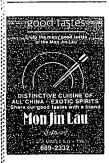
# star ends season by doing stage play

'I'm not much for laying around on the beach. I want to skydive and I want to learn how to pilot a glider — ali these things that are unique to Hawaii.'

— Alan Campbell



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bright and book-learned, 'Campbeil' said. Bortrayal seems a far cry from another character, E.Z. Taylor, whom he previously played, in the V sittom "Three's a Crowd" starring John Ritter, Campbeil calls E.Z. a zonked-out surfer." He was doing a play in Washington, D.C., when the director of Ritter's acries asked him to audition for the part of E.Z. "They couldn't find anyone in California to play a surfer, withel I think is kind of bi-zarre." Campbeil said. He was copying the theater but, "TV loomed up as this great big carrot," with lots of money.

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At the try-out in New York, "I decided I'd just do this big bizarre goof. I really didn't care." Meeting Ritter, "We bit it of immediately. We both "We bit was sense of humor."



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Continued from Page 5

ON THE TV SHOW, he plays as-sistant P.A. (prosecuting attorney) Derek Mitchell, who works with the P.A., J.L. McCabe (the Fatman), played by William Conrad. Of his character, Mitchell, "He is very bright and book-learned," Campbell said.

Backstage at the Birmingham Theatre, Campbell talks about his roles on CBS's "Jake and the Falman" and ABC's "Three's a Crewd." He also played on NBC's daytime soap "Another World."

tween us. John said, "This is the guy!"

CAMPBELL PLAYED the kitchen helper to restaurant owner Jack Tripper (Ritter) during the show's first season.

Although he enjoyed being E.Z., he

believes "like Henry Winkler and Fonzie, I would have been typecast if

Fonzie, I would have been typecast if I'd played it longer."
Instead, with Bill Conrad and Joe Penny he did a double episode of "Matlock," which was planned as a potential spinoff. "They liked the way the characters came off," be

Campbell said the show won its time slot almost every week except recently when, 'We got run over by "War and Remembrance."

said. It became "Jake and the Fat-man," which filmed 22 episodes the first season. Last season, after the writers' strike, only 13 episodes were filmed. However, the series was moved to Hawaii, to give it ex-tra Imaget.

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The actor is delighted to be working in Hawaii. "It's fabulous. It's just great," be said. His work schedule leaves him plenty of leisure time. "I play a lot of tenals and golf and spend a lot of time at the gym. I'm not much for laying around on the beach. I want to skydive and I want to learn how to pilot a gilder — all these things that are unique to Hawaii."

IN "THE NERD," he stars as Wil-lum Cubbert, an architect who is vis-ited unexpectedly by the fellow sol-

dier who saved his life 10 years ago.

"This nightmare visitor" is the Nerd, and Willum lacks the gumption to tell the guy to leave.

"I'm kind of the center around which the cranices revolves," be said. "It works on several levels"—no of these about people who can't commit to each other (Willum and his girlifrical.

"I am this character," Campbell said of Willum. Thave had trouble committing. I am a nice guy who goes past the point you should. Some people mistake kindness for weakness in me."

Campbell graised the efforts made by the Birmingham Theatre, for the actors coming to town. He spoke highly dresery thom from the the-cilities provided for the east.

He also pointed out that the Birmingham Theatre is a treat for the public. "I hope people realize what a jewel they have here and hope this; support it."

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