

Theaters accommodate hearing, visually impaired

By Sarah Olah
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Rana Arnold has a visual impairment, but she's able to enjoy live performances at Eisenhower and Schwab Auditoriums with the help of technology.

"I learned about the world through books and pictures and many, many performances," said Arnold, co-founder and executive director of the Sight-Loss Support Group of Central Pennsylvania.

The Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State accommodates those with special needs — such as the seeing- and hearing-impaired — so everyone in the community can appreciate the arts when attending performances at Eisenhower and Schwab Auditoriums.

has been working with the CPA for years," said Lisa Faust, audience services manager for the center.

Through the help of paid workers and volunteers, Eisenhower and Schwab Auditoriums are able to accommodate audience members with visual and auditory impairments at no additional cost. Faust said the volunteers are "our eyes inside the house if something goes wrong."

Each venue addresses its patrons' needs in different but similar ways.

For the visually impaired, Eisenhower Auditorium provides audio description — a verbal description of the performance. The audio describes actions, costumes and scenery of the performance.

"It expanded my world dramatically," Arnold said of the descriptions.

At Schwab Auditorium, audio

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transmitters are available, which are similar to audio descriptions. The transmitter fits in a pocket, uses a 9-volt battery and goes over or in the ear, and then transmits an audio description of the performance.

For the hearing-impaired, Eisenhower has an infrared listening system. Audience members wear a headset and infrared panels on the wall connect to the infrared in the headsets so the patron can hear the performance clearly.

Schwab Auditorium has a different system built into the perimeter of the building that sends a sig-

nal to a patron wearing a hearing aid, making the sound clearer.

Both auditoriums have more than enough headsets and neck loops for patrons: Faust said they have never run out for their clients and said neither system takes away from the actual performance.

Not everyone needs this equipment and not all patrons with impairments need assistance due to the range of performance types the theater presents, Faust said.

"It varies because a rock concert is loud enough so nobody needs a device to amplify the sound," Faust said.

Diana Bender, state director of the Hearing Loss Association of Pennsylvania said not enough people know about hearing aid devices at theaters. She said she hopes to get the word out about ways to hear more clearly through assisted listening devices.

Since captioning started in Philadelphia theaters, Bender has been able to go to the theater and enjoy performances due to their accommodations, she said.

"It's a whole different experience to see it in the live theater," she said.

Some student performers said they understand the benefits of such technology.

"The arts benefit everyone, so those with disabilities deserve to have the same experiences as well everyone else," Hannah Cranville (senior-theatre and public relations) said.

Discovery expands to comic books

By Matt Moore
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — After making up television with its highly popular Shark Week, Discovery Communications aims to snatch an even bigger bite for its popular franchise: comic books.

The parent company of Discovery Channel and Animal Planet hopes to make a big splash when it releases its first comic book, "Top 10 Deadliest Sharks."

The book — dubbed a nonfiction graphic novel — comes out Dec. 1 and is being published by Philadelphia's Zenescope Entertainment under the Silver Screen Books imprint.

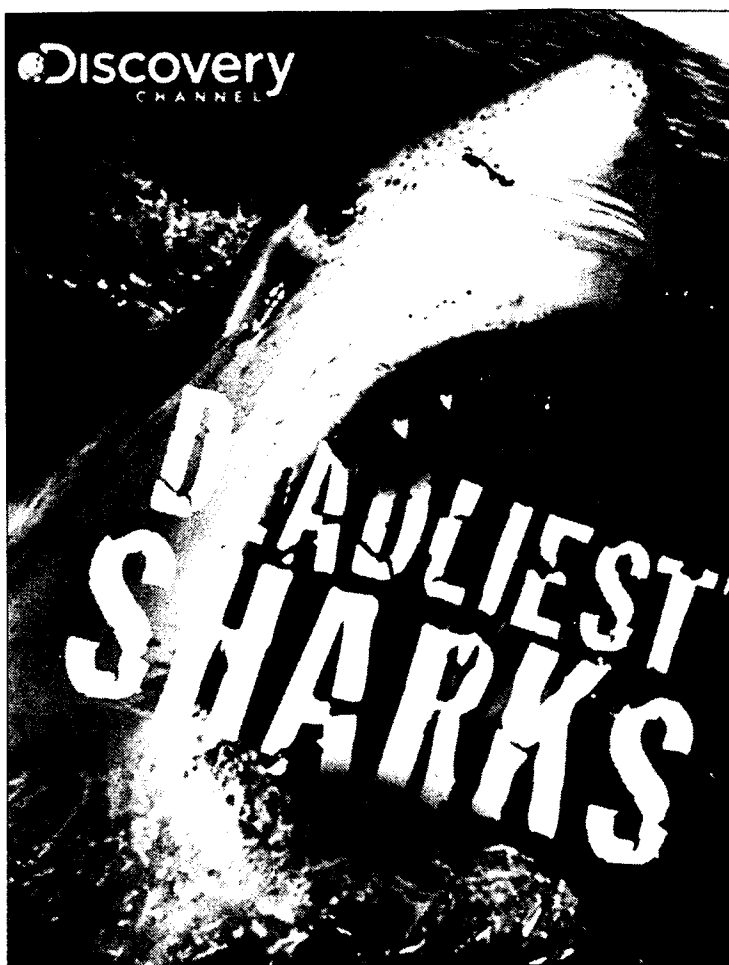
Like its namesake television counterpart, the "Shark" graphic novel takes a serious but accessible look at some of the species' deadliest and dangerous members.

