

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Monday, April 28, 2003

A Decade on the Go-Go

Digital artwork displayed in Rudder Exhibit Hall for Vizagogo this week

By Kendra Kingsley
THE BATTALION

It looks like a scene from a futuristic art gallery. Digitally-produced artwork hangs from an aluminum bar, suspended behind plexiglass frames. Behind the modern format of this year's Vizagogo exhibition, however, are long hours and hard work that most of the exhibit's visitors will never see.

Since 1993, Vizagogo has merged the talents of visualization science students into a free flatwork exhibition and video screening. Graduate students in the M.S. Visualization Science program will display their flat artwork in the Rudder Exhibit Hall from April 28-May 8 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. In addition, Industrial Light and Magic (George Lucas' production company) will choose a top submission and awards a scholarship to its creator. This year, Pixar will also grant a separate scholarship to its top choice.

Felice House, chair of Vizagogo's exhibition committee, has been organizing this year's flatwork display since the beginning of the semester. In the past week, House has spent 10 or more hours each day to put the final touches on this week's Vizagogo exhibition. A grant from the Visual and Performing Arts Department combined with the talent of David Sellers, a frame designer in the Architecture Department, has revolutionized the exhibition, House said.

"In the past, we displayed the flatwork in heavy panels that didn't give the impression that they were fit for this kind of art," said House, a visual arts graduate student. "This year, we're using plexiglass, aluminum and roofing material to add a new component to the show."

House said the new framing technique has been difficult but artistically necessary.

"This exhibit has been eight times harder to frame than last year's show," she said. "But, (the flatwork) is a totally different type of work, and they need a totally different way to be displayed."

Students in Form, Installation and Environment are the primary coordinators of the program, but all students in the visualization science program are eligible to submit their work.

Dr. Frederic Parke, a professor and laboratory director in the Visualization Science Department, said he expects that the student-run program has consistently broadened its fan base.

"There's a loyal following for Vizagogo, and a lot of people make a point to keep coming back year after year," Parke said. "The whole program is a combination of art and engineering."

This year, Parke said, between 1,200 and 1,500 people are expected to attend the animation and video show.

For Treye Rice, this means his short film, "Hawaiian Pizza," and his computer animation, "Humping for Vengeance," will have enough exposure to balance the long hours each took to produce.

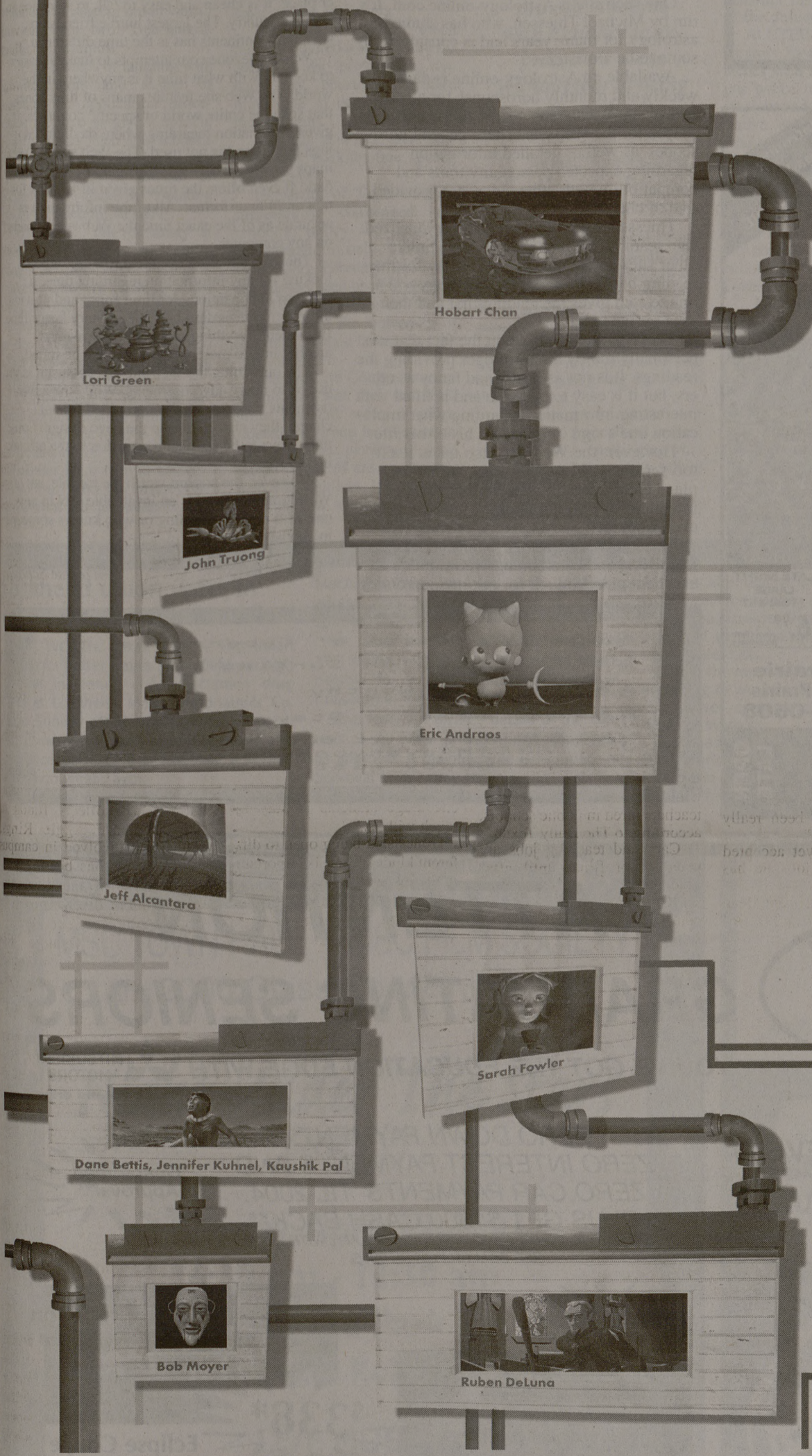
"When you're working on something this big, it takes a lot of planning," said Rice, a visualization science graduate student. "I spent two months working with another guy on 'Hawaiian Pizza,' but it's only three and a half minutes long. It just takes a lot of time to work through the developmental stage."

Part of Rice's motivation for working with Vizagogo, however, is his appreciation for the final product.

"Vizagogo is so diverse because people from all over the world have worked on it together," he said. "You can't go to a movie theater and see the same thing, and you'll never be more entertained for three hours than you will be at Vizagogo."

Vizagogo's entertainment value has captivated Vishwanand Shetti, a senior computer science major, for the last three years.

"I've attended the exhibition pretty much every year since I came to college because the entire program gets you thinking outside the box," he said. "Anything is possible through technology, and I'm anxious to see what students are capable of this year."



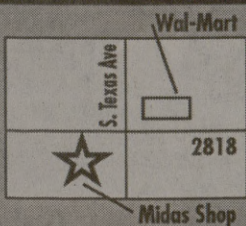
Flat Art Exhibit
April 28 - May 8
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Rudder Exhibit Hall

Live Demonstrations
May 2 and 3
4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Rudder Exhibit Hall

Screening of Animation and Digital Works
May 2 and 3
7 p.m.
Rudder Theatre
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