

VAN KAMPEN HIGH INCOME TRUST

Form N-30D

February 27, 2003

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Regardless of the market environment, your investment goals don't go away.
NOT FDIC INSURED MAY LOSE VALUE NO BANK GUARANTEE

OVERVIEW

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS
January 17, 2003

Dear Shareholder,

During the bull market of the 1990s, many investors ignored what investment risk really means: the possibility of losing money. Instead, investors came to define risk as "more reward."

Today, it's clear that for many people, the pendulum has swung to the opposite extreme. Many are reluctant to enter the market, stick with their long-term plans, or assume prudent levels of risk. Not knowing what action to take, many investors are taking none.

Regardless of how you define risk and regardless of the market environment, your investment goals don't go away. Parents will want to send children to college, retirees will want to enjoy their golden years, and families will want to purchase homes. And history bears out that a prudent investment may be one of the best ways to get there.

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How can you reconcile the reality of market risk with the pursuit of your long-term investment goals? At Van Kampen, we believe that diversification and asset allocation are the best strategies for managing the market's ups and downs. That's why Van Kampen offers a full range of fund choices. We encourage you to work with your advisor to make sure that you have an asset allocation that's suitable for you.

As we enter a new year, all of us at Van Kampen remain grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for the opportunity to help you enjoy life's true wealth.

Sincerely,

[SIG]

David M. Swanson
Chief Operating Officer
Van Kampen Investment Advisory Corp.

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ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

THE ECONOMY

ECONOMIC DATA RELEASED IN DECEMBER 2002 SEEMED TO SUGGEST THE ECONOMY WAS EMERGING FROM ITS AUTUMN SOFT SPOT. RETAIL SALES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION RECORDED GAINS THAT SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS. BOTH NEW AND EXISTING HOME SALES CONTINUED TO REMAIN AT HISTORICALLY HIGH LEVELS. EVEN THE BELEAGUERED MANUFACTURING SECTOR ENJOYED SOME GOOD NEWS: THE INSTITUTE OF SUPPLY MANAGEMENT REPORTED THAT NEW ORDERS WERE SO ROBUST, THEY REGISTERED THE LARGEST MONTHLY INCREASE SINCE 1980. EQUALLY ENCOURAGING, INFLATION PRESSURES REMAINED STABLE THROUGHOUT THE REPORTING PERIOD--DESPITE RISING OIL PRICES.

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, THE FEDERAL RESERVE MAINTAINED ITS ACCOMMODATIVE MONETARY POLICY WHICH, AS A RESULT, ALLOWED INTEREST RATES TO CONTINUE HOVERING AT THE LOWEST LEVELS IN DECADES.

YET, POCKETS OF WEAKNESS PERSISTED. DECEMBER'S JOB LOSSES WERE THE STRONGEST RECORDED IN RECENT MONTHS, CAUSING INVESTORS TO QUESTION THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY MOVING FORWARD.

FURTHER CLOUDING THE ECONOMIC HORIZON, THE DOLLAR MOVED LOWER AS TRADERS AND INVESTORS QUESTIONED THE NEWLY APPOINTED TREASURY SECRETARY'S COMMITMENT TO A STRONG DOLLAR. WHILE THE DECLINING DOLLAR SEEMED LIKE ANOTHER DARK CLOUD, A POSSIBLE SILVER LINING REMAINS: DOLLAR WEAKNESS COULD TRANSLATE INTO IMPROVED EXPORTS IN 2003, FURTHER SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH.

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U.S. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUALIZED RATES

(December 31, 2000--December 31, 2002)

[BAR GRAPH]

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U.S. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Dec 00	1.1%
Mar 01	-0.6%
Jun 01	-1.6%
Sep 01	-0.3%
Dec 01	2.7%
Mar 02	5.0%
Jun 02	1.3%
Sep 02	4.0%
Dec 02	0.7%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

INTEREST RATES AND INFLATION

(December 31, 2000--December 31, 2002)

[LINE GRAPH]

	INTEREST RATES

Dec 00	6.50%
	5.50%
	5.50%
Mar 01	5.00%
	4.50%
	4.00%
Jun 01	3.75%
	3.75%
	3.50%
Sep 01	3.00%
	2.50%
	2.00%
Dec 01	1.75%
	1.75%
	1.75%
Mar 02	1.75%
	1.75%
	1.75%
Jun 02	1.75%
	1.75%
	1.75%
Sep 02	1.75%
	1.75%
	1.25%
Dec 02	1.25%

Interest rates are represented by the closing midline federal funds target rate on the last day of each month. Inflation is indicated by the annual percentage change of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers at the end of each month.

Source: Bloomberg

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PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

RETURN HIGHLIGHTS

(as of December 31, 2002)

NYSE Ticker Symbol - VIT

One-year total return(1) -22.99%

Five-year average annual total return(1) -5.65%

Ten-year average annual total return(1) 2.82%

Life-of-Trust average annual total return(1) 3.76%

Commencement date 01/26/89

Distribution rate as a % of closing common share market price(2) 12.58%

Net asset value \$3.03

Closing common share market price \$3.10

One-year high common share market price (01/18/02) \$4.99

One-year low common share market price (07/24/02) \$2.76

Preferred share rate(3) 1.380%

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(1) Total return assumes an investment at the common share market price at the beginning of the period indicated, reinvestment of all distributions for the period in accordance with the Trust's dividend reinvestment plan, and sale of all shares at the closing common share market price at the end of the period indicated.

(2) Distribution rate represents the monthly annualized distributions of the Trust at the end of the period and not the earnings of the Trust.

(3) See "Notes to Financial Statements" footnote #4, for more information concerning Preferred Share reset periods.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Investment return, common share market price and net asset value will fluctuate and Trust shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. An investment in the Trust is subject to investment risks, and you could lose money on your investment in the Trust. As a result of recent market

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activity, current performance may vary from the figures shown. For more up-to-date information, please visit vankampen.com or speak with your financial advisor.

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PORTFOLIO AT A GLANCE

CREDIT QUALITY

(as a percentage of long-term debt investments)

As of December 31, 2002

- A/A.....	5.6%	[PIE CHART]
- BBB/Baa.....	19.5%	
- BB/Ba.....	42.4%	
- B/B.....	30.0%	
- CCC/Caa & below....	2.3%	
- Non-Rated.....	0.2%	

As of December 31, 2001

- A/A.....	3.8%	[PIE CHART]
- BBB/Baa.....	12.7%	
- BB/Ba.....	38.3%	
- B/B.....	37.2%	
- CCC/Caa & below....	7.9%	
- Non-Rated.....	0.1%	

Based upon the credit quality ratings as issued by Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services/Moody's Investor Services, respectively. Subject to change daily.

TWELVE-MONTH DIVIDEND HISTORY

(for the year ended December 31, 2002, for common shares)

[BAR GRAPH]

	DIVIDENDS

1/02	\$0.0470
2/02	\$0.0440
3/02	\$0.0440
4/02	\$0.0440
5/02	\$0.0440
6/02	\$0.0380
7/02	\$0.0380
8/02	\$0.0380
9/02	\$0.0350
10/02	\$0.0350
11/02	\$0.0350
12/02	\$0.0325

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The dividend history represents dividends that were paid on the trust and is no guarantee of the trust's future dividends.

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TOP FIVE SECTORS

(as a percentage of long-term investments)

[INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE GRAPH]

DECEMBER 31, 2002

Gaming & Leisure	14.1%
Energy	11.8%
Forest Products	8.1%
Transportation	7.1%
Housing	6.4%

Subject to change daily.

