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ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT
FORM X-17A-5
PART III

SEC FILE NUMBER

8-53628

FACING PAGE

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/03 AND ENDING 12/31/03
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

40 Shuman Blvd.

(No. and Street)

Naperville

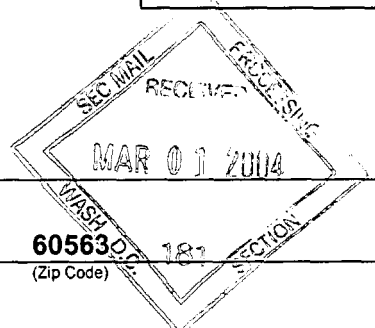
(City)

Illinois

(State)

60563

(Zip Code)



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FIRM ID. NO.

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

Tracy Miller

(630) 778-3418

(Area Code - Telephone No.)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report*

Ryan & Juraska, Certified Public Accountants

(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)

141 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 3520

(Address)

Chicago

(City)

Illinois

(State)

60604

(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

☒ Certified Public Accountant

☐ Public Accountant

☐ Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

PROCESSED

MAR 30 2004

THOMSON
FINANCIAL

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*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

K9
3/29

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, JOHN WIESNER, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C., as of December 31, 2003, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

NONE



John Wiesner
Signature
Managing Member
Title

Lynn H. Berger
Notary Public

This report** contains (check all applicable boxes):

- ☒ (a) Facing page.
- ☒ (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☒ (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- ☒ (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- ☒ (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholder's Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital
- ☐ (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- ☒ (g) Computation of Net Capital.
- ☒ (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- ☒ (i) Information Relating to the Possession or control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3
- ☒ (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (k) A Reconciliation between the audit and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- ☒ (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- ☐ (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- ☒ (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

** For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
PURSUANT TO SEC RULE 17a-5(d)**

for the year ended December 31, 2003



RYAN & JURASKA

Certified Public Accountants

141 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Tel: 312.922.0062

Fax: 312.922.0672

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C. as of December 31, 2003, and the related statements of operations, changes in members' equity, changes in liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors and cash flows for the year then ended that you are filing pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C. as of December 31, 2003, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in the supplementary schedules is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Ryan & Juraska

Chicago, Illinois
February 11, 2004

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
as of December 31, 2003

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 234,164
Receivables from broker-dealer	3,205,821
Securities owned, at market	
Long stock	440,155
Long options	81,535
Investment in broker-dealer	10,000
Security deposit	<u>924</u>
	<u>\$ 3,972,599</u>

LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

Liabilities

Security owned not yet purchased	
Short stock	\$ 776,797
Short options	72,900
Accounts payable	<u>244,347</u>
	1,094,044

Members' Equity

	<u>2,878,555</u>
	<u>\$ 3,972,599</u>

See accompanying notes.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
for the year ended December 31, 2003

Revenues

Trading income, net	\$	1,450,296
Interest and dividends		<u>51,181</u>
		<u>1,501,477</u>

Expenses

Salary expense	194,489
Outside traders, consultants	152,082
Commissions, brokerage and regulatory fees	70,763
Office and other expenses	57,497
Interest and dividends	54,369
Professional fees	13,134
Membership lease expense	<u>8,329</u>
	<u>550,663</u>

Net income	\$	<u><u>950,814</u></u>
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See accompanying notes.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY
for the year ended December 31, 2003

Balance, January 1, 2003	\$	1,303,183
Members' contributions		867,764
Members' withdrawals		(243,206)
Net income		<u>950,814</u>
Balance, December 31, 2003	\$	<u>2,878,555</u>

See accompanying notes.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended December 31, 2003

Operating Activities

Net income	\$ 950,814
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Receivables from broker - dealer	(3,205,821)
Securities owned, at market - stock	(227,315)
Securities owned, at market - options	2,243,764
Investments in broker - dealer	(10,000)
Security deposit	(924)
Securities sold, not yet purchased - stock	297,217
Securities sold, not yet purchased - options	(179,750)
Payable to broker - dealer	(522,698)
Accounts payable	244,347
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	(410,366)

Financing Activities

Members' capital contributions	867,764
Members' capital withdrawals	(243,206)
Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	624,558

Net Increase in Cash 214,192

Cash, Beginning of Year 19,972

Cash, End of Year \$ 234,164

See accompanying notes.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended December 31, 2003

1. Organization and Business

Saint Soter Capital, L.L.C. (the Company), an Illinois Limited Liability Company, was organized on April 25, 2001. The Company is a registered broker-dealer in securities under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and a member of the Chicago Stock Exchange. Revenue is generated from investments.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Revenue Recognition

Securities transactions and related income and expenses are recorded on the settlement date. Generally accepted accounting principles normally require an entity to record security transactions on a trade date basis, however, a majority of brokers and dealers record most securities transactions on the settlement date rather than the trade date.

