

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A LIBRARIAN TO ENJOY THIS RHINO!



If you are a librarian, teacher, or bibliophile, you will want this whimsical, colorful and gentle reminder about book care. The orange/black/white poster measures 16" x 23". Send your check for \$6.50 to Really, Rhinos!.

IVORY TODAY, KERATIN TOMORROW

The market for ivory has collapsed, both in the U.S. and abroad, the World Wildlife Fund says. The environmental group credits a U.S. ban on imports, an international trading ban and increased public awareness of the slaughter of elephants for their tusks. A survey of the 15 largest ivory dealers in the U.S. found no buyers for existing ivory stocks, despite big price discounts. Ivory markets in other countries have seen similar declines. "In Africa, where ivory was selling for \$200 a kilogram, prices have fallen to \$2 to \$5 a kilo," said Jim Leape, WWF vice president.

(Compiled by Bruce Johnson from wire-service reports)



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

And carry it all home in your brand new, gigantic rhino tote bag from the Lincoln Park Zoo. The bag is a special gift if you become a member of the zoo. Here is an excerpt from the invitational letter.

"At first glance, it might seem like a giant rhino and your Lincoln Park Zoo free gift don't have much in common. But really, they do.

"For one thing, both the rhino and your free gift are big and strong, yet lovable. For another, they're both hard to find. (In fact, when Ahadi was born in May 1989, he became the first black rhino ever born at our Zoo - and one of only 3,500 left in the world.)"

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YES, BUT CAN IT SING & DANCE?

Some of you may have already seen the advertisement for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus coming to your town. Smack dab in the middle of the ad is a snorting black rhino with a leopard on its back. This is no P.T. Barnum hyperbole. The circus actually has a rhino act now! I do not do circuses but a friend of mine has seen the act. Basically the rhino is in a cage with the leopard which rides on the back of the rhino while the rhino runs around the cage a few times. What an act!! (Well, after all, what else can a rhino do??) I don't know about you (and I would love your comments) but I think this act stinks! I am not a fan of performing animals. Even if the rhino mistakenly thinks the leopard is some gigantic tickbird, I don't think it's a good idea. Sliding into anthropomorphism for a moment, I think it takes away the rhino's dignity. On the other hand, maybe people will see this zaftig entertainer in a more positive light and feel more concern about conserving the rhinos that remain in the wild. I can see it now. A poacher will corner a rhino and ask the \$64,000 question: "Can you perform any tricks?" The rhino stands there looking befuddled and snorts. "Wrong answer!" says the poacher. "Guess I'll have to kill you!" BAM!! Anyone out there wish to respond? Please send your comments to Really, Rhinos! by the end of August and they will be published in the Fall issue.