Andy Dehart, the network's resident shark expert — and public face of the annual TV event — the graphic novel boasts 10 stories based on real events and spotlights a particular shark.

"Discovery's mission has always been to help viewers satisfy their curiosity about the world around them through breathtaking imagery and stories," said Elizabeth Bakacs, vice president of licensing at Discovery Communications.

She said it was only natural for the network to leap into graphic novels as a way to not just tell its stories, but garner a new arena for its popular programming.

"We like to call this, instead of comic fiction, graphic non-fiction," she told The Associated Press. "It has real-life shark stories. It has tips on how to stay safe and avoid shark attacks. It talks about the importance of sharks to our ecosystem."



Courtesy of Discovery's Comics

"Top 10 Deadliest Sharks," a nonfiction graphic novel, is the first comic book from Discovery Communications. It comes out Dec. 1.

The book goes on sale Dec. 1 in comic book shops, online and Zenescope's website. It will be available in larger book stores starting in January.

"It is definitely going to have a broader appeal beyond the hardcore comic books shops," she said.

Bakacs said the graphic novel is the first, but won't be the last. "Top 10 Deadliest Sharks" will be followed in 2011 by "Discovery Channel's Dinosaurs & Prehistoric Predators" and

"Animal Planet's World's Most Dangerous Animals."

The latter will be tied to Discovery Channel's planned dinosaur miniseries, "Reign of the Dinosaurs," that is scheduled to premiere next summer, according to Bakacs.

The third graphic novel, "Dangerous Animals," examines predators that have, on occasion, been known to sample people, including the Grizzly Bear, African lion and Salt Water Crocodile.

Vedic Society raises funds with book sale

By Ashley Smalls
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Vedic Society will sell books about yoga, vegetarianism and mantra meditation, among other topics, to raise money today and Wednesday.

The sale will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the ground floor of the HUB-Robeson Center. Books will cost between \$1 and \$20 and the Vedic Society hopes to raise money for two upcoming events and other future programs, including distinguished speakers, experts and musicians.

Eighty percent of funding for these events is provided by the University Park Allocation Committee, but the rest comes from the Vedic Society, member Shrawan Surender said.

"My hope is that we sell at least 100 books each day," Surender (graduate-computer science and engineering) said.

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust provided the books and students may buy books for more than the actual price as a donation to the club, Surender said.

This allows the Vedic Society to accommodate other students and give them the book they're interested in at a price they can afford, Surender said.

"I think that the price accommodations is cool," Tori Spade (senior-public relations) said.

"Even if people aren't interested in yoga, the fact that they made it more affordable should make people consider buying anyway."

Books for sale cover topics such as the philosophy of yoga in everyday life. Vedic Society President Narayanan Veeraraghavan said.

According to Veeraraghavan, the Vedic society provides knowl-

"This gives college students an outlet to let go."

Aditya Kurve
graduate - electrical engineering

edge about integrating the mind and body. "We help students with stress management and take care of the problem in student life," Veeraraghavan (graduate-integrative biosciences) said.

Vedic Society member Aditya Kurve said he wants to reach out to as many people as possible.

"I think it's important people know about this and what we do because college is so stressful. This gives college students an outlet to let go," Kurve (graduate-electrical engineering) said.

"Even though the books are all on yoga there are different aspects students can read on, like the philosophy, yoga and music or even mind control."

Kurve said he not only wants to raise the money needed for the Vedic Society events, but he also hopes people will become interested enough from the book sale to attend the events.

"Vedic means knowledge," Surender said. "We just want to make sure people leave knowing more than they did when they came in."

If you go

What: Vedic Society book Sale

When: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and Wednesday

Where: HUB-Robeson Center ground floor

Details: Books will cost between \$1 and \$20

Wednesday, December 1st 6:30pm
30th Anniversary
Tap & Tasting Event
With paired tapas

All 4 Anniversary Beers on Tap!
Fritz & Kern's Ale
Charlie, Fred & Ken's Bock
Jack & Kern's Ale
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plus a few other special selections from the brewery!

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