SLM CORP Form 424B3 March 15, 2004

<u>QuickLinks</u> -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document Pricing Supplement No. 20 dated March 3, 2004 (to Prospectus dated August 6, 2003 and Prospectus Supplement dated August 6, 2003)

Filed under Rule 424(b)(3) File No. 333-107132

SLM Corporation

Medium Term Notes, Series A Due 9 Months or Longer From the Date of Issue

Principal Amount:	\$300,000,000	Floating Rate Notes:	ý	Fixed Rate Notes:	0
Original Issue Date:	March 15, 2004	Closing Date: March 15	i, 2004	CUSIP Number:	78442F BZ0
Maturity Date:	April 1, 2009	Option to Extend Maturity:	ý No	Specified Currency:	U.S. Dollars
		If Yes, Final Maturity Date:	o Yes		
Redeemable at the option of the Company:		ý No	Redemption Pr	rice: Not Appli	cable.
		o Yes	Redemption D	ates: Not Appli	cable.
Repayment at the option of the Holder:		ý No	Repayment Pri	nt Price: Not Applicable.	
		o Yes	Repayment Da	tes: Not Applie	cable.
Applicable to Floati	ng Rate Notes Only:				
Floating Rate Index:					
	o CD Rate	Index Maturity:	Not Applicable.		
	o Commercial Paper Rate				
	o CMT Rate	Spread: 1.1259	ю.		
	o Federal Funds Rate				
	o LIBOR Telerate	Initial Interest R	ate: 3.05%.		

	o LIBOR Reuters			
	o Prime Rate	Interest Rate Reset Period: 1	Monthly.	
	o 91-Day Treasury Bill Rate			
	ý Other Consumer Price Index-Linked, subject to the	Minimum Interest Rate: 0.0	0%.	
	Minimum Interest Rate:	Calculation Agent: SLM Co	prporation.	
	The 1 st of each month during the term of Notes, beginning May 1, 2004, with no adjustment.		e(s): The 1 st of each month during the term of the Notes, beginning May 1, 2004. If an Interest Payment Date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, we will pay the interest on the next Business Day. No interest will accrue on that payment for the period from and after the original Interest Payment Date to the date we make the payment.	
Interest Determination Date(s):	Each Reset Date.	Interest Period(s):	From and including the previous Reset Determination Date (or Original Issue Date, in the case of the first Interest Period) to but excluding the current Reset Date (or Maturity Date, in the case of the last Interest Period) with no adjustment to Interest Period end dates.	
	Banc of	f America Securities LLC		
	-	March 3, 2004		
MTN 0065				
Day Count Conventio	n: Actual/Actual.			
Form:	Book-entry.			
Denominations: \$10,000 minimum and integral m		multiples of \$1,000 in excess the	reof.	
Trustee:	JPMorgan Chase Bank, formerly known as The Chase Manhattan Bank.			
Agent:	Banc of America Securities LLC this issuance.	Banc of America Securities LLC is acting as the underwriter in connection with this issuance.		
Issue Price:	100.0%.			
Agent's Commission:	0.00%.			
Net Proceeds:	\$300,000,000.			

Concession:

Reallowance:

CUSIP Number:

0.00%.

0.00%.

78442F BZ0.

ISIN Number: US78442FBZ09. Investing in the Notes involves a number of risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 5 of this Pricing Supplement.

> Obligations of SLM Corporation and any subsidiary of SLM Corporation are not guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America. Neither SLM Corporation nor any subsidiary of SLM Corporation (other than Student Loan Marketing Association) is a government-sponsored enterprise or an instrumentality of the United States of America.

MTN 0065

2

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE NOTES

Calculation of the Interest Rate for the Notes. The interest rate for the Notes being offered by this Pricing Supplement, for each Interest Period during the term of the Notes other than the initial Interest Period, will be the rate determined as of the applicable Interest Determination Date pursuant to the following formula:

 $[(CPI_t CPI_{t-12}) / CPI_{t-12}] + Spread$

Where:

CPI_t = Current Index Level of CPI (as defined below), as published on Bloomberg CPURNSA;

 CPI_{t-12} = Index Level of CPI 12 months prior to CPI_t ; and

Spread = 1.125%.