Income Taxes

No provision for federal income taxes has been made in the accompanying financial statements, as each member is responsible for reporting income or loss based his share of the profits or losses of the company.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Net Capital Requirements

The Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Uniform Net Capital Rule (15c3-1), and has elected to use the basic method as permitted by this rule. Under this rule, the Company is required to maintain "net capital" equal to \$ 100,000. At December 31, 2003 the Company had net capital and net capital requirements of \$2,732,679 and \$100,000, respectively.

4. Commitments

The Company leases facilities under operating leases that expire through March 31, 2005. At December 31, 2003 the aggregate minimum lease payments under these operating leases are \$8,319. At December 31, 2003 future minimum lease payments under the noncancelable operating leases are \$11,348 and \$2,858, for the years ending December 31, 2004 through 2005, respectively. Rent expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 totaled \$18,207.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued
for the year ended December 31, 2003

5. **Financial Instruments with Off-Balance Sheet Risk and Concentration of Credit Risk**

In the normal course of business the Company enters into transactions in derivative financial instruments and other financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk, which include exchange-traded equity and index options and short stocks.

Options grant the purchaser, for the payment of a premium, the right to either purchase from or sell to the writer a specified instrument under agreed terms. As a writer of options, the Company receives a premium in exchange for bearing the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the securities or money market instruments underlying the options.

Securities sold, not yet purchased, represent obligations of the Company to deliver specified securities and thereby create a liability to repurchase the securities in the market at prevailing prices. These transactions may result in off-balance sheet risk as the Company's ultimate obligation to satisfy its obligation for securities sold, not yet purchased may exceed the amount recognized in the statement of financial condition.

All financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk and other derivative financial instruments are held for trading purposes.

Risk arises from the potential inability of counterparties or exchanges to perform under the terms of the contracts (credit risk) and from changes in the values of securities, interest rates, currency exchange rates or equity index values (market risk).

The contractual or notional amounts related to derivative financial instruments reflect the volume and activity and do not reflect the amounts at risk. At December 31, 2003, the contract or notional amounts of derivative financial instruments used for trading purposes were as follows:

		<u>Millions</u>
Options held	\$	2
Options written	\$	5.5

In management's opinion, the market risk is substantially diminished when all financial instruments, including stocks owned and sold, not yet purchased, are aggregated.

At December 31, 2003, a significant credit concentration consisted of the total net equity of the Company with the Company's clearing broker, First Options of Chicago, Inc. (FOC). Management does not consider any credit risk associated with this net receivable to be significant.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued
for the year ended December 31, 2003

6. Trading Activities

The Company trades in exchange traded equities, equity options and index options. The net trading loss from these activities for the year ended December 31, 2003 amounted to \$1,379,533.

The fair value of derivatives represents options contracts at market value. The following table discloses the approximate fair values of derivative financial instruments held for trading as of December 31, 2003, as well as the approximate quarterly average fair values of derivatives held during 2003:

		December 31, 2003		Average During 2003
Equity and index options assets	\$	81,000	\$	350,000
Equity and index options liabilities	\$	73,000	\$	220,000

7. Off Balance Sheet Risk

In the normal course of business, the Company enters into transactions in financial instruments with varying degrees of off-balance-sheet risk. The trading of these financial instruments is conducted with registered broker-dealers on domestic stock exchanges. The Company's exposure to credit risk associated with counterparty nonperformance on the above financial instruments is limited to the amounts reflected in the statement of financial condition.

8. Operating Agreement

The managing member shall cause a capital account to be established for each member. The initial balance of each member's capital account shall be the amount of his or her initial capital contribution to the fund.

The fund shall terminate and be dissolved upon the withdrawal, insolvency or dissolution of the managing member and upon the death, insanity or incompetency of the managing member.

