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Contact: Gail Pomerantz  
Ashton-Tate  
(213) 329-8000

David Burwick  
Miller Communications  
(213) 822-4669

20101 Hamilton Avenue  
Torrance, California 90502-4310  
Telephone: (213) 329-8000  
Telex: 069084 ASHT TATE LSA

ASHTON-TATE ASSISTS FBI IN  
INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED SOFTWARE PIRATES

TORRANCE, Calif., December 11, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate, a leading developer and marketer of microcomputer business software, today announced it recently worked with the FBI in an investigation of alleged software piracy.

As a result of the investigation, federal agents siezed computer software and computer equipment believed to have been used by two alleged "computer software pirates" who were reportedly making and selling illegal copies of Ashton-Tate's dBASE III and Framework.

"We have always taken a hard line against software piracy, especially when it is done for profit," said Edward M. Esber Jr., Ashton-Tate President. "Our working together with the FBI indicates the action Ashton-Tate will take to eliminate piracy."

Attorneys for Ashton-Tate brought the problem to the attention of the FBI this summer after being contacted by a consumer who had purchased software from one of the alleged software

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pirates. The consumer had responded to an advertisement in the Los Angeles Times that offered many software packages, including Ashton-Tate's Framework and dBASE III, at prices substantially below retail. Upon receiving floppy disks with typewritten labels and photocopied documentation, the consumer contacted Ashton-Tate.

The evidence seized by the FBI will be presented to a federal grand jury, which is expected to hand down indictments against the individuals involved for criminal copyright and trademark infringement.

"By cooperating with the FBI on this case, we have established a good working relationship with the agency," said Stanley P. Witkow, Ashton-Tate's general counsel. "We will continue to work with the FBI and other authorities to put a halt to piracy-for-profit operations."

Ashton-Tate is one of the largest microcomputer applications software companies worldwide. For the nine months ended October 31, 1985, the company reported revenues of \$80 million and net income of \$10.6 million, both substantial increases over the same nine-month period of the previous year.

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