



**Getting ready**

Timman Smoot, CPU Special Programs Director, posts a sign advertising a Homecoming event to be held Wednesday.

Greg Rickabaugh/The Gamecock

# Athens band rinses some 'mud off their rocky stomp'



**KIPP SHIVES**  
in my head

By KIPP SHIVES  
Staff Writer

Stomp rock kings, The Chickasaw Muddpuppies from Athens, GA., always put on a grand show whenever they pass through town. Tonight, they return to Columbia for what should be another fine performance.

It all started three or four years ago at "juke" parties when guitarist Ben Reynolds borrowed his brother's guitar and vocalist Brant Slay would "get drunk enough to hoot and holler and make some noise."

Now, these two Georgia fellers are sitting on a major record deal with their label, Polygram.

Their most recent album *8-Track Stomp* was co-produced by R.E.M. frontman Micheal Stipe and blues legend Willie Dixon. The result: the Muddpuppies come out sounding rather like a blend between the two musical styles.

Accompanied by Columbia singer/songwriter Danielle Howle and this town's only rockabilly

outfit The Losers, the Pupps will take the Rockafella's stage for eight bucks.

Bad joke for the week:

Q: What did the butcher do when he accidentally bumped into the meat grinder?

A: He got a little behind in his work. (Ba-boom.)

Tuesday evening, Rockafella's will present an event definitely not to be missed. The band Spigot will headline joined by Clemson-area 134 and Doulgas Chay's new trio, The Deal Box.

Billed as the Astonishing 3-D event, Spigot says they plan to give out free 3-D glasses to the first 100 persons to pile in the door. Special prizes will also be given away.

You may have seen the 7-foot tall posters featuring a friend of the band in thermal underwear wearing a large monkey head. Pretty neat. Cover is five smackers.

Last but not least, I promised to tell you about this last time.

Looking for something exciting to do in the cultural hole we live in called Columbia? Well, the front stoop of the Five Points Circle K has provided me with literally hours and hours of fun and entertainment.

Usually, if you buy something inside to eat while you "delph-sit,"

the nice Circle K employee will not mind you loitering upon the front steps. The \$.79, 44-ounce thirstbuster is probably worth being able to sit and pursue the passing masses.

The front steps down there were supposedly named the "delph" by the king of the "delph," a bum who often graces the area on a regular basis. Last time I spoke with the king, he was very angry about something and kept telling me that he still had his lighter.

He's not the only freak to frequent the Five Points landmark. All types of people can be seen wandering by in a ritual of sorts nightly, but best of all on Friday and Saturday nights.

Check out the "delph" next time you're down in the dumps and you don't want to write that paper. Perhaps you'll discover the meaning of life or the topic of your thesis.

Perhaps not, but the worst you can hope for is to be approached by some guy who is angry about the Gulf War or Micheal Landon's death or the American public. Or maybe someone will give you a sandwich. Or maybe, just maybe...

You never know, 'tis a strange world in which we live, very strange indeed.

# Exceptional cast recreates trial, death of Joan of Arc

## Theatre Review

By TRESSA HAYNES  
Staff Writer

The lights are low and hauntingly beautiful Gregorian chants echo around you. The trial of Joan of Arc is about to begin and through the technical genius of Walter O'Rourke and crew, Drayton Hall has become a courtroom in 15th century France.

Jean Anouilh's drama, *The Lark*, which opened Thursday night, is magnificently served justice by USC's production. Anything the script lacks (which is in itself a matter of opinion) is made up for twofold by the exceptional cast, directed by Richard Jennings.

As Joan, Jane Messmer is a perfect balance of indefatigable strength tempered with innocence. She is exactly the young woman I envisioned when reading about Joan of Arc in grade school. Messmer is particularly effective in the scenes in which she is trying to persuade DeBeaudricourt (Andrew Derenik) and Charles VII (Michael Joseph Donlan) into helping her carry out her mission.

Derenik and Donlan are just two of the many cast members who have strong stage presence. Both men

"are" their characters; both play their roles so well that it's hard to imagine either being anyone else, yet both are so talented that it's possible either could successfully tackle any number of difficult roles.

A wonderful job is also done by Robert Brandt (The Inquisitor), Michael Martinez (The Promoter), Jayce T. Tromsness (Warwick) and Todd Breaugh (Cauchon). While the above listed are central characters, suffice it to say that every name on the cast list is equally responsible for the end result of a fine production.

The costumes are impeccable and as aforementioned, the show is technically outstanding, the lighting in particular. (You'll be mesmerized by the burning scene.)

As far as being intellectually stimulating, the play adequately serves its purpose, in a roundabout but nonetheless effective way. If you go see *The Lark* just to be entertained, you will be. But beware — you may leave with something a little more meaningful than just entertainment (ah, the magic of theatre).

*The Lark* will run through Oct. 6. For ticket information, call 777-2551.



Jane Messmer (left) and Joseph Michael Donlan rehearse a scene from *The Lark*.

Courtesy of Media Relations

for more information. Call 777-5780

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