

"That Championship Season" Begins 10-Day Run At CPCC

By Deborah Gates
Post Staff Writer

THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON, the New York stage hit that landed the theatre's triple crown (Tony Award, Pulitzer Prize, and the Drama Critics' Award), will be presented as the third production of Central Piedmont Community College's (CPCC) Summer Theatre. The play opens Thursday, July 28 and will run every night through Saturday, August 6 with a matinee at 2:30 Sunday, July 31.

The play covers one evening in the home of an aging basketball coach, where four members of his greatest team are having a reunion to toast

Safe And Sane

the good old days and sozzle in stale glory. Three of the four teammates are in local politics. Charles LaBorde appears as George, the corrupt mayor of the small American town who is up for reelection. Charles is a Queens College Drama professor noted for his successful direction of last year's WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Playing the rich businessman who has been financing the mayor's career is Dean Whitworth. Dean has appeared in productions at the Mint, Queens College, Charlotte Little Theatre and Spirit Square. Jack Beasley, Creative Arts Department Chairman and Professor of Acting at the

University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), will portray James, a junior high principal who has been the mayor's campaign manager.

Jack Shaver, a veteran of the Mint Drama Guild who has appeared in Queens, CPCC, UNCC, and Little Theatre productions, will appear as the principal's alcoholic brother, the fourth teammate and perhaps the only one to recognize the emptiness of the "successes" they have gained. The fifth member of the former championship team never attends these reunions and, before the evening is over, the mysterious, ugly reasons for his absence is revealed.

Completing this championship cast is Rudy Thompson,

well known to Charlotte theatregoers, who will create the role of the boozey win-at-all-costs Coach. He welds his former team into a sort of team of leading citizens as they strip-all and tell-everything during the night of desperation. The men have been trapped by false goals and soured dreams and need tragically to believe their coach when he says: "We won't lose...lose is not in our vocabulary...I made you winners!"

Directing the all-male cast of faded, jaded heroes is Jane Hadley. Jane assisted her husband Charles in his direction of the powerful production of CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF in the last year's Summer Theatre series. This season, she

superbly stages five of Charlotte's finest actors through a long night's journey into day.

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Way To Drink

According to a physician who has studied alcohol abuse for most of his professional life, most people can drink safely and enjoy it.

But, says Dr. Morris Chafetz in the July Reader's Digest, you must choose your time, place and drinking companions carefully. "If I had to come up with an unhealthy drinking situation, I would have created the American cocktail party," he writes. "Standing around uncomfortably in a crush of people, most of whom one does not know, one tends to gulp that first drink."

Gulping is not the way to go, he cautions. "Alcohol is a highly unusual foodstuff in that at least 20 percent of it is absorbed directly from the stomach into the bloodstream without going through any digestive processes." Food—preferably protein or fatty products—before drinking delays this action, as most experienced drinkers already know.

Your emotional state will also help determine alcohol's effect on you. The adage "never drink alone" is a wise one, the doctor believes

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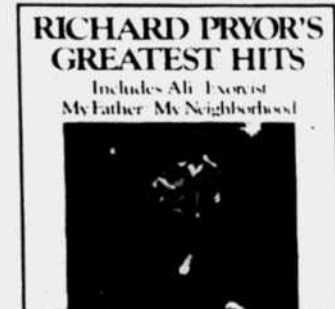
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Waters. This sophisticated family vocal group describes their music as "danceable but with a message." Titles here include "The Other Side of Midnight," "Peace at Last," "What Am I Doing Wrong" and "Party, Party."
On Warner Bros. Records and Tapes
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The Meters/New Directions. Produced by David Rubinson (Pointer Sisters, Moby Grape), this acclaimed New Orleans band's new LP is divided into a side of group originals and a side of interpretations. Titles include "My Name Up in Lights" and Allen Toussaint's "I'm Gone."
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Richard Pryor's Greatest Hits. Finally, an album containing Pryor's best-loved, most notorious comedy improvisations and routines has been compiled. Tracks include "Exorcist," "My Father," "Nigger With a Seizure," "Cocaine" and the never-before-released "Ali."
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Candi Staton/Music Speaks Louder Than Words. This follow-up to her hugely successful *Young Hearts Run Free* LP includes familiar numbers ("Nights on Broadway" and "Before the Next Teardrop Falls") mixed with newer material ("A Dreamer of a Dream" and "One More Chance on Love").
On Warner Bros. Records and Tapes
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Stuff/More Stuff. Produced by veteran music industry legend Van Mc Coy, Charlie Kipps and the group, this second LP by these New York aces includes originals "Subway," "Honey Coral Rock," "Need Somebody" and Stévie Wonder's "As."
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Al Jarreau Live in Europe/Look to the Rainbow. This two-record set captures the excitement of the wildly successful European tour of this unusual artist. Titles include "Rainbow in Your Eyes" and "We Got By."
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