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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

January 16, 2003

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 53

DATED: January 15, 2003

Rule 424(b)(3)

File No. 333-76894

(To Prospectus dated January 25, 2002,

and Prospectus Supplement dated January 25, 2002)

\$10,006,693,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

\$150,000,000

Original Issue Date: Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

1/16/2003

Maturity Date: 1/16/2004 CUSIP#: 073928YM9

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Redemption Repayment Repayment
Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s)

N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:

Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:

Interest Rate Basis:

[] Commercial Paper Rate

[Minimum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[x] Federal Funds Open Rate

Interest Reset Date(s): Daily

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily

[] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Index Maturity: N/A

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Spread (plus or minus): + 0.12%

* On the 16th of each month and at Maturity.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.