PARIS: In 1996, Xilam Animation launched Space Goofs. Featuring music by the rocker Iggy Pop, the irreverent comedy for 6– to 11-year-olds notched up a slew of deals in more than 80 countries, including the U.S., France, Germany and the U.K. Four years later it spawned a video game, and this year Xilam is beginning to roll out a second season of 52 episodes that has already presold to France 3, ZDF, Mediaset and Nickelodeon UK. The new episodes see further adventures with Etno, Candy, Gorgious and Bud, funny-looking aliens who have crash-landed on earth and are hiding out from authorities in the attic of a Victorian house.

Xilam will also be screening the first episode of Shuriken School, an animated series it is co-producing with Spain’s Zinkia Entertainment in association with France 3, Jetix Europe and Nicktoons. Expected to be delivered to broadcasters in March 2006, the 26x30-minute action comedy follows the adventures of 10-year-old Eizan Kaburagi in an under-funded Ninja school. The show blends Japanese and European animation styles, and is expected to appeal to kids aged 6 to 11. It has already been presold to Mediaset, TV2 Denmark, Disney Channel Asia, Nickelodeon Australia, ABS-CBN in the Philippines, MTV3 in Malaysia and RCTI Indonesia.