

Ready, set, GO!

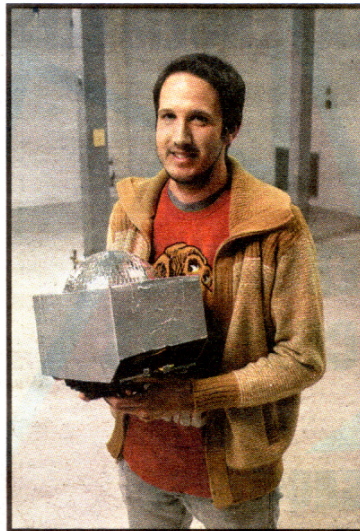
We don't want to hear you say "There's nothing to do" ever again. At least not this weekend.

Where robots rule

TODAY AND SATURDAY: When CTS cleared out of West Lafayette in 2005, it left behind a cavernous, vacant building. Only one business remains in the entire hulking facility. The rest is empty rooms with bare outlets, frozen clocks and the occasional old school telephone in a scientific setting. "It kind of looks like what people in the '80s thought what the future would look like," said David Wischer, one of seven Purdue University graduate students who are a part of the installation show "Robotopia." The works are spun from the class "Robots and Culture" led by professor Fabian Winkler in the Electronic and Time-Based art program. The students studied not only about robots but how to program them as well. Aaron Nemeč's "Discobot" and Esteban

Garcia's

"P.H.I.L." are small actual robots that roll around on rubber tank treads and react to light and touch. With a paper mache casing of a cartoonish groundhog around the robotics, Garcia's is described as "an animatronic groundhog to replace Punxsutawney Phil." Through lighting, the robohog will be running away from his shadow in "Robotopia." Other works are not as literal. Wischer's piece, "Vending Machine," comments



By Brent Drinkut/Journal & Courier

Aaron Nemeč holds "Discobot," which will be featured in the Purdue University art installation "Robotopia" inside the former CTS building in West Lafayette.

ments on the robotic nature of fast food through an animation projection of cars going through a drive-through restaurant. Mara Battiste created a video mockumentary called "True Companion" where she interviewed men about their "Fun Bot" purchases.

When: 6 to 9 p.m. today and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday

Where: The old CTS microchip manufacturing building, 1201 Cumberland Ave. Due to construction, the building can be accessed by taking Yeager Road to Montgomery Street.

How much: Free