NET ASSET VALUE AND COMMON SHARE MARKET PRICE

(based upon quarter-end values--December 1992 through December 2002)

[INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE GRAPH]

NET ASSET VALUE

12/92	\$6.2300
	6.6300
	6.7600
	6.6600
12/93	6.7400
	6.3300
	6.0600
	5.8500
12/94	5.6200
	5.8400
	6.0700
	6.1200
12/95	6.1900
	6.1600
	6.0500
	6.2000
12/96	6.3500
	6.2200
	6.3600
	6.4900
12/97	6.4700
	6.5300
	6.4400

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	5.8900
12/98	5.8600
	5.7000
	5.4900
	5.1600
12/99	5.1000
	4.8400
	4.7500
	4.6800
12/00	4.2200
	4.5000
	4.2400
	3.7600
12/01	3.7800
	3.6200
	3.2200
	2.8800
12/02	3.0300

The solid line above represents the trust's net asset value (NAV), which indicates overall changes in value among the trust's underlying securities. The trust's common share market price is represented by the dashed line, which indicates the price the market is willing to pay for shares of the trust at a given time. Common share market price is influenced by a range of factors, including supply and demand and market conditions.

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Q&A WITH YOUR PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

WE RECENTLY SPOKE WITH THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR THE VAN KAMPEN HIGH INCOME TRUST ABOUT THE KEY EVENTS AND ECONOMIC FORCES THAT SHAPED THE MARKETS AND INFLUENCED THE TRUST'S RETURN DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002. THE TRUST IS MANAGED BY THE ADVISER'S HIGH YIELD TEAM. CURRENT MEMBERS (1) OF THE TEAM INCLUDE STEPHEN ESSER, MANAGING DIRECTOR; GORDON LOERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AND DEANNA LOUGHNANE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION REFLECTS THEIR VIEWS ON THE TRUST'S PERFORMANCE.

(1) Team members may change without notice at any time.

Q WHAT WAS THE MARKET ENVIRONMENT OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

A The 12-month period ended December 31, 2002, was a highly volatile time in the high-yield market. The year got off to a strong start, with the credit markets well supported by strong economic activity in the first quarter of the year. At that point, the market consensus appeared to coalesce around expectations of continued economic strength.

The market took a decided turn for the worse for the next six months. The primary culprit, at least initially, was the growing number and severity of corporate-governance scandals, including the bankruptcies of Adelphia and WorldCom. The latter had a particularly strong effect on the high-yield markets because of the large amount of bonds originating in the telecommunications sector. Economic fears also resurfaced when it became clear that a recovery in the second half was increasingly unlikely. Finally, continued weakness in corporate profits served to undermine both the credit and equity markets. These factors combined to make June and July two of the worst back-to-back months in the history of the high-yield market.

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As in the final months of 2001, the last two months of 2002 were somewhat more positive for high-yield bonds. While the corporate credit spreads over U.S. Treasuries remained fairly wide by historical standards, the high-yield market on the whole experienced a reversal of some of its previous losses as money began to flow back into the asset class.

Issuance during the period was generally moderate. While it was off from the record highs of the late 1990s, corporations still managed to bring roughly \$60 to \$70 billion in new bonds to market. This supply of debt was relatively well balanced against demand over the course of the year; in fact, the level of issuance tended to vary with market demand. Economic uncertainty also led investors to favor

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bonds of higher credit quality. This was a continuation of a two-year trend, and stood in marked contrast to the period of 1997 through 1999 when lower-rated companies (many of them in the telecommunications sector) brought record amounts of bonds to market.

That last wave of issuance of lower-quality bonds proved to be a major factor in the rising rate of defaults from 2000 through 2001. While defaults remained well above historical averages in 2002, they did appear to taper off and decline in the last months of the year.

Q HOW DID THE TRUST PERFORM IN THIS ENVIRONMENT?

A The trust continued to provide shareholders with what we believe is an attractive level of income, as its monthly dividend of \$0.0325 per share translates to a distribution rate of 12.58 percent based on the trust's common share market price as of December 31, 2002. For the 12-month period ended December 31, 2002, the trust generated a total return of -22.99 percent. This reflects a decrease in common share market price from \$4.54 per share on December 31, 2001, to \$3.10 per share on December 31, 2002.

Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results. As a result of recent market activity, current performance may vary from the figures shown. Investment return, share price and net asset value will fluctuate and trust shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. For more up-to-date information, please visit vankampen.com or speak with your financial advisor.

By comparison, the Chase High Yield Index posted a total return of 2.17 percent for the same period. The Chase High Yield Index is a broad-based, unmanaged statistical composite of high yield securities. Index returns do not include any sales charges or fees that would be paid by an investor purchasing the securities it represents. Such costs would lower performance. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For additional performance results, please refer to the chart and footnotes on page 4.

Q WHAT WERE THE KEY DRIVERS OF THE TRUST'S RELATIVE PERFORMANCE?

A The trust's exposure to the cable and telecom industries had the greatest impact on performance. These were two of the market's worst-performing sectors because of a combination of deteriorating industry fundamentals and high default rates. The trust also experienced the effects of poor security selection in a few select industries. On the positive

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side, our underweighted positions in utilities and airlines helped relative performance, as did good security selection in broadcasting.

Q WHAT STRATEGIES DID YOU USE
IN MANAGING THE TRUST?

A At the portfolio level, we continued to follow our strategy of rigorous bottom-up security analysis and selection. Our purchases were generally made with an eye to capitalizing on securities that had become oversold and as a result, offered compelling value. Our analysts were able to identify attractive opportunities across a wide range of sectors including chemicals, forest products, transportation, manufacturing and general

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industrial issues. These securities offered the additional benefit of giving the portfolio exposure to economically sensitive sectors that we anticipate should perform strongly when the economy turns the corner.

In keeping with our bottom-up focus, we sold some of the portfolio's positions that no longer met our investment criteria. Some of these bonds had met their performance targets, while others experienced deteriorating fundamentals. Many of our sales were from the portfolio's holdings of telecommunications, cable and wireless securities. We also allowed market forces to reduce the portfolio's weightings in these sectors. By the end of the period, the trust was underweighted in these troubled sectors relative to its benchmark.

Q WHAT IS YOUR OUTLOOK FOR THE
HIGH-YIELD MARKET?

A In spite of the strong upturn at the end of the year, high-yield spreads remain at historically wide levels. These spreads are especially attractive considering that the default rate in the market appears to be declining and could very well fall further in the coming year. In our view, the relatively high quality of most of the issuance over the past few years bodes especially well for a continued decrease in default rates. Our economic research also indicates that the economy is likely to grow moderately in the coming year, perhaps somewhere in the range of 2 percent to 3 percent, which should also be supportive of the high-yield market.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A HELPFUL GUIDE TO SOME OF THE COMMON TERMS YOU'RE LIKELY TO SEE IN THIS REPORT AND OTHER FINANCIAL PUBLICATIONS.

BOTTOM-UP INVESTING: A management style that emphasizes the analysis of individual stocks, rather than economic and market cycles.

CREDIT RATING: An evaluation of a bond issuer's credit history and capability of repaying debt obligations. Standard & Poor's Ratings Group and Moody's Investors Service are two companies that assign credit ratings. Standard & Poor's ratings range from a high of AAA to a low of D, Moody's from a high of Aaa to a low of C.

CREDIT SPREAD: Also called quality spread; the difference in yield between higher-quality issues (such as Treasury securities) and lower-quality ones. Normally, lower-quality issues provide higher yields to compensate investors for

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their additional credit risk.

DEFAULT: The failure to make required debt payments on time.

VOLATILITY: A measure of the fluctuation in the market price of a security. A security that is volatile has frequent, large swings in price.

