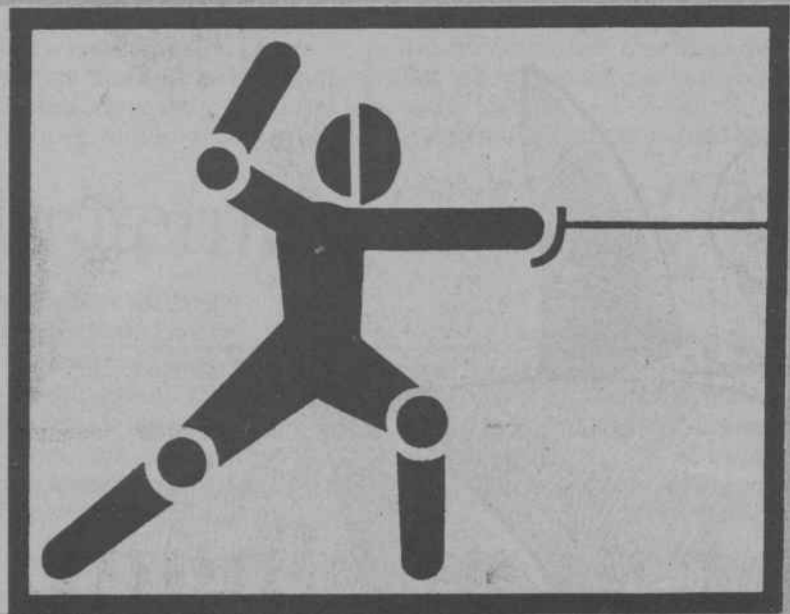


## FENCERS



READY?

## EN GARDE



Criminal justice junior Trish Collins (far left), graphic design junior Lynn Negri and English junior Laurie Snelson learn foil fencing in Booker T. Washington Gym.

Leo Lawson Jr./The Gamecock

# Fencing club aims for victory

By AMY BARCOMB  
Staff Writer

"Advance... retreat... advance... retreat... now lunge," the voice of USC Fencing Club member Brett Moseley chants in the Booker T. Washington Gym every Monday and Wednesday night.

Soon, after this thigh-tightening footwork, bodies in white, straitjacket-like uniforms will pick up their weapons for an hour of swordplay.

Moseley, a sophomore baccalaureus candidate in the Honors College, became interested in the Fencing Club after a friend saw a flyer for the club and convinced him to go along, he said.

Elementary education freshman Desiree Lee joined the Fencing Club because it was something she had always wanted to try.

Fencing is divided into three different weapon classes: foil, saber and epee. The foil, a light fencing sword with a thin, flexible blade and a blunt point, is the basic weapon everyone learns to fence with.

The target areas for each weapon are also different. A bout is won by touching the opponent's target areas five times.

"I fence saber," Moseley said. "The target is everything from the waist up."

The target for epee is the entire body. The target for foil is above the waist, but only the trunk and not the arms or head, Moseley said.

Lee, who began fencing a few weeks ago, switched from foil fencing to epee fencing Monday night. "I want to learn to fence epee," she said.

The foil and the epee are electric weapons. The competitors wear metallic vests which are wired to a box on a table next to the competition area. The box lights up when a target has been hit.

"This cuts out a lot of room for human error," Moseley said.

The Fencing Club participates in two different types of tournaments. "We compete in duel competitions with other schools, like Wofford, Furman and Clemson, where you compete as a team," Moseley said. "There are 27 bouts, and whichever school wins 14 of those wins the tournament."

The other type of tournaments are United States Fencing Association competitions in which the fencers compete as individuals, he said.

The Fencing Club competes in two or three tournaments a month. Moseley said there are two things he likes best about fencing.

