

GOING TO AGOGO

Viz Lab brings technology behind the movies and more to A&M students at Viza-Go-Go

BY KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion

Just before witnessing the explosion of high-priced special effects of the summer movie season, students at Texas A&M see how these effects are made at this year's Viza-Go-Go.

The program has several events scheduled Friday and Saturday, although exhibits have been on display in Rudder Tower. At 5:30 p.m. there will be live visual demonstrations of software and at 7 p.m. film screenings will begin in Rudder Theater.

All presentations are new work completed during this past academic year.

"It's going to be the same show both nights," said Tina Messinger, public relations director for Viz Lab and a visualization graduate student. "We're hoping people will consider [going] one night or the other. People need to show up early because the theater gets packed quick."

Viza-Go-Go has a history of overcrowding Rudder Theater, and Messinger said the addition of another night of programs should alleviate the burden of overcrowding and allow people to enjoy the program comfortably.

"If we outgrow the theater this year, we'll try

to move to the auditorium next year," Messinger said. The theme of this year's show takes its roots from educational and propaganda films of the '50s.

"We wanted to have the 1950s scientific feeling to it, with the laboratory coats and everything," Messinger said. "During that time, communism was made out to be this 'invisible threat' and we tried to re-create that because many people at A&M don't know what we do. We played off of that in a way that we're the scientists protecting A&M from an unknown threat."

"We've taken a lot of stock footage from old educational programs, like the atomic bomb,

'duck-and-cover' films. One of the students here collects old footage like this. He has nine volumes of the [movie] intermission [film] *Let's Go Out to the Lobby*-type of tapes from '50s movie theaters."

The student-run event will have a virtual host again this year. However, this year's virtual host may garner points for originality from its audience — the host will be the disembodied head of a scientist in a bell jar.

While the visual presentation will only show twice, the exhibits on display at Rudder Tower not only show projects, but how they are produced from storyboards to wire frame to finished product. Some exhibits are also interactive, like James Palmer's "Streams of Consciousness" exhibit.

"Streams of Consciousness" takes any typed in word and associates the word with a picture. The word is added to all the other words typed in to create a original composition based on the words entered.

"Everything from a single word or phrase to poetry can be entered and an original image will be created," Messinger said.

The entire program is free of charge. Demonstrations start at 5:30 p.m. May 5 and 6 and project screenings follow at 7 p.m.

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GOSSIP (R) 7:50 10:10 12:25
KEEPING THE FAITH (PG13) 12:50 3:35 6:55 9:45 12:40
LOVE AND BASKETBALL (PG13) 1:15 4:15 7:50 9:50 12:55
RETURN TO ME (R) 2:25 7:55 1:05
RULES OF ENGAGEMENT (R) 1:00 3:50 6:50 9:55 12:45
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