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BANNED: Buthelezi's fine performance

Buthelezi black-out

MY old dining companion Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the wild card in South Africa's election, was himself one of the most bizarre victims of the system of apartheid which will finally end with tomorrow's vote.

In the film *Zulu*, which launched Michael Caine as a star (it was on television

at the weekend), Buthelezi played the role of King Cetshwayo, whose warriors were defeated at the great battle of Rorke's Drift.

Buthelezi was unable to view the film himself as in South Africa it was banned for "Bantu . . . and other persons between the ages of four and 12".

Nation/World

S. Africa voting begins despite bombings

By Tina Susman
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Black South Africans voted today for the first time in an election that ends more than three centuries of white rule and sets the stage for Nelson Mandela to become the country's first black president.

But fears of terrorist attacks tempered the euphoria after two days of bomb blasts that killed at least 21 people and injured more than 150 in attempts to disrupt the voting.

A man claiming to be a spokesman for the White Freedom Movement telephoned a Johannesburg newspaper last night to say the organization staged the attack that killed 10 people yesterday in Germiston, east of Johannesburg.

Police did not know if the call was genuine, but suspicion over a string of attacks Sunday and yesterday had focused on white extremists who are boycotting the vote and have vowed to wage war rather than live under black rule.

More than 100,000 police and army troops — well over double the number originally planned — were deployed to protect voters, who will elect a 400-seat National Assembly and a 90-seat Senate comprising legislators from the country's nine provinces.

From the rough black townships around Johannesburg to the mountainous solitude of rural Natal Province, people lined up before dawn for their first taste of democracy.

In the black township of Guguletu, outside Cape Town, where white American student Amy Biehl was killed by a black mob last year, 53-year-old Mabel Nceyabo arrived at 4:15 a.m. to be first in line. Behind her was 67-year-old Korma Madi-



AP photo

In Johannesburg, people line up yesterday outside the Home Affairs office to register to vote in elections that begin today and run through Thursday.

kane, who was hoping for a "very nice life . . . no more struggling" after the election.

Because of rugged conditions in many areas, and the newness of voting to most people, three days of balloting were planned for the 23 million voters, most of them black.

Today, the elderly, sick, physically handicapped or others who felt they needed extra time were voting. South Africans living overseas also voted, and the first to do so was Mandela's niece, Nomaza Paintin, in New Zealand.

"I have cast that first vote. It

means a restoration of dignity . . . for every South African person. My grandfather, my grandmother and my father who is long dead. I feel as if I am voting for them," Paintin told reporters as she voted in Wellington when polls opened there at 7 a.m.

Counting begins Friday, with final

results expected May 1. The new president will be sworn in May 10.

At stake is the future of a country struggling to escape a vicious past which left it fractured along racial lines and reduced its economy to Third World levels.