In no case, however, will the interest rate for the Notes be less than the Minimum Interest Rate listed on page 1 of this Pricing Supplement. The interest rate for the Notes during the initial Interest Period will be 3.05%.

 CPI_t for each Reset Date is the CPI for the third calendar month prior to such Reset Date as published and reported in the second calendar month prior to such Reset Date or determined as set forth in this Pricing Supplement. For example, for the Interest Period from and including May 1, 2004 to but excluding June 1, 2004, CPI_t will be the CPI for February 2004 and CPI_{t-12} will be the CPI for February 2003, which was 181.7. The CPI for February 2004 will be published by BLS (as defined below) and reported on Bloomberg CPURNSA in March 2004 and the CPI for February 2003 was published and reported in March 2003.

Consumer Price Index. The amount of interest payable on the Notes on each Interest Payment Date will be linked to changes in the Consumer Price Index. The Consumer Price Index for purposes of the Notes is the non-seasonally adjusted U.S. City Average All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI"), published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor ("BLS") and reported on Bloomberg CPURNSA or any successor service. The CPI for a particular month is published during the following month. The CPI is a measure of the average change in consumer prices over time for a fixed market basket of goods and services, including food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation, charges for doctors and dentists services, and drugs. In calculating the index, price changes for the various items are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of urban households in the United States. The contents of the market basket of goods and services and the weights assigned to the various items are updated periodically by the BLS to take into account changes in consumer expenditure patterns. The CPI is expressed in relative terms in relation to a time base reference period for which the level is set at 100.0. The base reference period for the Notes is the 1982-1984 average.

MTN 0065

The following table sets forth the CPI from January 1998 to January 2004, as reported by the BLS and reported on Bloomberg CPURNSA:

MONTH	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
January	185.2	181.7	177.1	175.1	168.8	164.3	161.6
February		183.1	177.8	175.8	169.8	164.5	161.9
March		184.2	178.8	176.2	171.2	165.0	162.2
April		183.8	179.8	176.9	171.3	166.2	162.5
May		183.5	179.8	177.7	171.5	166.2	162.8
June		183.7	179.9	178.0	172.4	166.2	163.0
July		183.9	180.1	177.5	172.8	166.7	163.2
August		184.6	180.7	177.5	172.8	167.1	163.4
September		185.2	181.0	178.3	173.7	167.9	163.6
October		185.0	181.3	177.7	174.0	168.2	164.0
November		184.5	181.3	177.4	174.1	168.3	164.0
December		184.3	180.9	176.7	174.0	168.3	163.9

As stated in the risk factors, movements in the CPI that have occurred in the past are not necessarily indicative of changes that may occur in the future. Actual changes in the CPI may be wider or more confined than those that have occurred in the past.

If the CPI is not reported on Bloomberg CPURNSA for a particular month by 3:00 PM on a Reset Date, but has otherwise been published by the BLS, the Company, in its capacity as the Calculation Agent, will determine the CPI as published by the BLS for such month using such other source as it deems appropriate.

In calculating CPI_t and CPI_{t-12} , the Calculation Agent will use the most recently available value of the CPI determined as described above on the applicable Reset Date, even if such value has been adjusted from a prior reported value for the relevant month. However, if a value of CPI_t and CPI_{t-12} used by the Calculation Agent on any Reset Date to determine the interest rate on the Notes (an "Initial CPI") is subsequently revised by the BLS, the Calculation Agent will continue to use the Initial CPI, and the interest rate determined will not be revised.

If the CPI is rebased to a different year or period, the base reference period for the Notes will continue to be the 1982-1984 reference period as long as the 1982-1984 CPI continues to be published.

If, while the Notes are outstanding, the CPI is discontinued or substantially altered, as determined in the sole discretion of the Calculation Agent, the applicable substitute index for the Notes will be that chosen by the Secretary of the Treasury for the Department of Treasury's Inflation-Linked Treasuries as described at 62 Federal Register 846-874 (January 6, 1997) or, if no such securities are outstanding, will be determined by the Calculation Agent in accordance with general market practice at the time.

