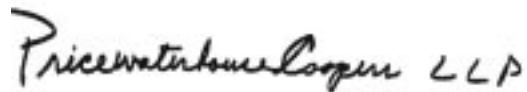


Report of Independent Auditors

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.:

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition and the related consolidated statements of earnings, changes in shareholders' equity, cash flows and comprehensive income present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company) at November 28, 2003 and November 29, 2002, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended November 28, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which 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, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
New York, New York
January 26, 2004