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GRAPHICS PROGRAM DEVELOPER WINS GRAND PRIZE IN ASHTON-TATE'S FRAMEWORK APPLICATIONS CONTEST

TORRANCE, Calif., Dec. 9, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate, a leading developer and marketer of microcomputer software, today announced it has awarded George Snyder of Stoneham, Mass., the grand prize in the company's Framework applications contest.

Snyder, a senior software engineer for Intermetrics, ranked first among more than 2,100 entrants for his Framework application that creates graphics for slide presentations.

Snyder wrote a program in FRED, Framework's development language, that reads data from a spreadsheet to create graphics such as Gantt charts and structure diagrams. "The quality of graphics is better than that produced by most project schedulers. They are easier to modify than those from `paint' programs, and require neither a mouse nor a graphics monitor," said Snyder.

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The contest, organized by Ashton-Tate's product marketing department, was intended to recognize exceptional custom applications developed using Framework, the company's award-winning integrated software package that first shipped in July 1984.

Ashton-Tate recently began shipping Framework II, an enhanced version of Framework that combines a faster, larger and more powerful spreadsheet with an advanced word processor that includes an 80,000-word spelling checker and built-in mailmerge.

"The overwhelming response to the Framework applications contest is a testimony to our loyal base of Framework users," said Roy Folk, executive vice president of marketing and strategic planning at Ashton-Tate. "It is quite clear that Framework has proven to be a useful productivity tool for programmers as well as for novices."

Framework users worldwide submitted detailed descriptions of their Framework applications, ranging from project planning and sales management to managing an ostrich farm in Africa. All contest applicants received a free copy of the Ashton-Tate Publishing Group's text, Framework: On-The-Job Applications.

Ashton-Tate marketing and technical professionals judged the entries based on originality, usefulness, and depth and breadth of functionality. The original entries were pared down to 27 finalists, and then to first, second and third place winners.

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The judges awarded second place to Nathan Lyman, an attorney from Albion, N.Y., for a job-costing application for modular home construction. Ellen J. Hanis, a management engineering assistant in the Tampa Bay, Florida area, received third place for a hospital administration application that created productivity reports involving monthly statistical calculations and graphs for 140 departments.

Grand prize in the Framework applications contest was a GRIDCase 3 Portable Computer with 512K of memory and a 1200 baud modem. Second prize was a Technics AM/FM stereo receiver with a compact disk player and pair of speakers. Third prize was a Sharp 13" color TV with remote control.

One of the fastest growing companies in the personal computer industry, Ashton-Tate reported revenues of $80 million and net income of $10.6 million for the first nine months of fiscal year 1986, ended October 31, 1985, an increase of 45 percent and 221 percent respectively from the same period of the previous year.

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