

OPINION PAGES

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

We have a competitive edge because of the technology we have. That margin is going to disappear if we don't move fast.

Beth Klosterman, member of NU's Task Force on Administrative Efficiency

Microsoft is committed to resolving this matter in a fair and responsible manner, while ensuring that the fundamental principals of consumer benefit and innovation are protected.

Bill Gates, responding to the finding by the court that Microsoft abused its monopoly

It was time for the family to close that chapter of their life.

Marlene Ford, of Ford and Ford Auctioneers Inc., on the recent sale of Bob Devaney memorabilia

I thought it was just like throwing money away.

Charles Anderson, whose wife "threw away" \$70 a week on lottery tickets for five years before winning \$5 million-plus

We didn't realize what all it entailed in running a fraternity and why things had gone wrong.

Jaron Luttich, president of the remarkably reformed Chi Phi

Nobody's even gotten close to getting sick.

Darren Peterson, NU on Wheels cab driver

At this point it was all quiet. Everything just stopped.

Christiane Mischek, on the announcement made in Germany 10 years ago that the Berlin Wall had been opened

That's just totally wrong.

Athletic Ticket Office Manager John Anderson on the ticket taker accused of letting a group into a football game for \$100

Several times a year I'll have an officer tested for communicable diseases.

Police Chief Tom Casady

It's a dream of mine but won't seem true until it actually happens. I continue to work for it every day.

Chris Mihm, Texas center, on his hopes to play in the NBA

When someone comes up to you and asks if you want to be in a movie, you're not like, "Oh, forget it."

Mike Callahan, star of David Iske's freshman effort, "The Dean's Boys"

We're playing with students' money.

ASUN Communications Committee Chairman Heath Mello

In my mind I'm going a hundred miles a minute.

Sharolta Nonen, UNL and Canadian national team soccer player

Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Fool

Josh Moening is a simple-minded fool. He claims that Ron Brown and other Christians are not intolerant of homosexuals, rather they are following the word of God.

But if God indeed punishes homosexuals with damnation, then he himself is intolerant. And those who follow God in this respect are no better.

*Patrick Monaghan
senior
philosophy*

Married and Insured

In Tuesday's letters, Chase Petsche argued that the university discourages marriage and promotes homosexuality.

In his letter he falsely claimed that married students are charged more for health insurance.

The health insurance policy charges the same amount for married and unmarried students, \$399 each.

Only if a spouse is not a student does the policy require that person to pay the standard rate (for

Monumental Life Insurance Company).

As for tolerating homosexuality: As a man married to a wonderful wife, I obviously am not promoting homosexuality. But you must be an evil man if you won't even tolerate differences in people.

*Scott Whitney
graduate student
chemical engineering*

Spanish Reader

I very much enjoyed reading Monday's column by Horacio Perez. It was stimulating and afforded me the opportunity to practice reading in Spanish.

*Michael De La Garza
graduate student
history*

MicroSurf

Marcus Graham's letter in the Tuesday DN was a rather enlightening account of the predominance of Windows in the professional world.

However, I feel it fails to justify the true argument at hand.

What is said in the media is not a substitute for actually reading the 200-plus page document released Nov. 5.

While the operating system Windows is a component of this case, there are other focus points for the Department of Justice that coalesce to the extent that the government believes

Microsoft uses its market power in an unfair way toward firms.

The fact that Windows is present in 75 percent of all computers has little to do with the case.

A monopoly is an allowable form of market structure in the United States. However, attempts of monopolization or committing actions to sustain monopolized market power are illegal. The main question at hand is how Microsoft acquired that market power and if Microsoft uses it fairly.

One of Microsoft's problems is Web browsing. Bill Gates himself stated in his 1994 book (I forget the title) that he believed that the World Wide Web would not become a major component of personal computing.

He asserted that its main focus would be in the form of business-to-business contact. While he made comments like these and only slowly developed Internet Explorer, a small company called Netscape was frantically developing its Web browser.

