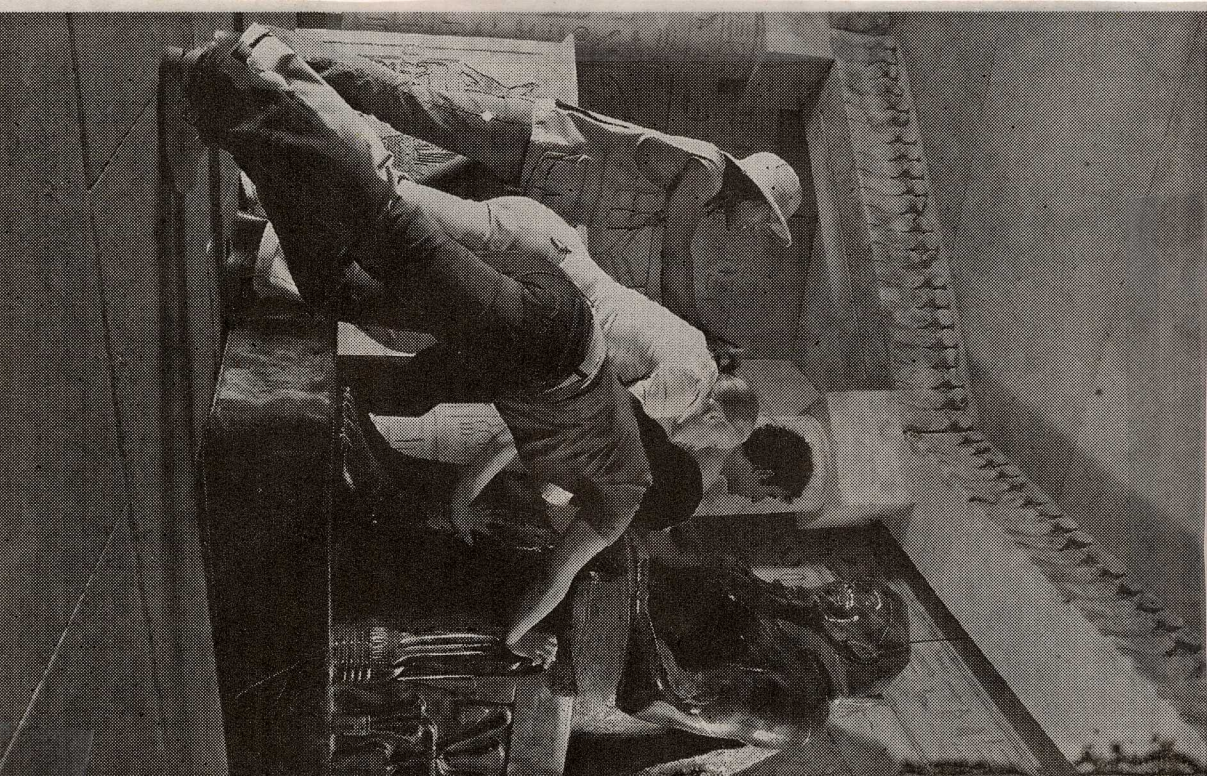


BOSTON Herald

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006 ■ 50 CENTS (75 CENTS 30 MILES OUTSIDE BOSTON)



DIG IT: Visitors try to escape a pharaoh's wrath in 5 WITS TOMB.

TOMB will show you the mummy

By KIM FOLEY MACKINNON
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The door closes and one by one your group's flashlights go out. Your guide says don't panic, but you're not too sure you won't despite knowing this is just a game. Your adventure has begun at 5 WITS TOMB. This 40-minute interactive challenge, along the lines of an amusement park simulation ride, is perfect for older kids and their families looking for something to do in Beantown that's, well, different.

No strict American history lesson here. The premise of this attraction, located in the Fenway, is that you and your fellow explorers are on an archaeological dig in Egypt, trying to escape a pharaoh's wrath as you figure out clues to get from one chamber to the next before time runs out. For anyone who loves "Indiana Jones" or any sort of adventure movie, this will be thrilling, putting you in the center of the action.

Special effects include a spectral pharaoh (who intones threatening messages as you move through the tomb), fog, moving walls, lasers and tests. Your family will likely be with a few others, and working as a team is vital to successfully getting to the end.

5 WITS TOMB founder and MIT grad Matt DuPlessie designed this Disney-esque venue, and he wisely programmed it so it is different each time you visit, depending on how each group responds to the challenges. And, he warned, you can fail to get through. No happy movie ending here, but that's all part of the fun.

DuPlessie plans on opening other 5 WITS throughout the country with

rotating adventures. Next up in Boston, sometime in 2007, look for TOMB to be replaced with a spy adventure a la James Bond.

After your trials at TOMB, head across the street to Cold Stone Creamery to either celebrate your wits or to drown your sorrows, with vows to return another day to defeat the pharaoh.

5 WITS TOMB, at 186 Brookline Ave., Boston. Tickets: \$16 for adults; \$14 for kids under 12. For more information, go to www.5-wits.com or call 617-373-9487.

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