

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## FORM 5

Annual statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2004-02-12** | Period of Report: **2003-12-31**  
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### ISSUER

#### FIRST ALBANY COMPANIES INC

CIK: **782842** | IRS No.: **222655804** | State of Incorporation: **NY** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**  
SIC: **6211** Security brokers, dealers & flotation companies

Mailing Address  
*C/O FIRST ALBANY  
30 S. PEARL STREET  
ALBANY NY 12207*

Business Address  
*30 S PEARL STREET  
ALBANY NY 12207  
518-447-8673*

### REPORTING OWNER

#### GOLDBERG ALAN P

CIK: **1008002**  
Type: **5** | Act: **34** | File No.: **000-14140** | Film No.: **04590335**

Mailing Address  
*C/O FIRST ALBANY  
COMPANIES INC.  
30 SOUTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY NY 12207*

Business Address  
*C/O FIRST ALBANY  
COMPANIES INC.  
30 SOUTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY NY 12207  
518-447-8500*

# FORM 5

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### OMB APPROVAL

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

Form 3 Holdings Reported

Form 4 Transactions Reported

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <b>GOLDBERG ALAN P</b>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>FIRST ALBANY COMPANIES INC</b> <b>[FACT]</b>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>President &amp; CEO</b>		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) <b>12/31/2003</b>					
C/O FIRST ALBANY COMPANIES INC, 30 S. PEARL STREET			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(Street) <b>ALBANY, NY 12207</b>								
(City)	(State)	(Zip)						

**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 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	12/16/2003		G	11,580	D	\$ 0	1,042,831 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	

**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 of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					

#### Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes 14,418 shares of phantom stock units acquired under First Albany Companies Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan for Key Employees.

#### Signatures

Alan P. Goldberg

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

02/12/2004

Date

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).

\*\* 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.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**