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BY THE NUMBERS

YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DETAIL YOUR TRUST'S PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

PAR AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	MARKET VALUE
	CORPORATE BONDS 174.7%			
	AEROSPACE 2.2%			
\$ 940	Sequa Corp.	9.000%	08/01/09	\$ 907,100

	BROADCASTING 3.7%			
745	Nextmedia Operating, Inc.	10.750	07/01/11	786,906
845	TV Azteca S.A. (Mexico).....	10.500	02/15/07	765,781

				1,552,687

	CABLE 8.4%			
1,425	British Sky Broadcasting (United Kingdom)....	7.300	10/15/06	1,483,459
1,005	Charter Communication Holdings LLC.....	8.250	04/01/07	452,250
975	EchoStar Communications Corp.	9.250	02/01/06	1,023,750
355	Quebecor Media, Inc. (Canada).....	11.125	07/15/11	328,819
1,140	Telewest PLC (United Kingdom) (a).....	9.625	10/01/06	210,900

				3,499,178

	CHEMICALS 8.6%			
330	Acetex Corp. (Canada).....	10.875	08/01/09	351,450
850	Equistar Chemicals L.P.	8.500	02/15/04	841,768
245	FMC Corp., 144A--Private Placement (b).....	10.250	11/01/09	265,825
190	ISP Chemco, Inc.	10.250	07/01/11	197,600
900	ISP Holdings, Inc.	10.625	12/15/09	787,500
260	Lyondell Chemical Co.	9.875	05/01/07	250,900
265	Lyondell Chemical Co.	9.500	12/15/08	247,775
230	Millennium America, Inc.	7.000	11/15/06	223,387
340	Millennium America, Inc.	9.250	06/15/08	356,150
50	PCI Chemicals Canada, Inc. (Canada).....	10.000	12/31/08	35,443
17	Pioneer Cos., Inc.	5.298	12/31/06	11,668

				3,569,466

	CONSUMER PRODUCTS 0.7%			
265	Elizabeth Arden, Inc.	11.750	02/01/11	274,275

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	DIVERSIFIED MEDIA 9.6%			
715	Alliance Atlantis Communications, Inc. (Canada).....	13.000	12/15/09	782,925
450	AOL Time Warner, Inc.	6.125	04/15/06	465,023
630	K-III Communications Corp.	10.250	06/01/04	621,337

See Notes to Financial Statements

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YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

PAR AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	MARKET VALUE
	DIVERSIFIED MEDIA (CONTINUED)			
\$ 620	Mail Well I Corp.	9.625%	03/15/12	\$ 554,900
500	MDC Corp., Inc. (Canada).....	10.500	12/01/06	450,000
115	RH Donnelley Fin Corp. I, 144A--Private Placement (b).....	8.875	12/15/10	123,625
280	RH Donnelley Fin Corp. I, 144A--Private Placement (b).....	10.875	12/15/12	306,600
315	Salem Communications Corp.	7.750	12/15/10	315,787
395	Six Flags, Inc.	8.875	02/01/10	373,275

				3,993,472

	ENERGY 21.1%			
910	BRL Universal Equipment.....	8.875	02/15/08	950,950
570	Chesapeake Energy Corp.	7.875	03/15/04	595,650
545	Chesapeake Energy Corp.	8.125	04/01/11	564,075
365	El Paso Energy Partners LP, 144A--Private Placement (b).....	10.625	12/01/12	375,037
1,140	Frontier Oil Corp.	11.750	11/15/09	1,179,900
715	Hanover Equipment Trust, 144A--Private Placement (b).....	9.487	09/01/08	700,700
215	Hanover Equipment Trust, 144A--Private Placement (b).....	9.737	09/01/11	208,550
275	Magnum Hunter Resources, Inc.	9.600	03/15/12	293,562
580	Port Arthur Finance Corp.	12.500	01/15/09	640,867
315	Stone Energy Corp.	8.250	12/15/11	329,175
830	Tesoro Petroleum Corp.	9.625	04/01/12	543,650
570	Transocean, Inc.	6.500	04/15/03	575,843
685	Transocean, Inc.	9.500	12/15/08	867,467
815	Vintage Petroleum, Inc.	7.875	05/15/11	798,700
115	Westport Resources Corp., 144A--Private Placement (b).....	8.250	11/01/11	121,325

				8,745,451

	FINANCIAL 3.4%			
310	Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior (Mexico).....	7.250	02/02/04	325,832
410	Health Net, Inc.	8.375	04/15/11	473,449
585	Istar Financial, Inc.	8.750	08/15/08	623,263

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1,422,544

1,570	FOOD & DRUG 0.0%			
	Jitney-Jungle Stores America,			
	Inc. (a) (c) (d).....	12.000	03/01/06	157

See Notes to Financial Statements

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YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

PAR AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	MARKET VALUE
	FOOD & TOBACCO 11.1%			
\$1,100	Coca Cola Femsa S.A. (Mexico).....	8.950%	11/01/06	\$ 1,245,750
1,150	Pepsi Gemex S.A. (Mexico).....	9.750	03/30/04	1,250,625
1,065	Smithfield Foods, Inc.	7.625	02/15/08	1,043,700
1,050	Smithfield Foods, Inc.	8.000	10/15/09	1,076,250
				----- 4,616,325 -----
	FOREST PRODUCTS 14.5%			
410	Abitibi-Consolidated, Inc. (Canada).....	8.550	08/01/10	455,817
590	MDP Acquisitions PLC, 144A--Private Placement (Ireland) (b).....	9.625	10/01/12	616,550
390	Norske Skog Canada Ltd. (Canada).....	8.625	06/15/11	394,875
1,350	Owens-Brockway Glass Container, Inc.	8.875	02/15/09	1,397,250
855	Pacifica Papers, Inc. (Canada).....	10.000	03/15/09	908,438
575	Radnor Holdings Corp.	10.000	12/01/03	491,625
1,790	Tembec Industries, Inc. (Canada).....	7.750	03/15/12	1,745,250
				----- 6,009,805 -----
	GAMING & LEISURE 25.3%			
920	Harrahs Operating Co., Inc.	7.875	12/15/05	977,500
230	Harrahs Operating Co., Inc.	8.000	02/01/11	265,674
465	Hilton Hotels Corp.	7.950	04/15/07	483,518
950	HMH Properties, Inc.	7.875	08/01/05	940,500
845	Horseshoe Gaming LLC.....	8.625	05/15/09	902,038
1,425	International Game Technology.....	7.875	05/15/04	1,489,125
1,400	Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority.....	8.125	01/01/06	1,480,500
490	Park Place Entertainment Corp.	7.875	12/15/05	499,800
425	Park Place Entertainment Corp.	8.875	09/15/08	452,659
595	Prime Hospitality Corp.	8.375	05/01/12	580,125
1,075	Starwood Hotels & Resorts, 144A--Private Placement (b).....	7.375	05/01/07	1,061,563
780	Station Casinos, Inc.	8.375	02/15/08	832,650
475	Station Casinos, Inc.	9.875	07/01/10	517,750
				----- 10,483,402 -----

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HEALTHCARE 11.0%				
625	Amerisourcebergen Corp.	8.125	09/01/08	668,750
650	Fisher Scientific International, Inc.	7.125	12/15/05	663,000
690	Fresenius Medical Care Capital Trust II.....	7.875	02/01/08	681,375
235	Fresenius Medical Care Capital Trust IV.....	7.875	06/15/11	229,125
1,045	HCA, Inc.	6.910	06/15/05	1,098,656
155	Manor Care, Inc.	8.000	03/01/08	164,300

See Notes to Financial Statements

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YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

