

DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND

Form N-30D

June 04, 2003

Dreyfus High Yield  
Strategies Fund

ANNUAL REPORT March 31, 2003

DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

OUR PLEDGE TO YOU

THE FUND IS COMMITTED TO YOUR PRIVACY. On this page, you will find the Fund's policies and practices for collecting, disclosing, and safeguarding "nonpublic personal information," which may include financial or other customer information. These policies apply to individuals who purchase Fund shares for personal, family, or household purposes, or have done so in the past. This notification replaces all previous statements of the Fund's consumer privacy policy, and may be amended at any time. We'll keep you informed of changes as required by law.

YOUR ACCOUNT IS PROVIDED IN A SECURE ENVIRONMENT. The Fund maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard nonpublic personal information. The Fund's agents and service providers have limited access to customer information based on their role in servicing your account.

THE FUND COLLECTS INFORMATION IN ORDER TO SERVICE AND ADMINISTER YOUR ACCOUNT. The Fund collects a variety of nonpublic personal information, which may include:

- \* Information we receive from you, such as your name, address, and social security number.
- \* Information about your transactions with us, such as the purchase or sale of Fund shares.
- \* Information we receive from agents and service providers, such as proxy voting information.

THE FUND DOES NOT SHARE NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH ANYONE, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY LAW.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU.

The views expressed in this report reflect those of the portfolio manager only through the end of the period covered and do not necessarily represent the views of Dreyfus or any other person in the Dreyfus organization. Any such views are subject to change at any time based upon market or other conditions and Dreyfus disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for a Dreyfus fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of any Dreyfus fund.

Not FDIC-Insured \* Not Bank-Guaranteed \* May Lose Value

Contents

THE FUND

---

2	Letter from the Chairman
3	Discussion of Fund Performance
6	Selected Information
7	Statement of Investments
19	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
20	Statement of Operations
21	Statement of Cash Flows
22	Statement of Changes in Net Assets
23	Financial Highlights
25	Notes to Financial Statements
34	Independent Auditors' Report
35	Important Tax Information
36	Dividend Reinvestment Plan
41	Board Members Information
43	Officers of the Fund
45	Officers and Directors

FOR MORE INFORMATION

---

Back Cover

The Fund

Dreyfus High Yield  
Strategies Fund

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Shareholder:

This annual report for Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund covers the 12-month period from April 1, 2002, through March 31, 2003. Inside, you'll find valuable information about how the fund was managed during the reporting period, including a discussion with Gerald E. Thunelius, portfolio manager and Director of the Dreyfus Taxable Fixed Income Team that manages the fund.

A number of economic and political factors continued to support higher overall bond prices during the reporting period. Faced with escalating tensions leading to the start of the war in Iraq, many investors preferred fixed-income

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

securities over stocks. We believe that rising geopolitical tensions also contributed to the ongoing sluggishness of the U.S. economy, as many corporations apparently decided to wait until the situation in Iraq is resolved before committing to new capital spending. For its part, the Federal Reserve Board contributed to the bond market's strength by further reducing short-term interest rates in November 2002.

The result of these influences has been attractive total returns from many fixed-income investments, especially those with relatively heavy exposure to bonds that are more interest-rate-sensitive, such as most U.S. government securities. While history suggests that bond prices should moderate if the economy strengthens, we believe that the economy is unlikely to make significant gains until current uncertainties are resolved.

In the meantime, we believe it is more important than ever to follow a disciplined approach to investing. While it may be tempting to shift assets between stocks and bonds in response to near-term economic and market forces, adherence to your longstanding asset allocation strategy may be the most prudent course for the long term. Your financial advisor can help you to ensure that your portfolio reflects your investment needs, long-term goals and attitudes toward risk.

Thank you for your continued confidence and support.

Sincerely,

/s/Stephen E. Canter  
Stephen E. Canter  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
The Dreyfus Corporation  
April 25, 2003

### DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Gerald E. Thunelius, Portfolio Manager

Dreyfus Taxable Fixed Income Team

How did Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund perform during the period?

For the 12-month period ended March 31, 2003, the fund achieved a total return of -5.63% and produced aggregate income dividends of \$0.744 per share.(1) In comparison, the Merrill Lynch High Yield Master II Index (the "Index") achieved a total return of 3.32% for the same period.(2)

The first half of the reporting period was an extremely difficult one for the high-yield market and the fund. A weak economy, revelations of corporate scandals and the continued deterioration of business conditions among technology and telecommunications companies severely affected the market for lower-rated corporate bonds, causing market-wide price declines. In addition, the fund's return for the first half of the reporting period was considerably lower than that of the Index because the fund was fully leveraged, which tends to magnify gains and losses. Although the second half of the reporting period brought better relative performance as a result of, among other factors, credit and sector selection, the fund could not fully offset its earlier losses so its returns for the overall reporting period lagged the Index.

What is the fund's investment approach?

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

The fund primarily seeks high current income. The fund will also seek capital growth as a secondary objective to the extent consistent with its objective of seeking high current income. The fund invests primarily in fixed-income securities of below investment-grade credit quality. Issuers of below investment-grade securities may include companies in early stages of development and companies with a highly leveraged financial structure. To compensate investors for taking on greater risk, such companies typically must offer higher yields than those offered by more established or conservatively financed companies.

