

# Eye on Campus

## 'Angel' helped get her act together

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Care Bears, crocheting, tattoos and strength all make up the spitfire personality of Courtney Pantella, a 22 year-old informational sciences and technology development major at Penn State Delco.

Diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 5 and living mostly on her own, Pantella has had her work cut out for her in life. She commutes almost an hour each way from Cherry Hill, N.J., Monday through Friday to get to classes on time.

And she's been doing it for almost four years while being a full-time student.

Despite her hardships, there has been a "ray of sunshine" for her through it all.

Pantella considers Madison, her 3-year-old sister, to be the most rewarding aspect of her life.

"She is a big part of my life and I am a big part of her life," said Pantella lovingly of Madison. "When Maddy came, this void filled that I never knew was there."

She said that taking care of her sister has helped refine her maternal instincts because she has always had the need to take care of everyone and everything around her.

When the two get together, mostly on weekends, they spend their time going to the park, reading, watching movies and cooking. Madison's favorite movies star the Care Bears and Pantella has made sure that Madison has every Care Bear toy known to man.

"My Grandma made a porcelain Care Bear collection," Pantella said, explaining that Madison has it proudly displayed in her room.

The most influential person in Pantella's life has been her grandfather, with his persistence through whatever life decided to throw his way.

"He was a man of many things and great accomplishments," said Pantella. "He's been through the depression and the war."

Her grandfather gave her strength, courage and determination to get through anything thrown in her way.

"He was a man of few words, but had a powerful impact on anyone's life," she said.

Pantella's grandfather also wanted her to get a college degree, so he set up bonds for her to make her way through college.



Photo by Jennifer Rufo

**Courtney Pantella stays all smiles despite commuting two hours to school every day. Her little sister, Madison, 3, keeps her motivated to continue.**

Sadly, he passed away a few years ago.

"He was my inspiration and my foundation for knowledge," she said.

The example Pantella's grandfather had set has paid off. Pantella will graduate in May 2005.

When Pantella does get time to herself, she spends it wisely. She likes to read, write, crochet, knit and cross-stitch. Horror and adventure movies please her the most.

And, in order to regroup at the end of a long,

busy day, Pantella relaxes by taking a shower, sitting down and gathering her thoughts.

In addition to her many talents, Pantella also has seven piercings and six tattoos. The most meaningful tattoo is on her lower back. She had it done when Madison was 1.

It is of Madison's birth flower, the honeysuckle and has a halo.

Pantella explains the halo is for Madison because "she's my angel."

## Penn State students get in tune with Napster

By DAVE HARDISON  
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Since its infamous shutdown a few years ago, Napster has risen from the ashes as a pay-to-play company, joining the ranks of Musicmatch and iTunes.

Penn State recently cut a deal with Napster and the Record Industry Association of America. This deal allows Penn State students free use of Napster's premium service, which normally costs \$10 per month. This means access to Napster's Internet radio stations and entire music library.

I wanted to test-drive the system for myself, so I checked out Napster's selection of A Flock of Seagulls (yeah, go ahead and laugh). The selection is good; even Metallica has all of its albums available for download, and it has a reputation

for being anti-downloading.

But think it's all free? Think again. Although the downloads go right to your computer, you must pay to "own" the track. Want to add a song to your iPod or burn to a CD? It costs 99 cents.

Almost a year after the start of the project, Penn State is no longer the only university boasting a relationship with Napster. The trend has expanded, and now about 21 schools have ties to Napster.

Other schools include the University of Miami, George Washington University, Cornell University and Vanderbilt University.

Inside the realm of PSU, however, the program is starting to make its way into the classroom. Integrative Arts 115 uses Napster to study the history of American popular music. Compilations for the class are available for download through Napster. Students, however, don't seem to be pleased with the system.

"It's clunky and slow," says freshman Dan Delaney. "It requires you to use Windows Media Player, and it isn't supported by many operating systems, only Windows 2000 and XP."

According to Wired.com, the money that enables the partnership comes out of the \$160 technology fee, which is included in the tuition. A number of students are displeased that their money is going toward a program they don't want or don't plan on using.

The RIAA blames poor sales on the downloading surge, and this partnership certainly makes an effort to combat illegal downloading. However, poor implementation has discouraged widespread use by students. With a little work (and removal of the 99-cents-per-song fee), the program could be beneficial to the university and the recording industry.

To learn more about the Penn State-Napster partnership, go to <http://napster.psu.edu/>.