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United Press International
Most people would suspect that lion taming could be performed equally well by men and women. But a recent letter in the Medical Journal of Australia says women are at a disadvantage since lions are more apt to attack someone who is menstruating. Aware of this biological handicap, one female lion tamer asked her physician to remove her uterus. The doctor, satisfied that this was a "rare but genuine indication for hysterectomy," complied. The patient is said to be "happily settling into her new profession."



staff photo by Bill Sch...

Autograph hounds

It was recon mission "Red Skelton" as these juniors read the paper while they waited outside the front door of Duncan Dining Hall for their chance to get an autograph from the comedian. However, (left to right), Joey

Lykins, Robin Ryan, Chris Mitchell, Randy Roark and Greg Asbill failed in their mission because Skelton went out the side door and they didn't get his autograph.

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S. Africans look into multi-racial churches

United Press International
The South African government has begun a judicial investigation of the South African Council of Churches. Church officials both here and in Africa fear it is a prelude to a crack-down on the multi-racial, anti-apartheid organization.

That fear was not alleviated when two investigators for the Eloff Commission, named for the jurist heading the investigation, visited the United States to meet with opponents of the Council and supporters of the South African government's policy of racial separation.

Although the investigators said they were in the United States to sample the range of U.S. opinion on the South African Council of Churches, they met with supporters of the council only when those supporters initiated and insisted on a meeting.

According to the commission, it is looking into alleged financial irregularities in the council's handling of money, especially by the former General Secretary of the organization, John Rees.

But both South African and U.S. church officials doubt that is the real reason for the inquiry.

Willis Logan, director of the National Council of Churches' Africa office, calls the inquiry "a political witch hunt and a prelude to silencing the South African Council of Churches."

The council remains one of the few organized institutions in South Africa still able to speak loudly and effectively against apartheid, the policy of racial separation.

"We know that the real reason for the South African government's hearings is to discredit us and our longstanding opposition to apartheid," Bishop Desmond Tutu, current general secretary of the council, said in New York recently.

"Already it has made its intentions clear through demands that the council justify its structure, origin and historical perspectives," he said. "It is not our finances that have drawn the government's concern; it is the way we carry out the teachings of Christ."

A major project of the South African Council of Churches, which represents 22 church bodies with a membership of 15 million people, of which 80 percent are blacks, is aiding political prisoners, detainees and their families.

The U.S. churches, through the National Council, have spent much as \$100,000 a year on legal aid and family support.

In addition to expressing concern from the National Council and the 16 Protestant and Roman Catholic representatives who met with Eloff Commission members, the heads of three Lutheran bodies also pressed their concern over inquiry.

A statement, signed by leading Bishop David Preisler of the American Lutheran Church and Bishop James Crumley of the Lutheran Church in America and Dr. William Kohlenstein, president of the Association of American Evangelical Churches, called the system of apartheid in the church in South Africa "a disgrace" and called for its disfranchisement.

"Reconciliation," said Preisler, "is a central theme of the Christian Gospel. Reconciliation is a central need in South Africa."

"The South African Council of Churches is dedicated to transforming South Africa peacefully, into a democratic, non-racial nation with equal opportunity for all."

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