

## Editorial: ANGEL And DEMONS

As I rounded the corner I saw them. They were immense, even from this vantage point. The catacombs of ANGEL were astonishing; especially to a PSU freshman like I was then.

I'm supposed to go in there? They want me to use ANGEL for all of my

assignments. I don't even know where to start.

A New Global Environment for Learning (Angel) is, Penn State's Course Management System (CMS). Almost every one of your classes will probably have some sort of component on ANGEL. No problem, not as

long as we're taught how to use it, right?

You can use it to upload files and projects to your professors for classes. You can have discussions online via message boards and chat rooms. There's even a way that you can manage your calendar and to track your status in

classes. If you want to create a page for a club, organization, team, etc. you can simply click "create a group." There can be multiple editors and leaders and such. Each user has an ANGEL email account, and a profile page open for personalization.

There are; however, downfalls to ANGEL, too. If you only have one editor to a page, then change is slow. Submitting assignments on ANGEL can be one heck of a hassle. It is very easy to forget an assignment due at 9:00 p.m. on a Sunday night. And once the drop-box is usually taken off immediately and there isn't a chance to turn in late work.

Another thing which one must always take into consideration with technology is failing internet access, computer problems, etc. There's also the "scheduled" announced maintenance which is usually doesn't early in the morning, but can still be a major inconvenience.

Obviously, this software couldn't exist without implementing an email system, but there is one thing about the email that never ceases to annoy: if you aren't an editor of the page, you can't send e-mails to other people's internet accounts from your ANGEL account.

Overall there are relatively few downfalls to ANGEL, and it seems great. But we need to be taught how to use it more than we are now. Here I am about to be a senior and I still hardly know anything about ANGEL. We should be taught more how to utilize it and Penn State's other technologies (e.g. Elion, LIAS, Portal, etc.) from the moment we walk into the doors of Penn State's admissions office. Every single first-year seminar (FYS) should have part of its focus on the technologies at Penn State; so that corner we know how to transverse the catacombs of huge, mysterious software applications like ANGEL.

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appropriations for higher education in Pennsylvania, there is still a long road ahead. We must continue our drive towards educating ourselves, legislators, and administrators. We must continue to demonstrate the necessity to make affordable higher education available, and place funding as an essential Pennsylvania priority. We must protect ourselves from millions of dollars in debt, and we must stand together.

We will continue to stand up for those that follow in our footsteps, and the legacy we leave will make a difference...

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