Rounding. All values used in the interest rate formula for the Notes will be rounded to the nearest fifth decimal place (one-one hundred thousandth of a percentage point), rounding upwards if the sixth decimal place is five or greater (e.g., 9.876555% (or .09876555) would be rounded up to 9.87656% (or ..0987656) *and* 9.876554% (or .09876554) would be rounded down to 9.87655% (or .0987655)). All percentages resulting from any calculation of the interest rate will be rounded to the nearest third decimal place (one thousandth of a percentage point), rounding upwards if the fourth decimal place is five or greater (e.g., 9.8765% (or .098765)) would be rounded up to 9.877% (or .09877) *and* 9.8764% (or .098764) would be rounded down to 9.876% (or .098765)). All dollar amounts used in or resulting from such calculation on the Notes will be rounded to the nearest cent (with one-half cent being rounded upward).

MTN 0065

4

RISK FACTORS

The Notes are subject to special considerations. An investment in notes indexed to the consumer price index entails significant risks that are not associated with similar investments in conventional floating rate or fixed-rate debt securities. Accordingly, prospective investors should consult their financial and legal advisors as to the risks entailed by an investment in the consumer price indexed-linked notes and the suitability of the Notes in light of their particular circumstances.

THE INTEREST RATE ON THE NOTES MAY BE LESS THAN THE SPREAD AND, IN SOME CASES, COULD BE ZERO.

Interest payable on the Notes is linked to changes in the level of the CPI during twelve-month measurement periods.

If the CPI does not increase during a relevant measurement period, which is likely to occur when there is little or no inflation, owners of the Notes will receive interest payments for that interest period equal to 1.125%, which is the Spread.

If the CPI decreases during a relevant measurement period, which is likely to occur when there is deflation, owners of the Notes will receive interest payments for that interest period less than the spread. In some cases, owners of the Notes could receive only the minimum interest rate, which is 0.00%.

The interest rate on the Notes, if equal to the Spread or lower, including the minimum interest rate, is below what we would currently expect to pay as of the date of this pricing supplement if we issued non-callable senior debt securities with a fixed or floating rate and similar maturity to that of the consumer price indexed-linked notes. Any interest payable in excess of the minimum interest rate on the Notes will be based upon the difference in the level of the CPI determined as of the measurement dates specified in the formula listed above, plus the Spread.

The historical levels of the CPI are not an indication of the future levels of the CPI during the term of the Notes. In the past, the CPI has experienced periods of volatility, including on a monthly basis, and such volatility may occur in the future. Fluctuations and trends in the CPI that have occurred in the past are not necessarily indicative, however, of fluctuations that may occur in the future.

Holders of the Notes will receive interest payments that will be affected by changes in the CPI. Such changes may be significant. Changes in the CPI are a function of the changes in specified consumer prices over time, which result from the interaction of many factors over which we have no control.

There can be no assurance that the BLS will not change the method by which it calculates the CPI. In addition, changes in the way the CPI is calculated could reduce the level of the CPI and lower the interest payment with respect to the Notes. Accordingly, the amount of interest, if any, payable on the Notes, and therefore the value of the consumer price indexed-linked notes, may be significantly reduced. If the CPI is substantially altered (as determined in the sole discretion of the Calculation Agent), a substitute index will be employed to calculate the interest payable on the Notes as described above.

5

ADDITIONAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Set forth below is a summary of some U.S. federal income tax considerations relevant to the beneficial owner of the Notes that is a U.S. holder (as defined in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement). This summary does not address investors that may be subject to special tax rules or investors that hold the Notes as part of an integrated investment. This summary supplements the discussion contained in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement under the heading "United States Federal Taxation."

We intend to treat the Notes as "variable rate debt instruments" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming the Notes are so treated, under the Treasury regulations governing variable rate debt instruments that bear interest that is unconditionally payable at least annually at a single objective rate, payments of interest on the Notes will be taxable to a U.S. holder as ordinary interest income at the time that such payments are accrued or received, in accordance with the U.S. holder's method of tax accounting. In the case of a U.S. holder that uses the accrual method of tax accounting, the amount of interest accrued during an accrual period will be determined by assuming that the Notes bear interest at a fixed interest rate that reflects the yield that is reasonably expected for the Notes, and the interest allocable to the address set forth under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement to obtain the "reasonably expected" rate for the Notes. Assuming the Notes are treated as variable rate debt instruments, upon the disposition of a Note by sale, exchange, redemption, or repayment of principal at maturity, a U.S. holder will generally recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the disposition (other than amounts attributable to accrued interest) and the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Notes. Prospective

THE INTEREST RATE ON THE NOTES MAY BE BELOW THE RATE OTHERWISE PAYABLE ON SIMILAR FIXED OR FLOATING RATE DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED BY US.