PAR AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	MARKET VALUE
HEALTHCARE (CONTINUED)				
\$ 450	Omnicare, Inc.	8.125%	03/15/11	\$ 483,750
635	Tenet Healthcare Corp.	6.500	06/01/12	575,846
				4,564,802
HOUSING 11.5%				
545	CB Richard Ellis Service, Inc.	11.250	06/15/11	504,125
775	Louisiana Pacific Corp.	10.875	11/15/08	837,000
110	Nortek Holdings, Inc.	9.250	03/15/07	113,575
550	Schuler Homes, Inc.	9.375	07/15/09	563,750
420	Tech Olympic USA, Inc.	9.000	07/01/10	409,500
360	Tech Olympic USA, Inc., 144A--Private Placement (b).....	10.375	07/01/12	342,000
1,100	Toll Corp.	8.250	02/01/11	1,111,000
825	Webb (Del E.) Corp.	10.250	02/15/10	903,375
				4,784,325
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 3.2%				
425	Fairchild Semiconductor Corp.	10.500	02/01/09	461,125
850	Flextronics International Ltd. (Singapore)...	8.750	10/15/07	877,625
				1,338,750
MANUFACTURING 7.0%				
255	Case Corp.	6.250	12/01/03	247,416
260	Case Credit Corp.	6.125	02/15/03	258,326
740	Communications & Power Industries, Inc.	12.000	08/01/05	625,300
360	Johnsondiversey, Inc., 144A--Private Placement (b).....	9.625	05/15/12	380,700
580	Manitowoc, Inc., 144A-- Private Placement (b).....	10.500	08/01/12	604,650
510	Trimas Corp., 144A--Private Placement (b)....	9.875	06/15/12	507,450
290	Tyco Intl Group S.A. (Luxembourg).....	6.375	02/15/06	281,533
				2,905,375

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	METALS 3.2%			
280	Doe Run Resources Corp., Ser B (a).....	11.250	03/15/05	57,400
1,100	GS Technologies Operating, Inc. (a) (c) (d).....	12.250	10/01/05	49,500
370	Oregon Steel Mills, Inc., 144A--Private Placement (b).....	10.000	07/15/09	377,400
495	UCAR Finance, Inc.	10.250	02/15/12	396,000
1,590	WCI Steel, Inc.	10.000	12/01/04	429,300

				1,309,600

	RETAIL 2.1%			
210	Big 5 Corp.	10.875	11/15/07	219,450
245	Gap, Inc.	10.550	12/15/08	268,275

See Notes to Financial Statements

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YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

PAR AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	MARKET VALUE
	RETAIL (CONTINUED)			
\$ 80	Penney JC Co., Inc.	7.600%	04/01/07	\$ 81,400
295	Penney JC Co., Inc., 144A--Private Placement (b).....	9.000	08/01/12	302,375

				871,500

	SERVICES 7.0%			
1,345	Allied Waste North America, Inc.	8.875	04/01/08	1,371,900
1,400	Waste Management, Inc.	7.125	10/01/07	1,529,791

				2,901,691

	TELECOMMUNICATIONS 1.3%			
165	Asia Global Crossing (Bermuda) (a) (c).....	13.375	10/15/10	18,769
245	Exodus Communications, Inc. (a) (c) (d).....	11.250	07/01/08	14,693
370	Focal Communications Corp. (a) (c).....	11.875	01/15/10	9,250
850	Frontier Corp. (a) (c).....	6.000	10/15/03	46,750
950	Global Crossing Holdings Ltd. (Bermuda) (a) (c).....	9.125	11/15/06	33,250
100	Globix Corp., 144A--Private Placement (b) (f).....	11.000	05/01/08	72,737
1,160	Metromedia Fiber Network, Inc. (a) (c) (d)...	10.000	12/15/09	2,900
570	Nextlink Communications, Inc. (a) (c).....	9.625	10/01/07	3,563
600	Nextlink Communications, Inc. (a) (c).....	10.500	12/01/09	3,750
630	PSINet, Inc. (a) (c).....	10.500	12/01/06	22,050
1,255	WorldCom, Inc. (a) (c).....	7.750	04/01/07	301,200

				528,912

	TRANSPORTATION 12.7%			

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1,520	Aetna Industries, Inc. (a) (c) (d).....	11.875	10/01/06	243,200
400	Autonation, Inc.	9.000	08/01/08	406,000
185	Collins & Aikman Products Co.	11.500	04/15/06	156,325
605	Collins & Aikman Products Co.	10.750	12/31/11	579,288
615	Dana Corp.	9.000	08/15/11	596,550
460	Dura Operating Corp.	8.625	04/15/12	464,600
940	Ford Motor Credit Co.	6.500	01/25/07	929,270
455	General Motors Acceptance Corp.	7.500	07/15/05	479,429
505	Intermet Corp.	9.750	06/15/09	457,025
575	Lear Corp.	8.110	05/15/09	610,938
425	Metaldyne Corp.	11.000	06/15/12	350,625

				5,273,250

	UTILITY 4.1%			
570	Calpine Corp.	8.625	08/15/10	245,100
10	Calpine Corp.	8.500	02/15/11	4,400
535	Dynegy Holdings, Inc.	6.875	04/01/11	184,575
455	Monongahela Power Co.	5.000	10/01/06	439,698

See Notes to Financial Statements

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YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

PAR AMOUNT (000)	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	MARKET VALUE
	UTILITY (CONTINUED)			
\$ 635	PSEG Energy Holdings, Inc.	9.125%	02/10/04	\$ 628,846
220	PSEG Energy Holdings, Inc.	8.625	02/15/08	183,915

				1,686,534

	WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS 3.0%			
285	American Cellular Corp.	9.500	10/15/09	55,575
1,105	Nextel Communications, Inc.	9.375	11/15/09	1,005,550
182	Telecorp PCS, Inc.	10.625	07/15/10	196,560

				1,257,685

	TOTAL CORPORATE BONDS 174.7%.....			72,496,286

	GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AGENCY OBLIGATIONS 3.5%			
545	Federal Republic of Brazil (Brazil).....	11.250	07/26/07	418,287
140	United Mexican States (Mexico).....	8.375	01/14/11	158,550
750	United Mexican States (Mexico).....	8.625	03/12/08	863,625

	TOTAL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AGENCY OBLIGATIONS.....			1,440,462

DESCRIPTION

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EQUITIES 0.7%	
DecisionOne Corp. (3,033 common shares) (d) (e).....	0
DecisionOne Corp. (6,670 common stock warrants) (d) (e).....	0
Globix Corp. (11,697 common shares) (e).....	23,394
HCI Direct, Inc. (30,357 common shares) (d) (e).....	236,784
Hosiery Corp of America, Inc. (500 common shares) (e).....	5
McLeodUSA, Inc. (1,437 common stock warrants) (e).....	503
McLeodUSA, Inc. (648 preferred shares) (e).....	2,657
Pioneer Cos., Inc. (3,251 common shares) (e).....	5,852
Star Gas Partners L.P. (264 limited partnership units).....	4,884
VS Holdings, Inc. (11,316 common shares) (d) (e).....	2,113

TOTAL EQUITIES.....	276,192

TOTAL LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 178.9%	
(Cost \$88,415,172).....	74,212,940

REPURCHASE AGREEMENT 8.3%	
State Street Bank & Trust Co. (\$3,456,000 par collateralized by U.S. Government obligations in a pooled cash account, dated 12/31/02, to be sold on 01/02/03 at \$3,456,202) (Cost \$3,456,000).....	3,456,000

See Notes to Financial Statements

YOUR TRUST'S INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

DESCRIPTION	MARKET VALUE
TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$187.2%	
(Cost \$91,871,172).....	\$ 77,668,940
OTHER ASSETS IN EXCESS OF LIABILITIES 3.5%.....	1,446,507
PREFERRED SHARES (INCLUDING ACCRUED DISTRIBUTIONS) (90.7%).....	(37,630,267)

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES 100.0%.....	\$ 41,485,180
	=====

- (a) Non-income producing as security is in default.
- (b) 144A securities are those which are exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may only be resold in transactions exempt from registration which are normally those transactions with qualified institutional buyers.
- (c) This borrower has filed for protection in federal bankruptcy court.
- (d) Market value is determined in accordance with procedures established in good faith by the Board of Trustees.