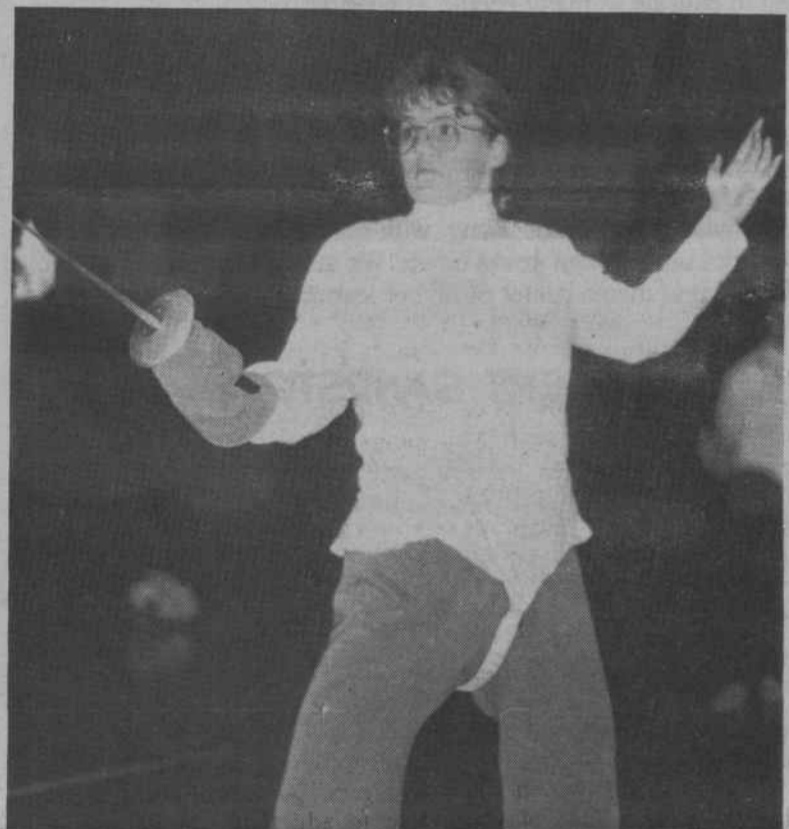
"It's a good workout. People who haven't seen fencing don't understand, but it's a lot of running," he said. "A tournament bout can last for two to three hours."

Another aspect of fencing Moseley likes is the mental discipline needed for the sport. "If you don't have this discipline, fencing develops it," Moseley said.

Lee said the aspect she likes best about fencing is the equality of the sport. "I like the fact that short people can fence tall people, and girls can fence guys," she said.

A person's skill as a fencer depends on how much effort you put into it, Lee said.

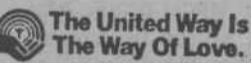
The fencing club meets twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Booker T. Washington Gym.



English junior Laurie Snelson practices her fencing stance.

Leo Lawson Jr./The Gamecock

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# Band drives on with 'Courage'

By CHIP YORK  
Staff Writer

*Fly Me Courageous*, the latest release by Atlanta-based rockers Drivin'N'Cryin', is an excellent combination of poetic lyrics and powerful guitar-driven sounds.

With the exception of the beautiful, mandolin-centered song "Let's Go Dancing," Drivin'N'Cryin' has moved away from their folk and country music influences and has produced their most focused collection of tunes to date.

*Fly Me Courageous* seems to have found the perfect blend of alternative and hard rock music that was occasionally missing on the band's three previous efforts, and successfully captured their live energy. Drivin'N'Cryin' has finally recorded an album with the cohesiveness needed to progress from Southeastern cult favorites to a nationally recognized group, such as hometown friends the Black Crowes and the Indigo Girls. From start to finish, *Fly Me Courageous* rocks with an unbridled energy that will satisfy even the most skeptical listener.

"Around the Block Again" gets the album off to a quick start, complete with an unforgettable guitar riff and vocal harmonies

you're sure to find yourself singing along with. Like about half a dozen other songs found on *Fly Me Courageous*, you're bound to recognize this song if you've seen Drivin'N'Cryin' live within the past 15 months.

Next-up is "Chain Reaction," which opens up with some interesting guitar interplay between lead singer and guitarist Kevin Kinney and guitarist Buren Fowler.

The title track follows, complete with lyrics especially pertinent during these days of the Persian Gulf War.

"Look What You've Done to Your Brother" starts with yet another entertaining guitar exchange and rocks ahead at full

See DRIVIN' page 5

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