The Fund

### DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

The fund's investment process involves a "top-down" approach to sector and a fundamental "bottom-up" approach to security selection. We look at a variety of factors when assessing a potential investment, including the state of the industry or sector, the company's financial strength and the company's management. We also employ leverage -- buying additional bonds with borrowed money in an effort to increase the fund's return.

What other factors influenced the fund's performance?

The U.S. high-yield bond market experienced both stunning declines and encouraging rallies during the reporting period as investor sentiment shifted from one extreme to the other. As mentioned above, early in the reporting period the high-yield bond market was hurt by a combination of sluggish economic growth, high-profile corporate scandals and deteriorating business conditions, especially in the technology and telecommunications industry groups. At the same time, rising international tensions contributed to growing risk-aversion among investors, who generally shunned riskier corporate securities -- including high-yield bonds -- in favor of relatively safe havens, such as U.S. government securities.

During the fourth quarter of 2002, the market began to shake off these negative influences, and investors appeared ready to recommit to corporate bonds. Some investors responded to what they regarded as attractive valuations of high-yield bonds whose prices had been beaten down in the market decline. Others turned to corporate bonds for their relatively generous income streams in an environment of historically low yields on U.S. Treasury securities. By the end of the reporting period, high-yield bond prices had risen substantially above their previous lows.

In this volatile market environment, we continued our efforts to restructure the fund in a way that improved its overall credit profile. Although our ability to sell certain securities was limited, we succeeded in reducing the fund's positions in bonds from troubled issuers such as WorldCom, Microcell and Adelphia. With those proceeds we purchased bonds from companies such as wireless telephone provider Nextel, cellular infrastructure company American Tower and cable television provider Cablevision. At the time, we preferred companies such as these because their bond prices were more likely to be supported by tangible assets with measurable resale values.

In addition, we focused a portion of the portfolio on "fallen angels," which are companies we considered fundamentally sound and whose bonds had been hit hard during the downturn. Holdings such as regional telephone company Qwest and energy providers El Paso, Williams and Dynege rebounded strongly from relatively low price levels during the reporting period's second half.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

What is the fund's current strategy?

Subsequent to the reporting period, the fund reduced its monthly cash dividend to \$0.04875 per share of beneficial interest, as of April 24, 2003. This dividend reduction reflected possible future costs of establishing interest-rate swaps or other hedges in respect of the fund's leverage, the possibility of future defaults in portfolio securities, an effort to reduce the accumulated distribution in excess of investment income-net and a lower reinvestment rate in the market.

In such a current lower-yielding environment, management believed that an effort to seek to maintain the fund's prior dividend could have involved an increase in the overall risk of the portfolio. Although we maintain a positive outlook on the high-yield market, we believe a move to greater risk for greater yield potential would not have been prudent.

We continue to take steps to improve the fund's overall credit quality while looking for opportunities to purchase bonds of fundamentally sound issuers at low prices. When making new purchases, our primary focus is on asset-rich companies that, in our view, have the ability to withstand challenging business conditions. At the same time, we continue to emphasize broad diversification among industry groups, issuers and securities. We believe that these are prudent strategies in today's uncertain economic environment.

April 25, 2003

- (1) TOTAL RETURN INCLUDES REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND ANY CAPITAL GAINS PAID, BASED UPON NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NO GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS. SHARE PRICE, YIELD AND INVESTMENT RETURN FLUCTUATE SUCH THAT UPON REDEMPTION, FUND SHARES MAY BE WORTH MORE OR LESS THAN THEIR ORIGINAL COST.
- (2) SOURCE: LIPPER INC. -- REFLECTS REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, CAPITAL GAIN DISTRIBUTIONS. THE MERRILL LYNCH HIGH YIELD MASTER II INDEX IS AN UNMANAGED PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK COMPOSED OF U.S. DOMESTIC AND YANKEE BONDS RATED BELOW INVESTMENT GRADE WITH AT LEAST \$100 MILLION PAR AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AND GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO ONE YEAR TO MATURITY.

The Fund

### SELECTED INFORMATION

March 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

Market Price per share March 31, 2003	\$5.16
Shares Outstanding March 31, 2003	69,574,043
New York Stock Exchange Ticker Symbol	DHF

### MARKET PRICE (NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE)

Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2003

Quarter Ended June 30, 2002	Quarter Ended September 30, 2002	Quarter Ended December 31, 2002
-----------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

High	\$5.67	\$4.24	\$4.24
Low	4.19	3.48	3.44
Close	4.24	3.95	3.79

PERCENTAGE GAIN (LOSS) based on change in Market Price\*

April 29, 1998 (commencement of operations) through March 31, 2003

April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003

July 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003

October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003

January 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003

NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

April 29, 1998 (commencement of operations)	\$15.00
March 31, 2002	4.93
June 30, 2002	4.09
September 30, 2002	3.38
December 31, 2002	3.50
March 31, 2003	3.87

PERCENTAGE GAIN (LOSS) based on change in Net Asset Value\*

April 29, 1998 (commencement of operations) through March 31, 2003	(45.96)%
April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003	(5.63)
July 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003	9.48
October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003	26.21
January 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003	14.01

\* WITH DIVIDENDS REINVESTED.