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(e) Non-income producing security.

(f) Payment-in-kind security.

See Notes to Financial Statements

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
December 31, 2002

ASSETS:	
Total Investments (Cost \$91,871,172).....	\$ 77,668,940
Cash.....	446
Interest Receivable.....	1,702,089
Other.....	772

Total Assets.....	79,372,247

LIABILITIES:	
Payables:	
Investment Advisory Fee.....	46,956
Affiliates.....	5,449
Trustees' Deferred Compensation and Retirement Plans.....	136,398
Accrued Expenses.....	67,997

Total Liabilities.....	256,800
Preferred Shares (including accrued distributions).....	37,630,267

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES.....	\$ 41,485,180
	=====
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE (\$41,485,180 divided by 13,710,760 shares outstanding).....	\$ 3.03
	=====
NET ASSETS CONSIST OF:	
Common Shares (\$.01 par value with an unlimited number of shares authorized, 13,710,760 shares issued and outstanding).....	\$ 137,108
Paid in Surplus.....	85,174,600
Accumulated Undistributed Net Investment Income.....	(1,274,014)
Net Unrealized Depreciation.....	(14,202,232)
Accumulated Net Realized Loss.....	(28,350,282)

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES.....	\$ 41,485,180
	=====
PREFERRED SHARES (\$.01 par value, authorized 1,000,000 shares, 376 issued with liquidation preference of \$100,000 per share).....	\$ 37,600,000

NET ASSETS INCLUDING PREFERRED SHARES.....	\$ 79,085,180
	=====

See Notes to Financial Statements

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Statement of Operations
For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

INVESTMENT INCOME:	
Interest.....	\$ 7,420,274
Dividends.....	607
Other.....	44,279

Total Income.....	7,465,160

EXPENSES:	
Investment Advisory Fee.....	606,008
Preferred Share Maintenance.....	123,935
Legal.....	36,577
Custody.....	15,276
Trustees' Fees and Related Expenses.....	8,438
Other.....	179,626

Total Expenses.....	969,860

NET INVESTMENT INCOME.....	\$ 6,495,300
	=====
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN/LOSS:	
Net Realized Loss.....	\$ (11,284,395)

Unrealized Appreciation/Depreciation:	
Beginning of the Period.....	(15,949,872)
End of the Period.....	(14,202,232)

Net Unrealized Appreciation During the Period.....	1,747,640

NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED LOSS.....	\$ (9,536,755)
	=====
DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED SHAREHOLDERS.....	\$ (754,350)
	=====
NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES FROM OPERATIONS.....	\$ (3,795,805)
	=====

See Notes to Financial Statements

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Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001
	-----	-----
FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES:		
Operations:		
Net Investment Income.....	\$ 6,495,300	\$ 9,683,102
Net Realized Loss.....	(11,284,395)	(8,072,306)
Net Unrealized Appreciation During the Period....	1,747,640	2,051,508
Distributions to Preferred Shareholders:		
Net Investment Income.....	(754,350)	(2,004,147)

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Change in Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares from Operations.....	(3,795,805)	1,658,157
Distributions to Common Shareholders:		
Net Investment Income.....	(6,306,907)	(7,732,621)
Return of Capital Distribution.....	(198,341)	-0-
NET CHANGE IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.....	(10,301,053)	(6,074,464)
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES:		
Beginning of the Period.....	51,786,233	57,860,697
End of the Period (Including accumulated undistributed net investment income of (\$1,274,014) and (\$1,386,700), respectively)...	\$ 41,485,180 =====	\$51,786,233 =====

See Notes to Financial Statements

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Financial Highlights

THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE PRESENTS FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR ONE COMMON SHARE OF THE TRUST OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT THE PERIODS INDICATED.

	2002	2001 (c)	2000
NET ASSET VALUE, BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD.....	\$ 3.78	\$ 4.22	\$ 5.10
Net Investment Income.....	.47	.71	.85
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/Loss.....	(.69)	(.44)	(.85)
Common Share Equivalent of Distributions Paid to Preferred Shareholders:			
Net Investment Income.....	(.06)	(.15)	(.26)
Total from Investment Operations.....	(.28)	.12	(.26)
Distributions Paid to Common Shareholders:			
Net Investment Income.....	(.46)	(.56)	(.61)
Return of Capital Distributions.....	(.01)	-0-	(.01)
NET ASSET VALUE, END OF THE PERIOD.....	\$ 3.03 =====	\$ 3.78 =====	\$ 4.22 =====
Common Share Market Price Per Share at End of the Period.....	\$ 3.10	\$ 4.54	\$ 4.125
Total Return (a).....	-22.99%	23.76%	4.08%
Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares at End of the Period (In millions).....	\$ 41.5	\$ 51.8	\$ 57.9
Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (b).....	2.15%	1.98%	1.95%
Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (b).....	14.42%	16.80%	18.05%
Portfolio Turnover.....	82%	64%	62%
SUPPLEMENTAL RATIOS:			
Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets Including			

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Preferred Shares (b).....	1.12%	1.07%	1.04%
Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets			
Applicable to Common Shares (d).....	12.75%	13.32%	12.48%
SENIOR SECURITIES:			
Total Preferred Shares Outstanding.....	376	450	500
Asset Coverage Per Preferred Share (e).....	\$210,413	\$215,081	\$215,271
Involuntary Liquidating Preference Per Preferred			
Share.....	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Average Market Value Per Preferred Share.....	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

- (a) Total return assumes an investment at the common share market price at the beginning of the period indicated, reinvestment of all distributions for the period in accordance with the Trust's dividend reinvestment plan, and sale of all shares at the closing common share market price at the end of the period indicated.
- (b) Ratios do not reflect the effect of dividend payments to preferred shareholders.
- (c) As required, effective January 1, 2001, the Trust has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing premium on fixed income securities. The effect of this change for the year ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.02, increase net realized and unrealized gains and losses per share by \$.02 and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets applicable to common shares by .38%. Per share, ratios and supplemental data for periods prior to December 31, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.
- (d) Ratios reflect the effect of dividend payments to preferred shareholders.
- (e) Calculated by subtracting the Trust's total liabilities (not including the preferred shares) from the Trust's total assets and dividing this by the number of preferred shares outstanding.

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YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
\$	5.86	\$ 6.47	\$ 6.35	\$ 6.19	\$ 5.62	\$ 6.74	\$ 6.23
	.88	.91	.93	.94	.98	1.00	1.11
	(.75)	(.58)	.13	.15	.54	(.98)	.53
	(.22)	(.24)	(.24)	(.23)	(.25)	(.19)	(.14)
	(.09)	.09	.82	.86	1.27	(.17)	1.50
	(.67)	(.70)	(.70)	(.70)	(.70)	(.95)	(.99)
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
\$	5.10	\$ 5.86	\$ 6.47	\$ 6.35	\$ 6.19	\$ 5.62	\$ 6.74
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
\$	4.50	\$ 6.375	\$ 7.375	\$ 6.75	\$ 6.375	\$ 5.50	\$ 8.125
	-21.20%	-4.33%	20.29%	17.34%	29.17%	-23.22%	26.12%
\$	70.0	\$ 80.4	\$ 88.7	\$ 87.0	\$ 84.8	\$ 77.1	\$ 92.3
	1.92%	1.85%	1.76%	1.87%	1.92%	1.96%	1.72%

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16.13%	14.56%	14.60%	15.32%	16.39%	16.33%	16.75%
57%	65%	102%	92%	119%	110%	99%
1.07%	1.09%	1.05%	1.11%	1.12%	1.16%	1.04%
12.09%	10.77%	10.90%	11.58%	12.16%	13.31%	14.66%
588	588	588	588	588	588	588
\$219,005	\$236,742	\$250,850	\$247,974	\$244,242	\$231,106	\$257,054
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

See Notes to Financial Statements

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2002

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Van Kampen High Income Trust (the "Trust") is registered as a diversified, closed-end management investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The Trust's investment objective is to provide high current income, while seeking to preserve shareholders' capital through investment in a professionally managed diversified portfolio of high yield, fixed income securities. The Trust commenced investment operations on January 26, 1989.