Soon after, Bill Gates realized his mistake as millions of people jumped on the Internet worldwide, using Netscape. His Internet Explorer had a lot of catching up to do. An easy way to do this was simply to distribute it for free as an add-on to most Microsoft products.

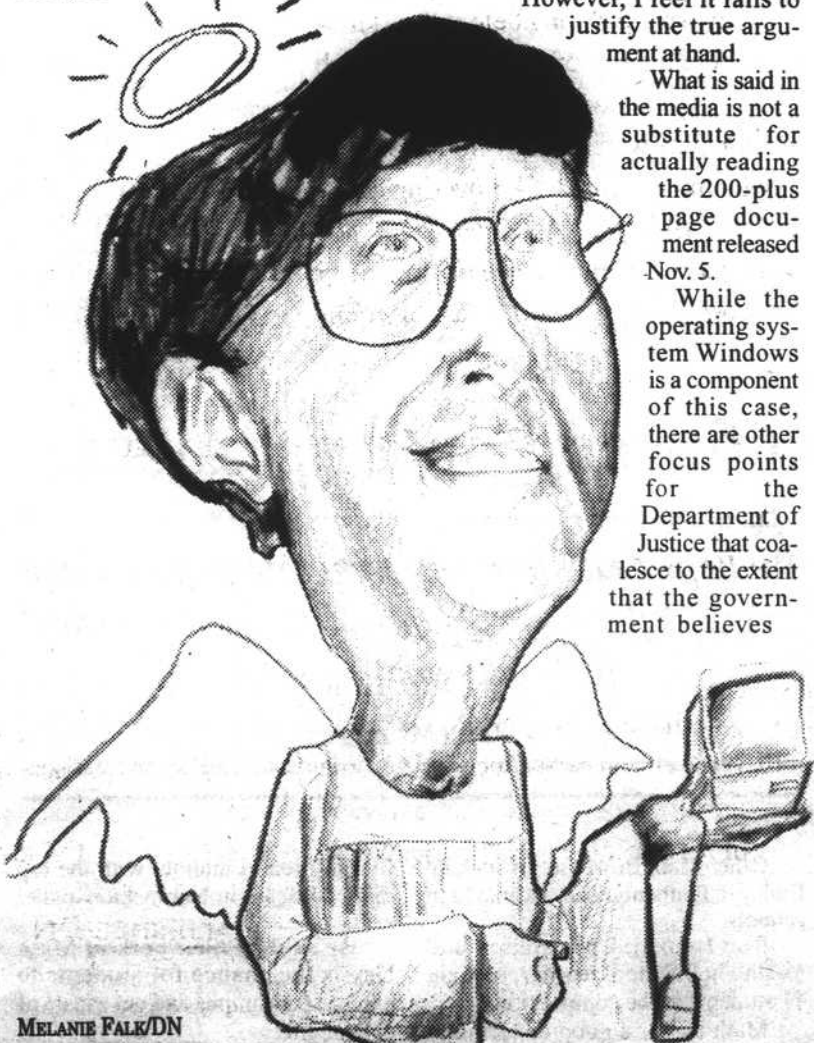
Now, all Windows systems automatically install it. Other software, such as Office, do the same. I recently bought Office 2000 for my PC and I couldn't install the software until I had agreed to let the software install Internet Explorer as well.

This practice is unfair to Netscape and other companies that may have wanted to develop a browser but didn't because who would buy it if Internet Explorer is free? In essence, Microsoft is crowding out the competition by not even giving them a chance, which is an act to sustain a monopoly.

Imagine owning a video store where you rent only videos to consumers, then one day a huge company that produces VCRs but had overlooked the video rental market says that if you buy a VCR then you can have all the free video rentals you want. Your video store isn't going to be around for too much longer.

Competition means more choice, greater innovation and lower prices in the OS/software industry and, if Microsoft must be broken off into several companies in order to achieve competition, then so be it.

*Andrew Cusano
graduate student
economics*



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