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS

March 31, 2003

BONDS AND NOTES--133.4%

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE--2.6%

BE Aerospace,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 8.875%, 2011

Prin  
Amo

3,3

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Hexcel,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.75%, 2009 4,7

K&F Industries,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9.625%, 2010 6

AIRLINES--1.2%

AMR:

Deb., 9%, 2012 1,8

Deb., 9.75%, 2021 2,4

Air 2 US,

Enhanced Equipment Notes,

Ser. D, 12.266%, 2020 9,6

Aircraft Finance Trust,

Asset-Backed Notes,

Ser. 1999-1A, Cl. D, 11%, 2024 6,6

Delta Air Lines,

Notes, 7.7%, 2005 1,9

AUTOMOTIVE, TRUCKS & PARTS--6.4%

Advanced Accessory Systems/Capital,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9.75%, 2007 6,3

Airxcel,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 11%, 2007 4,2

Collins & Aikman Products,

Sr. Notes, 10.75%, 2011 2,2

J.B. Poindexter & Co.,

Gtd. Sr. Notes, 12.5%, 2004 5,0

Rexnord,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.125%, 2012 9

TRW Automotive,

Sr. Notes, 9.375%, 2013 4

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

BANKING--.4%

Williams Communication,

Bank Note, 6.313%, 2006

1,1

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

Pr  
Am

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION--2.0%

Owens Corning:

Deb., 7.5%, 2018

6,7

Notes, 7.7%, 2008

Resolution Performance Products,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 13.5%, 2010

1,3

WCI Communities,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.625%, 2011

2,3

CABLE & MEDIA--12.5%

Acme Intermediate Holdings/Finance,

Sr. Secured Notes, Ser. B, 12%, 2005

5,8

Charter Communications Holdings/Capital:

Sr. Discount Notes, 0/9.92%, 2011

1,3

Sr. Discount Notes, 0/11.75%, 2011

7,9

Sr. Discount Notes, 0/12.125%, 2012

1,3

Sr. Discount Notes, 0/13.5%, 2011

2,1

Sr. Notes, 10%, 2011

3,1

Sr. Notes, 10.75%, 2009

11,6

Coaxial Communications/Phoenix,

Sr. Notes, 10%, 2006

2,2

Gray Communications Systems,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.25%, 2011

4

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Houghton Mifflin,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.875%, 2013

4

Mediacom Broadband,

Gtd. Sr. Notes, 11%, 2013

1,5

NTL,

Deb., 11.2%, 2007

7,7

Pegasus Communications,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 12.5%, 2007

6,1

RH Donnelley Financial:

Sr. Notes, 8.875%, 2010

6

Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.875%, 2012

4

CHEMICALS--10.8%

Aqua Chemical,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 11.25%, 2008

2,0

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

Pr  
Am

-----  
CHEMICALS (CONTINUED)

Avecia,

Gtd. Sr. Notes, 11%, 2009

10,5

Huntsman ICI Chemicals,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.125%, 2009

11,0

Lyondell Chemical:

Gtd. Sr. Secured Notes, Ser. B, 9.875%, 2007

2

Notes, 6.5%, 2006

2

Sr. Secured Notes, 9.5%, 2008

1,4

Sr. Secured Notes, 11.125%, 2012

4

OM Group,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.25%, 2011

6,9

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

COMMERCIAL SERVICES--1.4%

Brickman,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 11.75%, 2009

8

United Rentals:

Sr. Notes, 10.75%, 2008

9

Sr. Notes, Ser. B, 10.75%, 2008

1,7

CONSUMER PRODUCTS--2.0%

Doane Pet Care,

Sr. Notes, 10.75%, 2010

1,3

Moore North American Finance,

Sr. Notes, 7.875%, 2011

5

Sleepmaster,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 11%, 2009

17,6

DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICE--6.8%

Elgin National Industries,

Sr. Notes, Ser. B, 11%, 2007

6,0

Finova,

Notes, 7.5%, 2009

1,3

Key Components/Finance,

Sr. Notes, 10.5%, 2008

2,5

Trump Holdings/Funding,

First Mortgage, 11.625%, 2010

9

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

Pr  
Am

-----  
DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICE (CONTINUED)

Tyco International,

Gtd. Notes, 6.375%, 2005

7,3

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Williams Holdings of Delaware,

Notes, 6.5%, 2008

2,5

Williams Scotsman,

Sr. Notes, 9.875%, 2007

2,2

ELECTRIC UTILITIES--10.8%

Allegheny Energy:

Bonds, 8.75%, 2012

4,4

Secured Notes, 10.25%, 2007

Secured Notes, 10.25%, 2007

1,7

CMS Energy,

Sr. Notes, 9.875%, 2007

4,7

Calpine:

Sr. Notes, 7.625%, 2006

2,0

Sr. Notes, 7.75%, 2009

7,2

Calpine Canada Energy Finance,

Gtd. Sr. Notes, 8.5%, 2008

7,3

Centerpoint Energy Resources,

Bond Mortgage, 7.875%, 2013

8

Dynegy,

Sr. Notes, 8.125%, 2005

4,0

Mirant Americas Generation:

Sr. Notes, 7.2%, 2008

3,3

Sr. Notes, 7.625%, 2006

6,3

ENTERTAINMENT--2.6%

AMC Entertainment:

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.5%, 2009

3

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.875%, 2012

9

Bally Total Fitness,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. D, 9.875%, 2007