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Trust in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principals generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent 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.

A. SECURITY VALUATION Investments are stated at value using market quotations or indications of value obtained from an independent pricing service. For those securities where quotations or prices are not available, valuations are obtained from yield data relating to instruments or securities with similar characteristics in accordance with procedures established in good faith by the Board of Trustees. Short-term securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value.

B. SECURITY TRANSACTIONS Security transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains and losses are determined on an identified cost basis.

The Trust may invest in repurchase agreements, which are short-term investments in which the Trust acquires ownership of a debt security and the seller agrees to repurchase the security at a future time and specified price. The Trust may invest independently in repurchase agreements, or transfer uninvested cash balances into a pooled cash account along with other investment companies advised by Van Kampen Investment Advisory Corp. (the "Adviser") or its affiliates, the daily aggregate of which is invested in repurchase agreements. Repurchase agreements are fully collateralized by the underlying debt security. The Trust will make payment for such securities only upon physical delivery or evidence of book entry transfer to the account of the custodian bank. The seller is required to maintain the value of the underlying security at not less than the repurchase proceeds due the Trust.

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NOTES TO
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2002

C. INVESTMENT INCOME Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Bond discount is accreted and premium is amortized over the expected life of each applicable security.

D. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES It is the Trust's policy to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its taxable income to its shareholders. Therefore, no provision for federal income taxes is required.

The Trust intends to utilize provisions of the federal income tax laws which allow it to carry a realized capital loss forward for eight years following the year of the loss and offset such losses against any future realized capital gains. At December 31, 2002, the Trust had an accumulated capital loss carry forward for tax purposes of \$26,230,148 which expires between December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2010. Of this amount, \$1,028,010 will expire on December 31, 2003.

At December 31, 2002, the cost and related gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation are as follows:

Cost of investments for tax purposes.....	\$ 92,297,850
	=====
Gross tax unrealized appreciation.....	\$ 2,258,813
Gross tax unrealized depreciation.....	(16,887,723)

Net tax unrealized depreciation on investments.....	\$ (14,628,910)
	=====

E. DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND GAINS The Trust declares and pays monthly dividends from net investment income to common shareholders. Net realized gains, if any, are distributed annually to common shareholders. Distributions from net realized gains for book purposes may include short-term capital gains which are included in ordinary income for tax purposes.

The tax character of distributions paid during the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 was as follows:

	2002	2001
Distributions paid from:		
Ordinary income.....	\$7,081,715	\$9,858,889
Return of capital.....	198,341	--
	-----	-----
	\$7,280,056	\$9,858,889

Due to inherent differences in the recognition of income, expenses and realized gain/losses under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and federal income tax purposes, permanent differences

between

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NOTES TO
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2002

book and tax basis reporting for the 2002 fiscal year have been identified and appropriately reclassified. Permanent differences of \$695,393 relating to book to tax amortization differences were reclassified from accumulated undistributed net investment income to accumulated net realized loss, \$16,750 relating to fee income received from tender offers were reclassified from accumulated undistributed net investment income to accumulated net realized loss, \$198,341 relating to return of capital distributions were reclassified from accumulated undistributed net investment income to capital, and \$1,670,578 relating to a portion of the capital loss carryforward that expired during the tax year ended December 31, 2002 were reclassified from accumulated net realized loss to capital.

Net realized gains or losses may differ for financial reporting and tax purposes as a result of the deferral of losses relating to wash sale transactions and as a result of post-October losses which may not be recognized for tax purposes until the first day of the following fiscal year.

F. RECLASSIFICATIONS In accordance with the provisions of EITF D-98, "Classification and Measurement of Redeemable Securities", effective for the current period, the Trust has reclassified its Auction Market Preferred Shares ("AMPS") outside of permanent equity in the Net Assets section of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. In addition, distributions to AMPS shareholders are now classified as a component of the "Net decrease in net assets applicable to common shares from operations" on the Statement of Operations and the Statements of Changes in Net Assets and as a component of the "Total from Investment Operations" on the Financial Highlights. Prior year amounts presented have been reclassified to conform to this period's presentation. This change has no impact on the net assets applicable to common shares of the Trust.

2. INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT AND
OTHER TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

Under the terms of the Trust's Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser will provide investment advice and facilities to the Trust for an annual fee payable monthly of .70% of the average daily net assets of the Trust.

For the year ended December 31, 2002, the Trust recognized expenses of approximately \$21,700 representing legal services provided by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (Illinois), counsel to the Trust, of which a trustee of the Trust is an affiliated person.

Under separate Accounting Services and Legal Services agreements, the Adviser provides accounting and legal services to the Trust. The Adviser allocates the cost of such services to each trust. For the year ended December 31, 2002, the Trust recognized expenses of approximately \$28,700 representing Van Kampen

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NOTES TO
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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December 31, 2002

Investments Inc.'s or its affiliates' (collectively "Van Kampen") cost of providing accounting and legal services to the Trust, which are reported as part of "Other" and "Legal" expenses, respectively, in the Statement of Operations.

Certain officers and trustees of the Trust are also officers and directors of Van Kampen. The Trust does not compensate its officers or trustees who are officers of Van Kampen.

The Trust provides deferred compensation and retirement plans for its trustees who are not officers of Van Kampen. Under the deferred compensation plan, trustees may elect to defer all or a portion of their compensation to a later date. Benefits under the retirement plan are payable upon retirement for a ten-year period and are based upon each trustee's years of service to the Trust. The maximum annual benefit per trustee under the plan is \$2,500.

3. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

During the period, the cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of investments, excluding short-term investments, were \$65,622,055 and \$68,986,589, respectively.

4. AUCTION MARKET PREFERRED SHARES

The Trust has outstanding 376 shares of AMPS at a liquidation value of \$100,000 per share. Dividends are cumulative and the rate is currently reset through an auction process every 28 days. The rate in effect on December 31, 2002 was 1.380%. During the year ended December 31, 2002, the rates ranged from 1.350% to 2.029%.

The Trust pays annual fees equivalent to .25% of the preferred share liquidation value for the remarketing efforts associated with the preferred auctions. These fees are included as a component of Preferred Share Maintenance expense. The AMPS are redeemable at the option of the Trust in whole or in part at a price of \$100,000 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends. The Trust is subject to certain asset coverage tests, and the AMPS are subject to mandatory redemption if the tests are not met.

On June 28, 2002, the Trust redeemed 37 shares of its AMPS with a liquidation value of \$100,000 per share.

On July 30, 2002, the Trust redeemed an additional 37 shares of its AMPS with a liquidation value of \$100,000 per share.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of Van Kampen High Income Trust

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Van Kampen High Income Trust (the "Trust"), including the portfolio of investments, as of December 31, 2002, the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the three years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits. The Trust's financial highlights for the periods ended prior to December

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31, 2000, were audited by other auditors whose report, dated February 4, 2000, expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial highlights.

We conducted our audits 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 and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2002, by correspondence with the Trust's custodian. 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 audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Van Kampen High Income Trust as of December 31, 2002, the results of its operations, the changes in its net assets and the financial highlights for the respective stated periods, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP
Chicago, Illinois
February 7, 2003

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DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

The Trust offers a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan") in which Common Shareholders may elect to have dividends and capital gains distributions automatically reinvested in Common Shares of the Trust. The service is entirely voluntary and you may join or withdraw at any time.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you wish to elect to participate in the Plan and your shares are held in your own name, call 1-800-341-2929 for more information and a brochure. If your shares are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee, you should contact your nominee to see if it would participate in the Plan on your behalf. If you wish to participate in the Plan, but your brokerage firm, bank, or nominee is unable to participate on your behalf, you should request that your shares be re-registered in your own name which will enable your participation in the Plan.

