

ATLANTIS: A multi-sensory adventure that takes one through the mythical world

today's technology.

The entrance to *Race for Atlantis* does not indicate the intensity of this thrilling ride. It looks like it could be a gift shop or another clothing store until one enters and sees a ceiling that stretches over 80-feet and a 30-foot tall statue of Neptune battling a sea dragon. Thankfully, the ticket lines go very quickly, because the ride can accommodate over 1,000 people per hour.

Upon entering the waiting area for the ride, you have to walk through a sea of fog and neon lighting. It is the world's largest, closed and indoor water-based fog system ever built, and is an amazing area that gives an illusion that one is walking over a bridge that suspends over a deep pit.

Before the actual ride is a film that describes the adventure. A middle-aged Roman citizen describes the ride in a screwball comedy way. It is a bit silly for adults, yet fun for children. He raps about the dangers of a motion-simulator ride by cautioning pregnant women and people with injuries not to seek this adventure.

Riders then advance to their chariots, which hold 27 people. Once everyone has their IMAX 3D goggles on, the ride begins with many eye-popping images.

Beware, the goggles can be a little claustrophobic for those who are afraid of being closed in. But if you can hack it, be prepared to start the race.

The ride itself is a multi-sensory adventure that takes one through the mythical world of Atlantis. It involves a chariot race through the streets of Atlantis where the outcome is of an utmost importance. Thrill-seekers are chosen by the gods to race in chariots against fierce competition that is very competitive.

They try to get you out of the race in any way possible. Their attacks are what makes the adventure a close call. They try every trick in the book to get you out of the race and your game. Whoever wins the race will be the ruler of the next millennium.

The work that has gone into the making of *Race For Atlantis* is quite amazing. The film took more than

2,500 hours of shooting and was completed in 104 days of production.

There are 5,000 frames in the film, each of which took 60 hours to complete. The entire production takes up 1,716 gigabytes of information. That is amazing when compared to the average computer, which holds a couple of gigabytes.

The *Race for Atlantis* ride also can boast that it houses the world's largest IMAX Dome, which is 82 feet in diameter. The sound system that goes along with the ride is nothing to laugh at either with its eight-channel digital sound audio-driven by 14,000 watts of power.

The ride, however, may need further improvements in the future as technological developments come along. But that's to be expected.

Remember when Michael Jackson's "Captain Eo" or "Star Tours" were the top attractions for special effects? They came out only 10 years ago and have proven that the life of technology-driven rides are short lived unless updated frequently. Knowing Vegas' desire for bigger and better things (just look at The Aladdin), *Atlantis* likely will be continually updated.

The race is on at the Caesars Fo-



graphic courtesy of Forum Ride Associates

rum Shops daily starting at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults with UNLV or Nevada ID's. The prices decreased to \$6.75 for children 12 and under. Adults without local ID are \$9.50.

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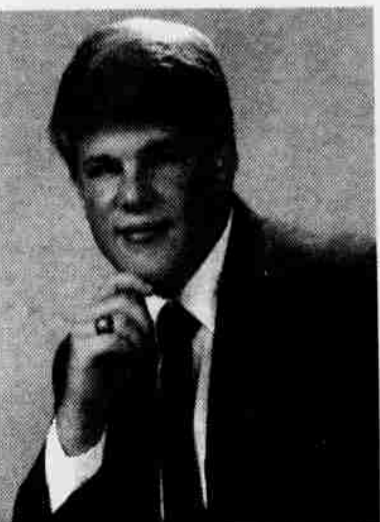
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