THE HISTORICAL LEVELS OF THE CPI ARE NOT AN INDICATION OF THE FUTURE LEVELS OF THE CPI AND THOSE LEVELS MAY CHANGE SUBSTANTIALLY.

THE INTEREST RATE IS BASED UPON THE CPI. THE CPI ITSELF AND THE WAY THE BLS CALCULATES THE CPI MAY CHANGE IN THE FUTURE OR THE CPI MAY NO LONGER BE PUBLISHED.

MTN 0065

investors should consult the discussion under the heading "United States Federal Taxation Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders Variable Rate Notes" and "United States Federal Taxation Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders Sale, Exchange or Retirement of the Notes" in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement.

Alternatively, it is possible that the Notes could be treated as "contingent payment debt instruments" ("CPDI") for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Under the CPDI rules, a U.S. holder would be required, among other matters, to include in income each year an accrual of interest at a "comparable yield" (determined at the time of issuance of the notes) for a comparable non-contingent note issued by us. To the extent the comparable yield were to exceed the interest actually paid on a note in any taxable year, a U.S. holder would recognize ordinary interest income for that taxable year in excess of the cash actually paid on the note during that taxable year and such excess would increase the U.S. holder's tax basis in the note. In addition, any gain realized by a U.S. holder on the sale or other taxable disposition of a note (including as a result of payments made at maturity) generally would be characterized as ordinary income, rather than as capital gain.

The preceding discussion is only a summary of some of the tax implications of an investment in the Notes. Prospective investors are urged to consult with their tax advisors prior to investing to determine the tax implications of such investment in light of each such investor's particular circumstances.

MTN 0065

6

QuickLinks

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE NOTES <u>RISK FACTORS</u> ADDITIONAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS ed by Merrill Corporation (www.merrillcorp.com) -->

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of San Jose, State of California, on January 18, 2002.

PHOENIX TECHNOLOGIES LTD.

/s/ Albert E. Sisto

Albert E. Sisto Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Linda V. Moore, Albert E. Sisto and John M. Greeley, jointly and severally, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or his substitutes or substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Name	Title	Date	
/s/ Albert E. Sisto	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	January 18, 2002	
Albert E. Sisto			
/s/ John M. Greeley	 Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) 	January 18, 2002	
John M. Greeley			
/s/ Taher Elgamal	Director	January 18, 2002	
Taher Elgamal			
/s/ George C. Huang	Director	January 18, 2002	
George C. Huang	•		
/s/ Edmund P. Jensen	Director	January 18, 2002	
Edmund P. Jensen			
/s/ Anthony P. Morris	Director	January 18, 2002	
Anthony P. Morris			
/s/ Anthony Sun	Director	January 18, 2002	
Anthony Sun	II-4		

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Exhibit
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as filed with the Delaware Secretary of State on July 23, 1998(1)
3.2	Bylaws of the Registrant(2)
4.1	Asset Acquisition Agreement with StorageSoft dated December 21, 2001
5.1	Opinion of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Auditors
23.2	Consent of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (included in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this Registration Statement)
24.1	Power of Attorney (see page II-4)

Incorporated by reference to the identically numbered exhibit filed with Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-53607) on May 26, 1998.

(2)

Incorporated by reference to the identically numbered exhibit filed with Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-11033) on August 29, 1996.

QuickLinks

THE COMPANY USE OF PROCEEDS ISSUANCE OF COMMON STOCK TO SELLING STOCKHOLDERS PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION SELLING STOCKHOLDERS LEGAL MATTERS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules Item 17. Undertakings. SIGNATURES POWER OF ATTORNEY EXHIBIT INDEX