

FIRST ALBANY COMPANIES INC  
Form 4  
March 18, 2003

**FORM 4**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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www.section16.net

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>Johnson Hugh</b> (Last) (First) (Middle)			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>First Albany Companies Inc(FACT)</b>			6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director — <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) — Other (specify below) <b>Senior Vice President</b>		
9 Birchwood Court  (Street)			3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)			4. Statement for Month/Day/Year <b>3/03</b>		
Albany, NY 12211  (City) (State) (Zip)			5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)			7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

**Table I Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 & 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactions(s) (Instr. 3 & 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

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**FORM 4 (continued) Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 & 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:	11. Nature of Indirect or Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

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	Year)	Year)	of (D)		Date	Expira- tion Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
			(Instr. 3, 4 & 5)	(A)						
Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date	Expira- tion Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	
Stock Option	\$8.00	3/14/03			(1)	3/14/13	Common	25,000.	25,000	D

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three equal installments of approximately 33% , over a three year period, commencing on 3/14/04 through 3/14/06.

By: /s/ **Hugh Johnson**

**3/18/03**

Date

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

\*\*Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.  
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed.  
If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.

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