

# OPINION PAGES

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**Our VIEW**

## Break it up

### Microsoft finding is a positive first step

The first shot has been fired, and Microsoft took it squarely in the chest. And the bullets are going to keep coming.

On Friday, Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson released his findings of fact on the infamous Microsoft vs. Department of Justice case, which has gone on for almost a year now.

In the 204-page document, Judge Jackson said Microsoft is quite obviously a monopoly and that Microsoft has "abused" its position as such.

Obtaining a monopoly is legal, but using that monopoly to take over other areas of business is not.

Dismissing Microsoft's claims to the contrary, Jackson wrote that Microsoft has caused "consumer harm by distorting competition."

While the actual ruling in the case will not be announced until next year, things look very bleak for Microsoft.

The decision Jackson hands down next year won't be final, regardless. Microsoft will appeal, and it will be a few years before the courts settle the matter for good.

Until that final decision comes down, Microsoft will continue stomping on anyone who gets in its way, and the list so far includes dozens of companies from IBM and Compaq to Netscape and America Online.

We applaud this first step in the long war against Microsoft's overly abusive business practices.

For far too long, Microsoft has stifled innovation, and it has the gall to start a grassroots movement defending its tactics under the title "Freedom to Innovate."

"Freedom to Dominate" is more accurate.

Microsoft is simply too big and aggressive for a slap on the wrist to do any good.

Microsoft needs to be broken up.

While it may sound drastic, drastic crimes call for drastic measures. Microsoft has made it easy to cut up, though — one company for operating system work, one company for Internet software work and one for other software.

Microsoft already has many of its divisions labeled, which will make this process quick and relatively painless.

If Microsoft is confident its tactics have not harmed consumers, letting those pieces of contested software stand on their own merits rather than coasting on the laurels of another shouldn't bother it one bit.

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**Obermeyer's VIEW**



**DN LETTERS**

**Nuh-uh-uh!**

Jennifer Walker (DN, Friday) claims that a women's studies major has taught her a great deal.

Unfortunately, like so many women's studies graduates before and since, she apparently hasn't acquired a respect for factual accuracy.

Just to take one example from her column: there is no Bureau of Justice. There is a Bureau of Justice Statistics, a division of the Department of Justice; it conducts something called a National Crime Victimization Survey.

The survey found in 1998 that there were 110,000 rapes and 89,000 attempted rapes in the United States, not 500,000.

These numbers can be found out by anyone with an Internet browser and five minutes to spend on the Web.

Any rape is one rape too many. But one of the major reasons why women's studies lacks respect as a discipline is its apparent willingness to multiply any horrific statistic by a factor of four or five to make a political point.

When women's studies learns respect for the facts, it will have become an academic discipline and cease to be a fringe political movement.

**Gerard Harbison**  
department of chemistry  
faculty advisor  
College Republicans

**Holy Cold War**

I appreciate Adam Klinker's enthusiasm and optimism over the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification between Lutherans and Catholics.

As a Catholic, I, too, am thankful for this milestone in Christian ecumenism. However, I believe Mr. Klinker has misunderstood the content and significance of this Joint Declaration.

The document itself highlights the fact that Lutheran-Catholic differences on the doctrine of justifica-

tion are not yet completely resolved, although some initial agreements have been established.

The Catholic Church teaches and believes — as it did at the Council of Trent in 1547, contrary to Lutheran theology — that we are saved by grace alone but not by faith alone.

Other differences still persist, especially concerning the nature of justification itself — whether God's righteousness is actually infused into the sinner (Catholicism) or merely imputed (Luther).

Nor can Lutheran-Catholic differences on the doctrine of the Eucharist be set aside, as Mr. Klinker suggested. The Eucharist is, as Vatican II put it, the "source and summit of the Christian life," the very heart of Catholic spirituality and dogma.

I have no desire to extinguish Mr. Klinker's excitement and confident expectation. I only want to point out that the Joint Declaration is the beautiful beginning, not the completion, of a long process, the end of which I await with hope.

**Wei Hsien Wan**  
senior  
psychology

**ACLYou!**

The Nov. 4 letter to the editor by Jason Fredregill entitled "ACL who?" left me puzzled.

Mr. Fredregill claims to have been ignored by us after writing us letters and knocking on our door.

I am not sure upon whose door he knocked or to whom he wrote, but it certainly was not our office. I have personally reviewed every letter written to ACLU Nebraska over the past four years and spoken with every individual who came walking through ACLU Nebraska's door.

Mr. Fredregill simply was not one of those folks who wrote us or came to our office.

I would submit that Mr. Fredregill

has a basic misunderstanding of what ACLU is and what we do.

This was clearly manifested in his resorting to name calling instead of setting forth real examples of what ACLU does.

In the future, I hope the DN at least contacts our office before it gives one of its readers carte blanche to make outlandish accusations.

**Matt LeMieux**  
ACLU Nebraska executive director

**Yadda yadda yadda**

Was Josh Knaub's article "Senators: Student role key" (Nov. 4) supposed to be a "minutes" for the ASUN senate meeting?

If so, Knaub failed to recognize several key issues of the Nov. 3 meeting of the senate:

Government Liaison Committee Chairman Andy Faltin was seeking advice from the student body on what educational issues should be the focus of discussions with government officials.

The Student Impact Team is collecting items and assembling "Hygiene Packs" for Daywatch individuals.

The Academic Committee is presenting Dead Week policy informational sessions and promoting mid-semester evaluations.

The Campus Life Committee is scheduling a time for ASUN to volunteer at a food kitchen.

The Communications Committee is preparing a newsletter for new students to inform them about what ASUN has accomplished this semester and how they can become involved in the spring semester.

I personally invite all students to attend another ASUN meeting or committee meeting. Better yet, fill out an application for a vacancy. You might be surprised how much is accomplished.

**Vicki Geiser**  
graduate student  
senator

**P.S. Write Back**



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