HOW THE PLAN WORKS

State Street Bank and Trust Company, as your Plan Agent, serves as agent for the Common Shareholders in administering the Plan. After the Trust declares a dividend or determines to make a capital gains distribution, the Plan Agent will, as agent for the participants, receive the cash payment and use it to buy Common Shares in the open market, on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts. The Trust will not issue any new Common Shares in connection with the Plan. All reinvestments are in full and fractional Common Shares, carried to three decimal places.

Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the Trust reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any dividend or capital gains distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to all Common Shareholders of the Trust at least 90

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days before the record date for the dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by the Plan Agent, with the written consent of the Trust, by providing at least 90 days written notice to all Participants in the Plan.

COSTS OF THE PLAN

The Plan Agent's fees for the handling of the reinvestment of dividends and distributions will be paid by the Trust. However, each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Plan Agent's open market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of dividends and distributions. No other charges will be made to participants for reinvesting dividends or capital gains distributions, except for certain brokerage commissions, as described above.

TAX IMPLICATIONS

You will receive tax information annually for your personal records and to help you prepare your federal income tax return. The automatic

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reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions does not relieve you of any income tax which may be payable on dividends or capital gains distributions.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

You may withdraw from the Plan at any time by calling 1-800-341-2929 or by writing State Street Bank and Trust Company. If you withdraw, you will receive, without charge, a share certificate issued in your name for all full Common Shares credited to your account under the Plan, and a cash payment will be made for any fractional Common Share credited to your account under the Plan. You may again elect to participate in the Plan at any time by calling 1-800-341-2929 or writing to the Trust at:

2800 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056
Attn: Closed-End Funds

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND IMPORTANT ADDRESSES VAN KAMPEN HIGH INCOME TRUST

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVID C. ARCH
ROD DAMMEYER
HOWARD J KERR
THEODORE A. MYERS
RICHARD F. POWERS, III* - Chairman
HUGO F. SONNENSCHNEIN
WAYNE W. WHALEN*

INVESTMENT ADVISER

VAN KAMPEN INVESTMENT ADVISORY CORP.
1 Parkview Plaza
P.O. Box 5555

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Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181-5555

CUSTODIAN AND TRANSFER AGENT

STATE STREET BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY
c/o EquiServe
P.O. Box 43011
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3011

LEGAL COUNSEL

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE,
MEAGHER & FLOM (ILLINOIS)
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601

* "Interested persons" of the Trust, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

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TRUSTEE AND OFFICER INFORMATION

The business and affairs of the Trust are managed under the direction of the Trust's Board of Trustees and the Trust's officers appointed by the Board of Trustees. The tables below list the trustees and officers of the Trust and their principal occupations for the last five years, other directorships held by the trustees and their affiliations, if any, with Van Kampen Investments Inc. ("Van Kampen Investments"), Van Kampen Investment Advisory Corp. ("Advisory Corp."), Van Kampen Asset Management Inc. ("Asset Management"), Van Kampen Funds Inc. (the "Distributor"), Van Kampen Advisors Inc., Van Kampen Exchange Corp. and Van Kampen Investor Services Inc. ("Investor Services"). Advisory Corp. and Asset Management sometimes are referred to herein collectively as the "Advisers." For purposes hereof, the term "Fund Complex" includes each of the investment companies advised by the Advisers or their affiliates. Trustees serve three year terms or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Officers are annually elected by the trustees.

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:

NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
David C. Arch (57) Blistex Inc. 1800 Swift Drive Oak Brook, IL 60523	Trustee	Trustee since 1988	Mr. Arch is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Blistex Inc., a consumer health care products manufacturer, and former Director of the World Presidents Organization-Chicago Chapter. Mr. Arch is also a Trustee or Managing General Partner of other

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investment companies advised by the Advisers.

NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE
David C. Arch (57) Blistex Inc. 1800 Swift Drive Oak Brook, IL 60523	Mr. Arch is a member of the Board of Directors of the Heartland Alliance, a non-profit organization serving human needs based in Chicago.

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
Rod Dammeyer (62) CAC, llc. 676 North Michigan Avenue Suite 2800 Chicago, IL 60611	Trustee	Trustee since 1988	Mr. Dammeyer is President of CAC, llc., a private company offering capital investment and management advisory services. Mr. Dammeyer is also a Trustee or Managing General Partner of other investment companies advised by the Advisers. Prior to February 2001, Mr. Dammeyer was Vice Chairman and Director of Anixter International, Inc. and IMC Global Inc. Prior to July 2000, Mr. Dammeyer was a Managing Partner of Equity Group Corporate Investment (EGI), a company that makes private investments in other companies. Prior to 1997 Mr. Dammeyer was President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Great American Management & Investment, Inc., a diversified manufacturing company.

NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE
Rod Dammeyer (62) CAC, llc. 676 North Michigan Avenue Suite 2800 Chicago, IL 60611	Mr. Dammeyer is a member of the Board of Directors of TeleTech Holdings Inc., Stericycle, Inc., GATX Corporation, Therasence, Inc. and Peregrine Systems Inc. and a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago Hospitals and Health Systems. Prior to July 2000, Mr. Dammeyer was a member of the Board of

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Directors of Allied Riser Communications Corp., Matria Healthcare Inc., Transmedia Networks, Inc., CNA Surety, Corp. and Grupo Azcarero Mexico (GAM). Prior to April 1999, Mr. Dammeyer was a Director of Metal Management, Inc. Prior to 1998, Mr. Dammeyer was a Director of Lukens, Inc., Capsure Holdings Corp., Revco D.S., Inc., the Chase Manhattan Corporation National Advisory Board and Sealy, Inc. Prior to 1997, Mr. Dammeyer was a Director of Flacon Building Products, Inc.

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
Howard J Kerr (67) 736 North Western Avenue P.O. Box 317 Lake Forest, IL 60045	Trustee	Trustee since 1992	Mr. Kerr is a Trustee or Managing General Partner of other investment companies advised by the Advisers. Prior to 1998, Mr. Kerr was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Pocklington Corporation, Inc., an Investment holding company.
Theodore A. Myers (72) 550 Washington Avenue Glencoe, IL 60022	Trustee	Trustee since 1988	Mr. Myers is a financial consultant. Mr. Myers is also a Trustee or Managing General Partner of other investment companies advised by the Advisers. Prior to 1998, Mr. Myers was a Senior Financial Advisor (and, prior to 1997, an Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Director) of Qualitech Steel Corporation, a producer of high quality engineered steels for automotive, transportation and capital goods industries. Prior to 1997, Mr. Myers was a member of the Arthur Andersen Chief Financial Officers' Committee.

NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE
Howard J Kerr (67) 736 North Western Avenue	Mr. Kerr is a Director of Canbra Foods, Ltd., a

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P.O. Box 317
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Canadian oilseed
crushing, refining,
processing and packaging,
operations, the Marrow
Foundation and Lake
Forest Bank & Trust.

Theodore A. Myers (72)
550 Washington Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022

Mr. Myers is a Director
of Met Life Investors
(formerly known as COVA
Financial Life
Insurance). Prior to
1997, Mr. Myers was a
Director of McLouth
Steel.

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
Hugo F. Sonnenschein (62) 1126 E. 59th Street Chicago, IL 60637	Trustee	Trustee since 1994	Mr. Sonnenschein is President Emeritus and Honorary Trustee of the University of Chicago and the Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago. Prior to July 2000 Mr. Sonnenschein was President of the University of Chicago. Mr. Sonnenschein is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Rochester and a member of its investment committee. Mr. Sonnenschein is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Sonnenschein is also a Trustee or Managing General Partner of other investment companies advised by the Advisers.

NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE
Hugo F. Sonnenschein (62) 1126 E. 59th Street Chicago, IL 60637	Mr. Sonnenschein is a Director of Winston Laboratories, Inc.

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INTERESTED TRUSTEES*:

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INTERESTED TRUSTEE	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
Richard F. Powers, III* (57) 1 Parkview Plaza Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181	Chairman	Trustee since 1999	Mr. Powers is Chairman of the Board. Trustee/Director of funds in the Fund Complex. Prior to December 2002, Mr. Powers was Chairman, Director, President, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Van Kampen; Chairman Director, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Advisers, Distributor, Van Kampen Advisors Inc. and Van Kampen Management Inc.; Director of other subsidiaries of Van Kampen; and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer of Morgan Stanley Asset Management Inc. Prior to May 1998, Mr. Powers was Executive Vice President; and Director of Marketing of Morgan Stanley and Director of Dean Witter Discover Co. and Dean Witter Realty. Prior to 1996, Mr. Powers was Director of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.
Wayne W. Whalen* (63) 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Trustee	Trustee since 1988	Mr. Whalen is a Partner in the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (Illinois), legal counsel to certain funds advised by the Advisers. Mr. Whalen is a Trustee, Director or Managing General Partner of other funds advised by the Advisers.

NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF INTERESTED TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE
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Richard F. Powers, III* (57)
1 Parkview Plaza
Oakbrook Terrace, IL
60181

Wayne W. Whalen* (63)
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

* Such trustee is an "interested person" (within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act). Mr. Whalen is an interested person to certain of the funds in the Fund Complex by reason of his firm currently acting as legal counsel to such funds in the Fund Complex. Mr. Powers is an interested person of such funds in the Fund Complex and the Advisers by reason of their current or former positions with Morgan Stanley or its affiliates.

OFFICERS:

TERM OF

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF OFFICER	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
Stephen L. Boyd (62) 2800 Post Oak Blvd. 45th Floor Houston, TX 77056	Vice President	Officer since 1998	Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Van Kampen Investments, and Managing Director of Van Kampen Investment Advisers and Van Kampen Advisors Inc. President and Chief Investment Officer of Van Kampen Investment Office Complex. Prior to December 2000, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Van Kampen Investment Office Complex. Prior to April 2000, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Van Kampen Investment Office Complex. Prior to October 1998, Vice President and Senior Vice President of Van Kampen with AIM Capital Management, Inc. Prior to October 1998, Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Van Kampen American Capital Asset Management, Inc. Prior to October 1998, Capital Investment Advisory Corp. a subsidiary of Van Kampen Capital Management, Inc.

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF OFFICER	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
Mitchell M. Merin (49) 1221 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020	President and Chief Executive Officer	Officer since 2002	President and Chief Executive Officer of Van Kampen Investment Office Complex since November 2002. Trustee of Van Kampen Investment Office Complex since November 2002. Operating Officer of Morgan Stanley Investment Office since December 1998. President and Chief Executive Officer since January 1998. President and Chief Executive Officer of Morgan Stanley Investment Advisors Inc. and Morgan Stanley Investment Company Inc. Chairman, Chief Executive Officer of Morgan Stanley Distributors Inc. Chairman since June 1998, and Director of Morgan Stanley Trust. Director of various subsidiaries. President of the Morgan Stanley Trust since May 1999. Previously Chief Strategist of Morgan Stanley Investment Advisors Inc. and Morgan Stanley Investment Company Inc. and Executive Vice President of Morgan Stanley Distributors Inc. April 1997-June 1997. Vice President of the Morgan Stanley Funds May 1997-August 1997. Vice President of Dean Witter, Discover Group since 1997.
Joseph J. McAlinden (60) 1221 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020	Chief Investment Officer	Officer since 2002	Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Van Kampen Investment Office Complex. Managing Director of Morgan Stanley Investment Advisors Inc., Morgan Stanley Investment Company Inc. and Morgan Stanley Investment Office Complex. Director of Morgan Stanley Trust for

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF OFFICER	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
A. Thomas Smith III (46) 1221 Avenue of Americas New York, NY 10020	Vice President and Secretary	Officer since 1999	Managing Director and Director of V Director of the Advisers, Van Kampe Distributor, Investor Services and subsidiaries of Van Kampen Investme and General Counsel-Mutual Funds of Investment Advisors, Inc. Vice Pres Officer and Secretary of funds in t July 2001, Managing Director, Gener Director of Van Kampen Investments, Distributor, Investor Services, and subsidiaries of Van Kampen Investme 2000, Executive Vice President, Gen and Director of Van Kampen Investme Kampen Advisors Inc., the Distribut certain other subsidiaries of Van K to January 1999, Vice President and Counsel to New York Life Insurance Life"), and prior to March 1997, AS of New York Life. Prior to December Counsel of The Dreyfus Corporation. Senior Associate, Willkie Farr & Ga 1989, Staff Attorney at the Securit Commission, Division of Investment Chief Counsel.
John R. Reynoldson (49) 1 Parkview Plaza Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181	Vice President	Officer since 2000	Executive Director of the Advisers Inc. Vice President of funds in the July 2001, Principal and Co- head o Department of the Advisers and Van Prior to December 2000, Senior Vice Advisers and Van Kampen Advisors In managed the investment grade taxabl since July 1999. From July 1988 to government securities bond group fo Reynoldson has been with Asset Mana
John L. Sullivan (47) 1 Parkview Plaza Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	Officer since 1996	Executive Director of Van Kampen In and Van Kampen Advisors Inc. Vice P Officer and Treasurer of funds in t Fund Accounting for Morgan Stanley

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NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF OFFICER	POSITION(S) HELD WITH TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS
John H. Zimmermann, III (45)	Vice President	Officer	Managing Director and Director of V

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Harborside Financial Center
Plaza 2 - 7th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07311

since 2000 and Managing Director, President and Distributor. Vice President of fund Prior to December 2000, President of Agency of Illinois Inc., and Senior Director of Van Kampen Investments. December 1997, Mr. Zimmermann was S the Distributor.

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Van Kampen
Privacy Notice

The Van Kampen companies and investment products* respect your right to privacy. We also know that you expect us to conduct and process your business in an accurate and efficient manner. To do so, we must collect and maintain certain nonpublic personal information about you. This is information we collect from you on applications or other forms, and from the transactions you make with us, our affiliates, or third parties. We may also collect information you provide when using our web site, and text files (a.k.a. "cookies") may be placed on your computer to help us to recognize you and to facilitate transactions you initiate. We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you or any of our former customers to anyone, except as permitted by law. For instance, so that we may continue to offer you Van Kampen investment products and services that meet your investing needs, and to effect transactions that you request or authorize, we may disclose the information we collect to companies that perform services on our behalf, such as printers and mailers that assist us in the distribution of investor materials. These companies will use this information only for the services for which we hired them, and are not permitted to use or share this information for any other purpose. To protect your nonpublic personal information internally, we permit access to it only by authorized employees, and maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to guard your nonpublic personal information.

* Includes Van Kampen Investments Inc., Van Kampen Investment Advisory Corp., Van Kampen Asset Management Inc., Van Kampen Advisors Inc., Van Kampen Management Inc., Van Kampen Funds Inc., Van Kampen Investor Services Inc., Van Kampen Trust Company, Van Kampen System Inc. and Van Kampen Exchange Corp., as well as the many Van Kampen mutual funds and Van Kampen unit investment trusts.

Van Kampen Funds Inc.
1 Parkview Plaza, P.O. Box 5555
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5555
www.vankampen.com

[VAN KAMPEN INVESTMENTS LOGO]

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