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Worldwide giant GE expands

Board approves buying of Honeywell for \$45 billion

The strong gets stronger
The combination of General Electric Co. and Honeywell International Inc. will strengthen GE's businesses, which have seen revenues nearly double since 1990. About 90 percent of GE businesses overlap with Honeywell's, yet there are few, if any, overlaps in products.

NEW YORK (AP)— General Electric Co., one of the world's largest and most profitable companies, took a big step over the weekend toward getting even bigger.

The industrial powerhouse agreed Sunday to acquire Honeywell International Inc. for \$45 billion in stock, in a move that further solidifies GE as an aerospace giant.

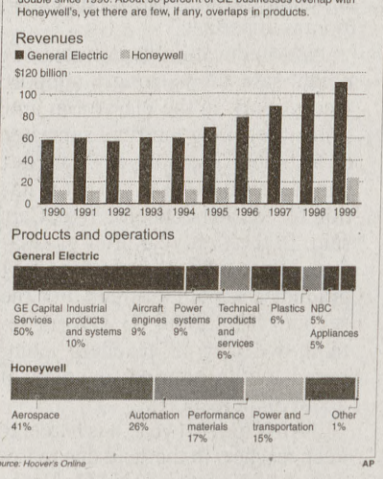
GE is a diversified company that produces power plant parts, aircraft engines, appliances and owns the NBC television network. Honeywell manufactures equipment for aerospace systems, power generation, transportation and factory automation, as well as specialty chemicals, plastics, fibers and other industrial materials.

The boards of both companies have approved the deal, which is expected to be completed in early 2001. The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval and the approval of Honeywell shareholders.

GE expects the deal to boost earnings per share by double in the first full year, excluding one-time charges.

"This is how GE gets a big footprint in the global marketplace, increasing its size by nearly a third overnight and adding to its dominance in key areas," said Nicholas P. Heymann of Prudential Securities Inc. said Sunday.

GE Chairman John F. Welch postponed his planned retirement until the end of 2001 to oversee the merger, which creates one of the world's largest industrial companies.



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Domestic violence awareness

Graduate students Christina Gonzalez and Sherree Schwarz discuss their thoughts about the domestic violence awareness T-shirts. In recognition of domestic violence awareness month, the Department of Student Life ran advertisements requesting that domestic violence survivors and friends of survivors paint T-shirts to be displayed in the MSC Flagroom. This year's shirts, as well as those from years past, were on display Monday.

SUSAN REDDING/THE BATTALION

LARK
Continued from Page 1

However, Lark said the Libertarian party continues to support a strong military and national defense.

Throughout the forum, challenges faced by the Libertarian Party frequently surfaced, prompting discussion of the difficulties faced by the party and the hurdles that have been overcome in its 29-year existence.

"The only real way third parties can get their message out is by using huge amounts of money," Lark said, citing the 1992 presidential race in which Ross Perot was forced to run himself because campaign finance laws prohibited him from using his assets to finance a different candidate.

In 1980, the party nominated Richard Clark and billionaire running mate David Coke for the Libertarian presidential ticket. Clark was able to finance the campaign with his wealth and the Libertarian ticket received more than 920,000 votes that year, compared with the 480,000 votes received by Libertarian Harry Browne in the 1996 presidential race.

"In some states it's damn near illegal to run if you're not a Republican or Democrat," Lark said, adding that other challenges include ballot access restrictions and poor local media coverage.

Nonetheless, Lark said, party efforts have seen a tremendous increase in local media coverage. He added that problems continue with a lack of attention from what he called the "prestige press," referring to the three major television networks and newspapers such as The New York Times and The Washington Post.

"Nader and Buchanan have made some pretty outrageous statements. Those get news," said Bill Wilder, a Libertarian candidate for Brazos County commissioner. "Libertarians stay out of that stuff — that's why we don't get news."

The party's success in overcoming these challenges was also addressed at the forum. Currently, more than 300 Libertarians hold public office at the local and state levels. Congressman Ron Paul was elected on a Republican ticket, but now serves as a Libertarian.

"This is why you can think of the Libertarian Party as the nation's third party," Lark said. "We hope to become the majority party in the not-too-distant future."

The audience was supportive of the ideals and motives of the Libertarian Party, although some were interested mainly in breaking away from the establishment.

"I'm sick of the two-party system," said Chris Langford, a senior political science and sociology major. "The Democrats and Republicans get all of the media attention, and I believe it's destructive to democracy. I don't necessarily agree with [the Libertarian Party], but I'm here to show my support."

Meanwhile, local support for the party is increasing. Chris Jagge, chairman of the Brazos County Libertarian Party and a technician with the county's technology department, said he is interested in representing an alternative political view and is pleased that the contingent is not ignored. Aggie Libertarians, the on-campus group, was founded in 1998 and now has several dozen regular participants.

"We are here to educate about freedom and true diversity," said Stephanie Berlin, president of Aggie Libertarians, secretary for the Texas Libertarian Party and a sophomore genetics and biochemistry major.

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