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Not For Release  
Distributed 1995

### SIX FLAGS WILD SAFARI ANIMAL PARK STORY IDEAS AND INTERVIEW POSSIBILITIES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Six Flags Wild Safari Animal Park welcomes the media to cover a variety of topics ranging from entertainment to education to travel. Television, radio, newspaper and magazine interviews can be arranged with our Safari experts to enhance the quality of your programs and features. We can also arrange behind-the-scenes tours of the Wild Safari. Please call the Public Relations Department if you are interested in scheduling an interview, taking a tour or discussing other story ideas.

#### STORY IDEAS

\* **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.** What's it like to work in a safari? What kind of skills are required? What's an average day like as a safari employee? What kind of training is involved? What job opportunities are available? Our experts can walk you through a typical day of working in the Wild Safari, as well as what training is required, how to get a job here, etc.

\* **EDUCATION PROGRAMS.** What can you learn at a safari park? Plenty at Six Flags Wild Safari Animal Park! Six Flags has created a special Safari Education Series as a fun and informative program for grades K-12. The program aims to enrich students' learning experience by bringing textbook material to life. The Safari Education Series includes lessons for before, during and after a visit to the Wild Safari, and covers topics such as ecology, endangered species and wildlife preservation.

\* **FAMILY FUN.** How can families inject some education and thoughtful discussion into a day of family fun? Because many of our Wild Safari visitors are families, a trip through Six Flags Wild Safari Animal Park gives parents a platform to introduce topics to their children such as ecology, endangered species and wildlife preservation.

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**\* TIPS.** When is the best time of the day and year to visit the Wild Safari? What kind of photo opportunities exist in the Wild Safari? Can Guests feed the animals? Are tour guides available? Are class trips available through the Wild Safari?

**\* UNIQUE ATTRACTION.** How does a safari park differ from a zoo? Six Flags Wild Safari Animal Park is the world's largest drive-through safari outside of Africa. Because our safari residents roam freely throughout the 350-acre wildlife preserve, Guests get an up-close look at 1,200 exotic animals in simulated natural environments.

## **INTERVIEW POSSIBILITIES**

### **\* BILL RIVES, CHIEF VETERINARIAN**

Bill, affectionately known as "Doc," began his Six Flags career as a gate guard in 1985. Despite the excitement of the park's many thrill rides, Doc was drawn instead to the exotic animals living at the Safari. Doc's interest in animals led him back to veterinary school to earn a degree in veterinary medicine in 1991. During his school days, Doc continued to work at Six Flags, holding the position of park warden. After graduation, Doc set up his own veterinary practice for two years before heading back to Six Flags Wild Safari Animal Park to sign on as the Safari's Chief Veterinarian in 1993.

Doc provides a variety of medical services to the Safari's 1,200 resident animals, ranging from preventive medicine (vaccinations, health checks, etc.) to dental care to cesarean sections! Doc's expert care helps keep our Safari friends in excellent shape all year long. He can give you a behind-the-scenes tour of our veterinary clinic, which includes an operating table, medical equipment and more.

### **\* BUTCH DRING, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SAFARI**

Butch manages the care and welfare of 1,200 exotic animals that live in the 350-acre wildlife preserve he helped design more than 20 years ago. Butch joined Great Adventure in 1973, a year prior to the park's grand opening, at the request of Warner LeRoy, the park's creator. As one of the park's original employees, Butch worked his way up through the ranks to his current position.

A native of England, Butch is the quintessential safari manager -- a combination of Dr. Doolittle and Crocodile Dundee. His love for animals began at an early age on a neighbor's farm in the rural English countryside. In the years that followed, Butch helped design and manage safaris in the Netherlands, Germany and Canada.

During the park's full operation, Butch oversees more than 70 employees. During the off-season, he manages a pared-down staff of 21 animal caretakers.