

Antitrust ruling big deal

Hooray--a victory for the 'little guy,' the underdog. On Friday, Nov. 5, Judge Thomas Jackson ruled that Microsoft has a monopoly-like power in personal computer operating systems that it used to eliminate competitors.

From the Editor

The last thing we need is a return to the "Robber Barons," the "Captains of Industry."

Even though Bill Gates does not have the same powerful presence as Rockefeller or Morgan, he has what it takes to control an industry: money. His innocent, nerdy looks hide his manipulative side--and for a man worth billions of dollars, that's hard to do.

It has been about two years since the United States' Department of Justice brought an antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft, saying that Microsoft is a monopoly using intentional actions to get rid of possible competitors.

Though many consumers like Microsoft's high-quality, fairly low-cost computers, they are not benefitting by Microsoft's monopoly. Without this caution against monopolies, Microsoft limited consumers' options by buying out other computer manufacturers.

Like Judge Jackson, consumers must realize that monopolies only hurt the economy. Without competition, how would we even have a viable and long-lasting economy? Therefore, consumers should not support monopolies like Microsoft by buying products.

Of course, Microsoft does not want consumers to know any other way but the "Microsoft way." In fact, company CEO Bill Gates took out a full page ad in Sunday's *Washington Post*. In the ad, he said, "Microsoft is committed to resolving this matter in a fair and responsible manner, while ensuring that the fundamental principles of consumer benefit and innovation are protected." Later in the letter, he reiterated the idea of benefitting the consumer.

Consumers, the very people this letter is addressed to, should not be fooled by Gates' seeming concern for them. His real concern is increasing the size of his huge pocketbook. Fight the monopoly. Consumers will ultimately win.

Letter to the editor: College support amazing

To the Editor:

Since I have been at Meredith, I thought I understood the unique relationship between faculty and students. However, on Friday night during Cornhuskin', I truly realized how blessed our student body is to have such committed faculty and staff. I am convinced the support we receive so abundantly would be impossible to find at any other institution.

I was amazed to see how many of the faculty and staff

gave so willingly of their time by being island judges, time-keepers and overall judges, by attending Cornhuskin' and especially by serving breakfast and cleaning up into the early morning hours.

While some may not regard Cornhuskin' as a very significant event, it is one of the oldest traditions that still exists here at Meredith, and more students participate in Cornhuskin' than in any other event.

By supporting the students

of Meredith College during the week-long festivities and especially on the night of Cornhuskin', faculty and staff showed us in yet another way that we are valued by them. There is definitely a special bond between the faculty, staff and students here at Meredith. I would not trade this atmosphere of family for anything.

Very sincerely,

Erin Grant,
Senior Class President

Opinion: Anyone have change?

MICHELLE HULSE
Staff Writer

Saturdays are supposed to be a time to catch up on work and have fun, right? If you are like me, you like to get your laundry done on Saturdays.

Between classes, homework and activities, you probably haven't had time during the week to do your laundry. So you find yourself sorting your clothes on Saturday. But wait! When you swipe your CamCard the screen says "No Available Host." The CamCard machines are not working again!

Does this sound like something that has happened to you? This can be quite annoying and frustrating. This seems like a problem for me almost every Saturday. So, I decided that this problem must be solved for the sake of my not wearing pajamas all day.

Placing a change machine in

every residence hall seems to be the most logical way to solve this problem. At one time, there was a change machine in the Cate Center's game room but due to the lack of profits, Raleigh Amusement took it out.

Cheryl Jenkins, director of the office of student activities and leadership development, explained that student activities and Raleigh Amusement had a contract in which both would make a profit from the machine, but in early August Raleigh Amusement felt that the profit was not being met and took out the change machine.

I visited the Beehive on a Saturday morning and an employee stated that every Saturday many students ask for change that she is unable to give them.

"I've started doing my laundry during the week," said freshman Katie Haas, "because

I usually don't have the change to do it on the weekends." Getting change to do laundry or get a soda can be a hassle!

So, the big question is who would be willing and able to put change machines on campus? After much searching, I found that this is not an easy question to answer.

I called technology services to find out the problem with the CamCard machines in the laundry rooms, and found that the reason it is not usually working on Saturday is because the program is not starting up again.

Angela Gouge assured me that the problem had been fixed but that there were "no guarantees" that it would work every day. On the days the CamCard machines are not working, we are being forced to use quarters. How many people have enough quarters lying around? All other Laundromats have change machines; why doesn't Meredith?

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