

Pantopia joins the ranks of elite clubs

By Sarah Stover
Lion's Eye Staff Writer

One of the newest clubs being advertised on scattered fliers across campus is the Pantopia Society. The fliers, however, tell little about what this club actually represents.

The Pantopia Society was founded and named by a fellow student, Harry G. Charalabidis at the beginning of last semester. As Charalabidis explained it, the name "pantopia" was intended to be an elaborate play on words. The word "utopia" derives from the ancient Greek language. In translation, the prefix "u"=no and "topos(ia)"=place. In other words, utopia is the Greek

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word for perfection, a flawless society or "place" that could never really exist.

Because Charalabidis is an admirer of the novel *Utopia* by Sir Thomas Moore, and more importantly, Plato's *Republic*, he admits that such works influenced him on the originality of the club's name. Adding some modern Greek to the old, Harry created the word "pantopia" from "pantos"=always attached to "topia." The prefix "pan" also has the added benefit of meaning "everywhere." So, the prefix of utopia initially meaning "no-place" was replaced with the prefix "pan" meaning "always/every-place." This complicated and clever combination of language is meant to symbolize a very simple concept: that beneath all of our sometimes harsh and rigid exteriors, lies a individual kind of utopia.

Even though all this may sound confusing, the club itself is not. What Charalabidis did was actually restart the old philosophy club and revise and ratify its dated con-

stitution. The nature of the club has been widely expanded. "The Pantopia Society is a discussion group kind of club for all students and faculty who want to talk about anything from philosophy to current events to entertainment, Plato to Party of Five," stated Charalabidis. "We're an updated version of the intimidating philosophy club, and at our meetings we talk about anything from the Lewinsky Sex Scandal to Jerry Springer to our relationships with our friends and teachers to entering the adult world."

In addition, the Pantopia Society has joined with the Penn In Hand Organization, which puts out the campus literary booklet. The goal is to publish a bigger, bolder, better magazine which will include everything the older publication had and much more. The magazine will be about 7" x 10" larger and will contain 40 pages of everything from poetry to artwork. This improved magazine is dedicated solely for the purpose of giving a voice to anyone at Penn State who wants one. To date, the magazine is filling up quickly with contributions. The deadline for such contributions was Friday, the 13th, but this issue should not be the last.

The Pantopia Society meets every other Thursday at 11:30 during common hour in room 320 main. The president and founder of the club is Harry G. Charalabidis and he can be reached at hxc170@psu.edu. Remaining meeting dates are November 12th, 26th and December 10th.

Students interested in learning more about the new literary magazine should also contact Charalabidis or Aaron Mixon at ham147@psu.edu.

Importantly, Charalabidis emphasizes that the Pantopia Society is open to all students. He hopes to see the club grow and expand once the campus is introduced to what the Pantopia Society has to offer. As Harry Charalabidis stated, "We're really a club for everyone."



Bobbing for apples claims two more lives. Jenna Montgomery

Hispanic Pride Shines with Gregory Nava

By Jim McGovern
Lions Eye Staff Writer

November is Hispanic Heritage Month, and to commemorate this on the 18th at 12:00 in the lounge in the Main building, the Penn State Speaker Series will welcome Gregory Nava, a director of Mexican-Basque descent.

A San Diego native, Nava attended UCLA film school. While there he wrote and directed a half-hour dramatic film, based on the life of Garcia Lorca entitled "The Journal of Rodriguez Silvia". The film won him the award for Best Dramatic Film at the National Student Film Festival. His next movie was "The Confession of Aman", which garnered him the award for Best First Feature at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Since then Nava has gone on to write and direct several more films, including the Academy Award nominated "El Norte", "Mi Familia", "Selena", and the recent "Why do Fools Fall in Love". His talents don't end with writing and directing. He also has experience as a cinematographer, a skill he demonstrated on his wife Anna Thomas' 1977 feature "The Haunting of M".

Most of his films deal with the struggle of Latino Americans as the attempt to assimilate into American culture. What Nava strives to do is make films that overcome the ste-

reotypes of Latino Americans, giving the audience an honest portrayal of these people and their lives.

In an interview he gave at the Sundance Film Festival Nava said, "The key to me is to tell the truth. In our culture, the center is the family, not the gang. You can deal with everything as long as you know the family is the center, everything else can change. That's how we as Latinos see it, and if others see it, they will understand us."

Although most of Nava's films may focus mostly on Latino Americans, he does not believe that they speak to only a Hispanic audience.

While discussing his film "Mi Familia" in a 1995 interview with the Houston Chronicle, Nava said, "In making a film like this, I felt we could be who we are, and at the same time it could cross over to everybody. Everybody who comes from a family can relate to this film."

The future looks very promising for Nava. Along with more films, he was also one of seven directors asked by Showtime to work on a documentary about American film in the Twentieth century. Along with directors such as Robert Zemeckis, Norman Jewison, and Penny Marshall, Nava will be asked to explore a topic that has defined American film during the past century.



SGA President Martin Ranalli and Vice President of Lion Ambassadors Matt Clower, strut their stuff at the Halloween Ball.

Jenna Montgomery



Mother and child go for "the greatest pumpkin ever" contest. Regis Fields