1,3

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Buffets,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 11.25%, 2010

Old Evangeline Downs,

Sr. Secured Notes, 13%, 2010

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

---

ENTERTAINMENT (CONTINUED)

Premier Parks,

Sr. Notes, 9.75%, 2007

Regal Cinemas,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9.375%, 2012

ENVIRONMENTAL--2.9%

Allied Waste,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 10%, 2009

Synagro Technologies,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.5%, 2009

FOOD & BEVERAGES--2.8%

Del Monte,

Sr. Sub Notes, 8.625%, 2012

Dole Foods,

Sr. Notes, 8.875%, 2011

Land O'Lakes,

Sr. Notes, 8.75%, 2011

R.A.B Enterprises,

Gtd. Sr. Notes, 10.5%, 2005

Swift & Co.,

Sr. Notes, 10.125%, 2009

FOREIGN/GOVERNMENTAL--1.0%

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Mexican Government,

Bonds, 10.5%, 2011

MXN

20,0

Quebec Province,

Deb., 3.3%, 2013

CAD

1,1

GAMING & LODGING--3.8%

Host Marriott,

Sr. Notes, Ser. I, 9.5%, 2007

4

Park Place Entertainment,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 8.875%, 2008

9

Resorts International Hotel and Casino,

First Mortgage, 11.5%, 2009

5,0

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

Pr  
Am

-----  
GAMING & LODGING (CONTINUED)

Riviera,

Gtd. Sr. Secured Notes, 11%, 2010

1,3

Station Casinos,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.875%, 2010

4

Turning Stone Casino Entertainment,

Sr. Notes, 9.125%, 2010

1,1

Wynn Las Vegas,

Second Mortgage, 12%, 2010

1,3

HEALTH CARE--1.5%

Extendicare Health Services,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.35%, 2007

1,1

Healthsouth,

Sr. Notes, 7%, 2008

4,3

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

PerkinElmer,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 8.875%, 2013

1,2

MACHINERY--3.4%

Alliance Laundry Systems,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9.625%, 2008

4,0

Day International,

Sr. Notes, Ser. B, 11.125%, 2005

1,0

National Equipment Services:

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 10%, 2004

4,7

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. C, 10%, 2004

6,4

Terex,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 10.375%, 2011

2,2

MANUFACTURING--.3%

Dresser,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.375%, 2011

9

MINING & METALS--.4%

Haynes International,

Sr. Notes, 11.625%, 2004

2,0

OIL & GAS--21.8%

ANR Pipeline,

Sr. Notes, 8.875%, 2010

2,2

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

Pr  
Am

OIL & GAS (CONTINUED)

Belden & Blake,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9.875%, 2007

4,9

Coastal:

Notes, 7.625%, 2008

2,8

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Sr. Deb., 6.5%, 2008	12,5
EOTT Energy Partners/Finance,	
Gtd. Sr. Notes, 11%, 2009	6,7
El Paso Energy Partners,	
Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.625%, 2012	1,7
Hanover Equipment Trust,	
Sr. Secured Notes, Ser. B, 8.75%, 2011	3,9
Leviathan Gas Pipeline Partners,	
Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.375%, 2009	9
Nuevo Energy,	
Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9.375%, 2010	2,6
Petrobras International Finance,	
Sr. Notes, 9.875%, 2008	2,0
Premcor Refining:	
Sr. Notes, 9.25%, 2010	9
Sr. Notes, 9.5%, 2013	1,1
Southern Natural Gas,	
Sr. Notes, 8.875%, 2010	1,7
Tesoro Petroleum,	
Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 9%, 2008	3,4
Williams Cos.:	
Notes, 6.5%, 2006	4,9
Notes, 7.125%, 2011	1,9
Notes, 8.125%, 2012	4,2
Puttable Asset Term Securities,	
Ser. A, 6.75%, 2006	2,7
Wiser Oil,	
Sr. Sub Notes, 9.5%, 2007	4,5
PACKAGING--2.4%	
Pliant,	

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Sr. Sub. Notes, 13%, 2010 1,3

Radnor,

Sr. Notes, 11%, 2010 6

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED) Pr Am

PACKAGING (CONTINUED)

Riverwood International,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.875%, 2008 1,3

Tekni-Plex,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 12.75%, 2010 3,4

PAPER & FORESTRY PRODUCTS--4.9%

Appleton Papers,

Sr. Sub. Notes, Ser. B, 12.5%, 2008 8

Buckeye Cellulose:

Sr. Sub. Notes, 8.5%, 2005 2,4

Sr. Sub Notes, 9.25%, 2008 1,0

Georgia-Pacific:

Sr. Notes, 8.875%, 2010 8

Sr. Notes, 9.375%, 2013 1,4

Tembec Industries,

Sr. Notes, 8.5%, 2011 1,3

U.S. Timberlands Klamath Falls/Finance,

Sr. Notes, 9.625%, 2007 7,7

RAILROADS--1.7%

TFM, S.A. de C.V.,

Sr. Notes, 10.25%, 2007 5,0

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CTFS.--.4%

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

### Countrywide Home Loans:

Ser. 2001-9, Cl. B4, 6.75%, 2031

Ser. 2001-9, Cl. B5, 6.75%, 2031

### Residential Funding Mortgage Securities I, REMIC:

Ser. 2001-S19, Cl. B1, 6.5%, 2016

Ser. 2001-S19, Cl. B2, 6.5%, 2016

Ser. 2001-S19, Cl. B3, 6.5%, 2016

### RETAILING--.8%

#### Hollywood Entertainment,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 9.625%, 2011

#### JC Penney,

Sr. Notes, 8%, 2010

#### Remington Arms,

Sr. Notes, 10.5%, 2011

### BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

---

### STRUCTURED INDEX--2.5%

#### JP Morgan HYDI-100,

Linked Ctf. of Deposit, 8.75%, 2007

Linked Ctf. of Deposit, 9.7%, 2007

### TECHNOLOGY--.7%

#### AMI Semiconductor,

Sr. Sub. Notes, 10.75%, 2013

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS--12.4%

#### Call-Net Enterprises,

Sr. Secured Notes, 10.625%, 2008

#### Fairpoint Communications:

Sr. Notes, 11.875%, 2010

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Sr. Sub. Notes, 12.5%, 2010	5
Insight Midwest/Insight Capital,	
Sr. Notes, 9.75%, 2009	8
Loral Cyberstar,	
Sr. Notes, 10%, 2006	2,1
MJD Communications,	
Floating Rate Notes, Ser. B, 5.806%, 2008	5,0
Marconi,	
Bonds, 8.375%, 2030	5,5
Metromedia Fiber Network:	
Sr. Notes, 10%, 2009	12,3
Sr. Notes, Ser. B, 10%, 2008	6,6
Northeast Optic Network,	
Sr. Notes, 12.75%, 2008	2,9
Qwest Capital Funding,	
Notes, 5.875%, 2004	2,0
Qwest Services:	
Notes, 13.5%, 2010	6,1
Notes, 14%, 2014	1,4
Sr. Secured Notes, 13%, 2007	1,8
Star Choice Communications,	
Sr. Secured Notes, 13%, 2005	7,7
US West Capital Funding,	
Notes, 6.25%, 2005	3,9

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

-----  
 TEXTILES & APPAREL--1.3%

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Levi Strauss & Co.,

Sr. Notes, 11.625%, 2008

3,6

U.S. GOVERNMENT--.9%

U.S. Treasury Inflation Protection Securities:

3.625%, 1/15/2008

1,0

3.875%, 1/15/2009

1,0

U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES/MORTGAGE-BACKED--.0%

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.,

REMIC, Gtd. Multiclass Mortgage Participation Ctfs.,

Ser. 2470, Cl. BI, 6.5%, 2/15/2022

(Interest Only Obligation)

9

Federal National Mortgage Association,

REMIC Trust, Gtd. Pass-Through Ctfs.,

Ser. 2001-52, Cl. VI, 6.5%, 2021

(Interest Only Obligation)

3,9

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS--8.0%

American Tower,

Sr. Notes, 9.375%, 2009

4,1

American Tower Escrow,

Units, 0%, 2008

4

Alamosa Holdings:

Sr. Discount Notes, 0/12.875%, 2010

5

Sr. Notes, 13.625%, 2011

7

Crown Castle International:

Sr. Notes, 9.375%, 2011

1,3

Sr. Notes, 10.75%, 2011

1,0

Horizon PCS,

Sr. Notes, 13.75%, 2011

3,0

Nextel Communications:

Conv. Sub. Deb., 5.25%, 2010

2,5

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Sr. Serial Redeemable Notes, 9.375%, 2009	9
Nextel Partners,	
Sr. Notes, 12.5%, 2009	3,1
Roger Wireless,	
Sr. Secured Notes, 9.625%, 2011	1,0
SBA Communications,	
Sr. Notes, 10.25%, 2009	1,5

BONDS AND NOTES (CONTINUED)

---

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Telesystem International Wireless:

Sr. Notes, 14%, 2003	2
Sr. Notes, 14%, 2003	2,1

WorldCom:

Notes, 7.5%, 2011	7,0
Notes, 7.875%, 2003	5,5

TOTAL BONDS AND NOTES

(cost \$425,317,875)

---

PREFERRED STOCKS--7.4%

---

CABLE & MEDIA--2.0%

Paxson Communications:

Cum., \$1,325	
Cum. Conv., \$975	

MINING AND METALS--1.2%

Kaiser Group Holdings,

Cum., \$3.85	
--------------	--

OIL & GAS--1.2%

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

EXCO Resources,

Cum. Conv., \$1.05

TELECOMMUNICATIONS--3.0%

CSC Holdings,

Ser. H, Cum. \$117.50

TOTAL PREFERRED STOCKS

(cost \$22,678,472)

-----  
COMMON STOCKS--.7%

-----  
AEROSPACE & DEFENSE--.0%

Stellex Aerostructures

BROADCASTING & MEDIA--.7%

Sirius Satellite Radio

TOTAL COMMON STOCKS

(cost \$1,245,007)

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

OTHER--0%

-----  
MINING AND METALS--.0%

Kaiser Group Holdings (rights)

Imperial Credit Industries (warrants)

TELECOMMUNICATION--.0%

Loral Cyberstar (warrants)

TOTAL OTHER

(cost \$3,490)

-----  
OTHER INVESTMENTS--2.1%

REGISTERED INVESTMENT COMPANIES:

Dreyfus Institutional Advantage Fund

Dreyfus Institutional Advantage Plus Fund

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Plus Money Market Fund

1,8

TOTAL OTHER INVESTMENTS

(cost \$5,554,000)

-----  
TOTAL INVESTMENT (cost \$454,798,844)

LIABILITIES, LESS CASH AND RECEIVABLES

NET ASSETS

(A) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT STATED IN U.S DOLLARS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

CAD--CANADIAN DOLLARS

MXN--MEXICAN PESOS

(B) SECURITIES EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER RULE 144A OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933. THESE SECURITIES MAY BE RESOLD IN TRANSACTIONS EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION, NORMALLY TO QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYERS. AT MARCH 31, 2003, THESE SECURITIES AMOUNTED TO \$63,830,675 OR 23.7% OF NET ASSETS.

(C) NON-INCOME PRODUCING--SECURITY IN DEFAULT.

(D) ZERO COUPON UNTIL A SPECIFIED DATE AT WHICH TIME THE STATED COUPON RATE BECOMES EFFECTIVE UNTIL MATURITY.

(E) GUARANTEED BY THE B. MANISCHEWITZ CO. AND MILLBROOK DISTRIBUTION SERVICES.

(F) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT FOR ACCRUAL PURPOSES IS PERIODICALLY ADJUSTED BASED ON CHANGES TO THE CANADIAN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

(G) SECURITY LINKED TO A PORTFOLIO OF HIGH YIELD DEBT SECURITIES.

(H) VARIABLE RATE SECURITY--INTEREST RATE SUBJECT TO PERIODIC CHANGE.

(I) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT FOR ACCRUAL PURPOSES IS PERIODICALLY ADJUSTED BASED ON CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

(J) NOTIONAL FACE AMOUNT SHOWN.

(K) UNITS REPRESENT BOND WITH WARRANTS ATTACHED TO PURCHASE COMMON STOCK.

(L) THE VALUE OF THESE SECURITIES HAS BEEN DETERMINED IN GOOD FAITH UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(M) NON-INCOME PRODUCING SECURITY.

(N) INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED MONEY MARKET FUNDS--SEE NOTE 3(D)

(O) COLLATERAL FOR REVOLVING CREDIT AND SECURITY AGREEMENT.

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

March 31, 2003

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

	Cost	Value
-----		
ASSETS (\$):		
Investments in securities--See Statement of Investments	454,798,844	386,594,913
Cash		922,445
Interest receivable		12,040,915
Receivable for investment securities sold		6,663,477
Dividend receivable		229,613
Prepaid expenses		59,969
		406,511,332
-----		
LIABILITIES (\$):		
Due to The Dreyfus Corporation and affiliates--Note 3		274,804
Due to Shareholder Servicing Agent--Note 3(b)		22,599
Loan payable--Note 2		124,000,000
Payable for investment securities purchased		7,686,376
Dividends payable		4,313,591
Unrealized depreciation on interest rate swaps--Note 4		495,373
Interest payable--Note 2		200,455
Payable for foreign exchange contracts		39,318
Net unrealized depreciation on forward currency exchange contracts--Note 4		3,943
Accrued expenses		293,941
		137,330,400
NET ASSETS (\$)		269,180,932
COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS (\$):		
Paid-in capital		979,736,305
Accumulated distributions in excess of investment income--net		(998,686)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments		(640,853,592)
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, foreign currency transactions and swap transactions		(68,703,095)
NET ASSETS (\$)		269,180,932

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

SHARES OUTSTANDING

(unlimited number of \$.001 par value  
shares of Beneficial Interest authorized) 69,574,043

NET ASSET VALUE, per share (\$) 3.87

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

The Fund

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31, 2003

-----  
INVESTMENT INCOME (\$):

INCOME:

Interest 51,979,782

Dividends 2,765,018

TOTAL INCOME 54,744,800

EXPENSES:

Management fee--Note 3(a) 3,522,455

Interest expense--Note 2 3,840,268

Shareholder servicing costs--Note 3(a,b) 419,267

Trustees' fees and expenses--Note 3(c) 190,254

Professional fees 167,023

Shareholders' reports 150,572

Registration fees 72,460

Custodian fees--Note 3(a) 34,713

Miscellaneous 41,745

TOTAL EXPENSES 8,438,757

Less--reduction in management and shareholder servicing fees  
due to undertakings--Note 3(a,b) (508,799)

NET EXPENSES 7,929,958

INVESTMENT INCOME--NET 46,814,842  
-----

REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS--NOTE 4 (\$):

Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency  
transactions (112,985,410)

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Net realized gain (loss) on forward currency exchange contracts	(44,638)
Net realized gain (loss) on financial futures	(94,555)
Net realized gain (loss) on swap transactions	(5,037,771)
Net realized gain (loss) on options transactions	(451,649)
NET REALIZED GAIN (LOSS)	(118,614,023)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments foreign currency transactions and swap transactions	50,424,756
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS	(68,189,267)
NET (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	(21,374,425)

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year Ended March 31, 2003

-----

#### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES (\$):

Interest Received	43,324,351	
Dividends Received	1,455,881	
Interest and loan commitment fees paid	(3,990,764)	
Operating expenses paid	(1,030,255)	
Paid to The Dreyfus Corporation	(3,094,800)	36,664,413

#### CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES (\$):

Purchases of portfolio securities	(724,551,807)	
Net purchases of short-term portfolio securities	(4,941,283)	
Proceeds from sales of portfolio securities	783,658,346	
FEC Transactions	(1,421,910)	
Options Transactions	(451,649)	
Swap Transactions	(5,037,771)	
Futures Transactions	(94,555)	47,159,371

#### CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES (\$):

Dividends paid	(42,680,334)	
Loan Payments	(41,000,000)	(83,680,334)
Increase in cash		143,450

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Cash at beginning of period	778,995
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	922,445
RECONCILIATION OF NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES (\$):	
Net Decrease in Net Assets Resulting From Operations	(21,374,425)
ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS TO NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES (\$):	
Decrease in interest receivable	3,728,353
Decrease in interest and loan commitment fees	(118,365)
Increase in swap payable	13,292
Increase in accrued operating expenses	40,792
Decrease in prepaid expenses	4,987
Decrease in payable due to The Dreyfus Corporation	(81,144)
Net Interest sold on investments	(2,654,853)
Net realized loss on investments	118,614,023
Net unrealized appreciation on investments	(50,424,756)
Noncash Dividends	(1,079,524)
Increase in Dividends receivable	(229,613)
Net amortization of discount and premium on investments	(9,774,354)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	36,664,413
SUPPLEMENTARY DISCLOSURE NONCASH FINANCING ACTIVITIES (\$):	
Reinvestment of dividends which increases paid-in capital	9,039,309
SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.	

The Fund

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year Ended March 31,	
	2003	2002
OPERATIONS (\$):		
Investment income--net	46,814,842	53,543,419
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	(118,614,023)	(212,319,993)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	50,424,756	124,523,400

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	(21,374,425)	(34,253,174)
--	--------------	--------------

DIVIDENDS TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM (\$):

INVESTMENT INCOME--NET	(50,965,977)	(59,887,317)
------------------------	--------------	--------------

BENEFICIAL INTEREST TRANSACTIONS (\$):

DIVIDENDS REINVESTED--NOTE 1(C)	9,039,309	11,025,306
---------------------------------	-----------	------------

TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(63,301,093)	(83,115,185)
---	--------------	--------------

NET ASSETS (\$):

Beginning of Period	332,482,025	415,597,210
---------------------	-------------	-------------

END OF PERIOD	269,180,932	332,482,025
---------------	-------------	-------------

CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS (SHARES):

SHARES ISSUED FOR DIVIDENDS REINVESTED	2,190,307	1,967,569
--	-----------	-----------

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following table describes the performance for the fiscal periods indicated. Total return shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. These figures have been derived from the fund's financial statements and market price data for the fund's shares.

	Year		
	2003	2002 (a)	2001

PER SHARE DATA (\$):

Net asset value, beginning of period	4.93	6.35	10.00
--------------------------------------	------	------	-------

Investment Operations:

Investment income--net	.68 (c)	.81 (c)	1.00
------------------------	---------	---------	------

Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.00)	(1.33)	(3.00)
---	--------	--------	--------

Total from Investment Operations	(.32)	(.52)	(2.00)
----------------------------------	-------	-------	--------

Distributions:

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Dividends from investment income--net	(.74)	(.90)	(1.00)
Net asset value, end of period	3.87	4.93	6.00
Market value, end of period	5.16	5.41	6.00
-----			
TOTAL RETURN (%) (D)	14.22	(1.84)	(14.00)
-----			
RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA (%):			
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets	1.54	1.52	1.00
Ratio of interest expense to average net assets	1.45	2.99	3.00
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	17.66	14.95	14.00
Decrease reflected in above expense ratios due to undertakings by The Dreyfus Corporation and UBS Warburg LLC	.19 (f)	.19 (f)	-.00
Portfolio Turnover Rate	186.19	239.11	42.00
-----			
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	269,181	332,482	415,500

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

	Year Ended March 31,		
	2003	2002 (a)	2001
-----			
RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA (%)			
(CONTINUED):			
Average borrowings outstanding (\$ x 1,000)	126,350	174,415	232,200
Weighted average number of fund shares outstanding (x 1,000)	68,538	66,400	64,720
Average amount of debt per share (\$)	1.84	2.63	3.50

(A) AS REQUIRED, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2001, THE FUND HAS ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS OF AICPA AND AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING GUIDE FOR INVESTMENT COMPANIES AND BEGAN AMORTIZING DISCOUNT OR PREMIUM ON FIXED INCOME SECURITIES ON A SCIENTIFIC BASIS AND INCLUDING PAYDOWN GAINS AND LOSSES IN INTEREST INCOME. THE EFFECT OF THESE CHANGES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2002 WAS TO DECREASE NET INVESTMENT INCOME PER SHARE BY \$.05, INCREASE NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS PER SHARE BY \$.05 AND DECREASE THE RATIO OF NET INVESTMENT INCOME TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS FROM 15.96% TO 14.95%. PER SHARE DATA AND RATIOS/SUPPLEMENT DATA FOR PERIODS PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 2001 HAVE NOT BEEN RESTATED TO REFLECT THESE CHANGES IN PRESENTATION.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

- (B) FROM APRIL 29, 1998 (COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS) TO MARCH 31, 1999.
- (C) BASED ON AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING AT EACH MONTH END.
- (D) CALCULATED BASED ON MARKET VALUE.
- (E) ANNUALIZED.
- (F) REPRESENTS WAIVER OF .10 OF 1% OF MANAGED ASSETS BY THE DREYFUS CORPORATION AND .03 OF 1% OF MANAGED ASSETS BY UBS WARBURG LLC.
- (G) NOT ANNUALIZED.