The agreement also provides that the managing member is specifically authorized to establish brokerage arrangements on behalf of the fund. The managing member is entitled to a special allocation equal to 50% of the cumulative trading profit as of the end of the quarter in a member's capital account.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL COMBINED UNIFORM SINGLE REPORT
PART III

BROKER OR DEALER: **SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.**

as of **December 31, 2003**

COMPUTATION OF NET CAPITAL

1.	Total ownership (from Statement of Financial Condition-Item 1800)		\$	<u>2,878,555</u>	[3480]
2.	Deduct: Ownership equity not allowable for net capital				[3490]
3.	Total ownership equity qualified for net capital		\$	<u>2,878,555</u>	[3500]
4.	Add:				
	A. Liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors allowable in computation of net capital		\$	<u>-</u>	[3520]
	B. Other (deductions) or allowable subordinated liabilities				[3525]
5.	Total capital and allowable subordinated liabilities		\$	<u>2,878,555</u>	[3530]
6.	Deductions and/or charges:				
	A. Total non-allowable assets from Statement of Financial Condition (Note B and C) (See detail below)		\$	<u>10,924</u>	[3540]
	1. Additional charges for customers' and non-customers' security accounts				[3550]
	2. Additional charges for customers' and non-customers' commodity accounts				[3560]
	B. Aged fail-to-deliver				[3570]
	1. Number of items				[3450]
	C. Aged short security differences- less reserved of				[3460]
	2. Number of items				[3470]
	D. Secured demand note deficiency				[3590]
	E. Commodity futures contract and spot commodities proprietary capital charges				[3600]
	F. Other deductions and/or charges				[3610]
	G. Deductions for accounts carried under Rule 15c3-1(a)(6), (a)(7) and (c)(2)(x)				[3615]
	H. Total deduction and/or charges		\$	<u>(10,924)</u>	[3620]
7.	Other additions and/or allowable credits (List)				[3630]
8.	Net Capital before haircuts on securities positions		\$	<u>2,867,631</u>	[3640]
9.	Haircuts on securities (computed, where applicable pursuant to 15c3-1(f)):				
	A. Contractual securities commitments				[3660]
	B. Subordinated securities borrowings				[3670]
	C. Trading and Investment securities				
	1. Bankers' acceptance, certificates of deposit, and commercial paper				[3680]
	2. U.S. and Canadian government obligations				[3690]
	3. State and municipal government obligations				[3700]
	4. Corporate obligations				[3710]
	5. Stocks and warrants				[3720]
	6. Options		\$	<u>134,952</u>	[3730]
	7. Arbitrage				[3732]
	8. Other securities				[3734]
	D. Undue concentration				[3650]
	E. Other (List)				[3736]
			\$	<u>(134,952)</u>	[3740]
10.	Net Capital		\$	<u>2,732,679</u>	[3750]

OMIT PENNIES

Non-Allowable Assets (line 6.A):

Investment in broker-dealer	\$	10,000
Security deposit		<u>924</u>
	\$	<u>10,924</u>

Note: There are no material differences between the audited computation of net capital and that per the Company's unaudited FOCUS report as filed.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL COMBINED UNIFORM SINGLE REPORT

PART III

BROKER OR DEALER: **SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.**

as of **December 31, 2003**

COMPUTATION OF BASIC NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

Part A			
11.	Minimum net capital required (6-2/3% of line 19)	\$ 16,296	[3756]
12.	Minimum dollar net capital requirement of reporting broker or dealer and minimum net capital requirement of subsidiaries computed in accordance with Note (A)	\$ 100,000	[3758]
13.	Net capital requirement (greater of line 11 or 12)	\$ 100,000	[3760]
14.	Excess net capital (line 10 less 13)	\$ 2,632,679	[3770]
15.	Excess net capital at 1000% (line 10 less 10% of line 19)	\$ 2,708,234	[3780]

COMPUTATION OF AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS

16.	Total A.I. liabilities from Statement of Financial Condition	\$ 244,447	[3790]
17.	Add:		
	A. Drafts for immediate credit		[3800]
	B. Market value of securities borrowed for which no equivalent value is paid or credited		[3810]
	C. Other unrecorded amounts (List)		[3820]
18.	Deduct: Adjustment based on deposits in Special Reserve Bank Accounts (15c3-1(c)(1)(vii))		[3838]
19.	Total aggregate indebtedness	\$ 244,447	[3840]
20.	Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital (line 19 – by line 10)	% 8.95	[3850]
21.	Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital <u>after</u> anticipated capital withdrawals (line 19- by line 10 less item 4880 page 11)		[3853]

