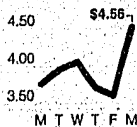


SOFTWARE

GEAC TO BUY COMSHARE FOR \$52 MILLION The Geac Computer Corporation, a Canadian maker of business software, said yesterday that it had agreed to buy Comshare for \$52 million in cash to expand its line of financial forecasting products. The deal comes amid rapid consolidation among makers of software used to plan business operations. Growth in the overall market has slowed as customers look to a smaller number of suppliers that can offer a broad range of functions. Comshare would provide Geac with a suite of software for planning, budgeting, forecasting, financial consolidation and management reporting and analysis. Officials

Comshare

\$5.00 a share



of Geac, which got its start as a mainframe computer maker, said the Comshare deal would help further transform the company into a broad-based supplier of business planning software, and return it to sales growth next year after three successive years of declines. Geac shares fell 13 cents, or 2.3 percent, to 5.50 Canadian dollars (\$4.05). Shares of Comshare rose 92 cents, or 25.3 percent, to \$4.56.

(Reuters)

VIGNETTE NAMES CHAIRMAN The Vignette Corporation, a maker of Internet business software, yesterday named a board member, Michael Lambert, as chairman. He succeeds Greg Peters, who joined Zilliant Inc. as president and chief executive. Mr. Lambert, 50, retired from Dell Computer this year after six years as senior vice president of its enterprise systems group, and has been on Vignette's board since September, the company said. Mr. Peters, 43, a former chief executive of Vignette, led its public offering in 1999. He was named chief executive and president of Zilliant, a closely held maker of pricing software and services, on June 9, to succeed Marvin Newell, who left the company three months earlier for personal reasons. Mr. Peters will remain on Vignette's board. Mr. Lambert was vice president for sales and marketing at Compaq Computer from 1993 to 1996 after working in various executive posts at NCR for 16 years. He is also on the boards of the Western Digital Corporation and the network storage provider Panasas Inc.

(Bloomberg News)

MICROSOFT INTRODUCES SOFTWARE FOR MOBILE DEVICES Microsoft introduced software for hand-held devices yesterday as part of its efforts to increase its market share for advanced mobile phones, personal digital assistants and other smart devices. The new version of Pocket PC software carries the name Windows Mobile 2003 to help link it with the company's Windows operating system, said Ed Suwanjindar, product manager with Microsoft's mobility group. The software can automatically connect devices to the Internet if there is a wireless Wi-Fi network in place. Many coffee shops, copy centers and other locations are installing such networks. The software also includes improved e-mail and calendar capabilities, along with digital photo editing and display software. Hewlett-Packard will introduce four models with the new software, including the slimmest and most inexpensive iPAQ yet. The iPAQ h1940 is 4.46 inches by 2.75 inches by half an inch and costs \$299. It has Bluetooth built in as well as an SD-card expansion slot. The other three new models are about the size of their predecessors and are priced at \$399, \$549 and \$649. Gateway and JVC are also expected to make hand-helds running Microsoft's software.

(AP)