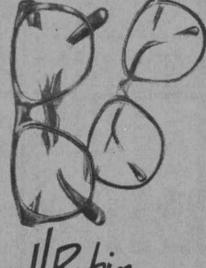
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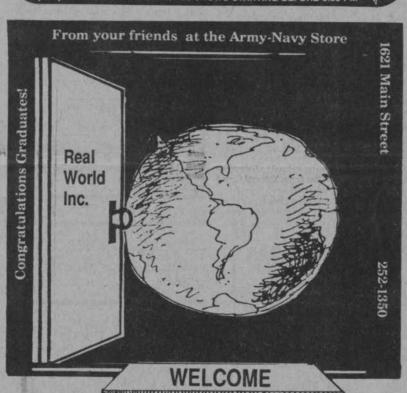
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