COMPUTATION OF ALTERNATE NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

Part B			
22.	2% of combined aggregate debit items as shown in Formula for Reserve Requirements pursuant to Rule 15c-3-3 prepared as of the date of the net capital computation including both brokers or dealers and consolidated subsidiaries debits		[3870]
23.	Minimum dollar net capital requirement of reporting broker or dealer and minimum net capital requirement of subsidiaries computed in accordance with Note (A)	\$ -	[3880]
24.	Net capital requirement (greater of line 22 or 23)	\$ -	[3760]
25.	Excess net capital (line 10 less 24)	\$ -	[3910]
26.	Percentage of Net Capital to Aggregate Debits (line 10 ÷ by line 17 page 8)		[3851]
27.	Percentage of Net Capital, <u>after</u> anticipated capital withdrawals, to Aggregate Debits (line 10 less item 4880, page 11 ÷ by line 17 page 8)		[3854]
28.	Net capital in excess of: 5% of combined aggregate debit items or \$300,000	\$ -	[3920]

OTHER RATIOS

Part C			
29.	Percentage of debt to debt-equity total computed in accordance with Rule 15c3-1(d)		[3860]
30.	Options deductions/Net Capital ratio (1000% test) total deductions exclusive of liquidating equity under Rule 15c3-1(a)(6), (a)(7) and (c)(2)(x) ÷ Net Capital		[3852]

NOTES:

- A. The minimum net capital requirement should be computed by adding the minimum dollar net capital requirement of the reporting broker dealer and, for each subsidiary to be consolidated, the greater of:
 1. Minimum dollar net capital requirement, or
 2. 6-2/3% of aggregate indebtedness or 2% of aggregate debits if alternative method is used.
- B. Do not deduct the value of securities borrowed under subordination agreements of secured demand notes covered by subordination agreements not in satisfactory form and the market values of memberships in exchanges contributed for use of company (contra to item 1740) and partners securities which were included in non-allowable assets.
- C. For reports filed pursuant to paragraph (d) of Rule 17a-5, respondent should provide a list of material non-allowable assets.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

**FINANCIAL AND OPERATION COMBINED UNIFORM
SINGLE REPORT PART IIA
for the year ended December 31, 2003**

Reconciliation Pursuant to Paragraph (d)(4) of Rule 17a-5

Following is a reconciliation and explanation for differences between the unaudited and audited FOCUS Part IIA Report as of December 31, 2003:

Net capital per unaudited FOCUS report	\$ <u>2,732,679</u>
Net capital per audited FOCUS report	\$ <u>2,732,679</u>

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

**COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF RESERVE REQUIREMENTS
PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-3
for the year ended December 31, 2003**

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any customer accounts.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

**COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PAIB RESERVE REQUIREMENTS
PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-3
for the year ended December 31, 2003**

The Company did not handle any proprietary accounts of introducing brokers during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any PAIB accounts.

SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

**INFORMATION RELATING TO THE POSSESSION OR CONTROL
REQUIREMENTS UNDER RULE 15c3-3
for the year ended December 31, 2003**

The Company did not handle any customer cash or securities during the year ended December 31, 2003 and does not have any customer accounts.



RYAN & JURASKA

Certified Public Accountants

141 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Tel: 312.922.0062

Fax: 312.922.0672

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
ON INTERNAL CONTROL**

To the Members of
SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of SAINT SOTER CAPITAL, L.L.C. (the "Company") for the year ended December 31, 2003, we considered its internal control structure, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17A-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company, including tests of such practices and procedures that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a-5(g), (1) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness (or aggregate debits) and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11) and the reserve required by Rule 15c3-3(e); and (2) in making the quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons, and the recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13. We did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures, and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph, and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of an internal control structure and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving the internal control structure, including control activities for safeguarding securities that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

Our review indicated that the Company, although not exempt from Rule 15c-3-3, had no reporting requirements because it did not transact a business in securities directly with or for other than members of a national securities exchange and did not carry margin accounts, credit balances or securities for any person defined as a "customer" pursuant to Rule 17a-5(c)(4) and that, as of December 31, 2003, no facts came to our attention to indicate that such conditions were not complied with during the period.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2003 to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the SEC, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and other regulatory agencies that rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Ryan & Juraska

Chicago, Illinois
February 11, 2004