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### NOTE 1--Significant Accounting Policies:

Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund (the "fund") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Act") as a non-diversified closed-end management investment company. The fund's primary investment objective is to seek high current income by investing at least 65% of its total assets in income securities rated below investment grade. The Dreyfus Corporation (the "Manager") serves as the fund's investment manager and administrator. The Manager is a direct subsidiary of Mellon Bank, N.A. ("Mellon"), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation.

The fund's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which may require the use of management estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(A) PORTFOLIO VALUATION: Investments in securities (excluding short-term investments, other than U.S. Treasury Bills) are valued each business day by an independent pricing service (the "Service") approved by the Board of Trustees. Investments for which quoted bid prices are readily available and are representative of the bid side of the market in the judgment of the Service are valued at the mean between the quoted bid prices (as obtained by the Service from dealers in such securities) and asked prices (as calculated by the Service based upon its evaluation of the market for such securities). Other investments (which constitute a majority of the portfolio securities) are carried at value as determined by the Service, based on methods which include consideration of: yields or prices of securities of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions. Securities for which there are no such valuations are valued at fair value as determined in good faith under the direction of the Board of Trustees. Short-term investments, excluding U.S. Treasury Bills, are carried at amortized cost, which approximates value. Financial futures and options are valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Investments denominated in foreign currencies are translated to U.S. dollars at the prevailing rates of exchange. Swap trans-

The Fund

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

actions are valued daily based upon quotations from counterparties as market makers utilizing the net present value of all future cash settlements based on implied forward interest rates.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

(B) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS: The fund does not isolate that portion of the results of operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in market prices of securities held. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss from investments.

Net realized foreign exchange gains or losses arise from sales and maturities of short-term securities, sales of foreign currencies, currency gains or losses realized on securities transactions and the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes in the value of assets and liabilities other than investments in securities, resulting from changes in exchange rates. Such gains and losses are included with net realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments.

(C) SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND INVESTMENT INCOME: Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gain and loss from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date and interest income, including, where applicable, amortization of discount or premium on investments is recognized on the accrual basis. Under the terms of the custody agreement, the fund received net earnings credits of \$5,722 during the period ended March 31, 2003 based on available cash balances left on deposit. Income earned under this arrangement is included in interest income.

(D) DIVIDENDS TO SHAREHOLDERS: Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Dividends from investment income-net are declared and paid monthly. Dividends from net realized capital gain, if any, are declared and paid at least annually. To the extent that net realized capital gain can be offset by capital loss carryovers, it is the policy of the fund not to distribute such gain.

For shareholders who elect to receive their distributions in additional shares of the fund, in lieu of cash, such distributions will be reinvested either (i) through receipt of additional unissued but authorized shares from the fund ("newly issued shares") or (ii) by purchase of outstanding shares on the open market of the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere as defined in the dividend reinvestment plan.

On March 26, 2003, the Board of Trustees declared a cash dividend of \$.062 per share from investment income-net, payable on April 23, 2003 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on April 9, 2003.

(E) CONCENTRATION OF RISK: The fund invests primarily in debt securities. Failure of an issuer of the debt securities to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or the perception of a decline in the credit quality of a debt security, can cause the debt security's price to fall, potentially lowering the fund's share price. High yield ("junk") bonds involve greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than investment grade bonds, and are considered predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments. In addition, the value of debt securities may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment. They may also decline because of factors that affect a particular industry.

(F) FEDERAL INCOME TAXES: It is the policy of the fund to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company, if such qualification is in the best interests of its shareholders, by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and to make distributions of taxable income sufficient to relieve it from substantially all federal income and excise taxes.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

At March 31, 2003, the components of accumulated earnings on a tax basis were as follows: undistributed ordinary income \$3,319,956, accumulated capital losses \$590,289,465 and unrealized depreciation \$72,832,312. In addition, the fund had \$49,885,865 of capital losses

The Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

realized after October 31, 2002, which were deferred for tax purposes to the first day of the following fiscal year.

The accumulated capital loss carryover is available to be applied against future net securities profits, if any, realized subsequent to March 31, 2003. If not applied, \$32,078,398 of the carryover expires in fiscal 2007, \$32,334,001 expires in fiscal 2008, \$136,674,723 expires in fiscal 2009, \$283,731,643 expires in fiscal 2010 and \$105,470,700 expires in fiscal 2011.

The tax character of distributions paid to shareholders during the fiscal years ended March 31, 2003 and March 31, 2002, were as follows: ordinary income \$50,965,977 and \$59,887,317, respectively.

During the period ended March 31, 2003, as a result of permanent book to tax differences, the fund increased accumulated undistributed investment income-net by \$4,074,070, decreased net realized gain (loss) on investments by \$4,126,503 and increased paid-in capital by \$52,433. Net assets were not affected by this reclassification.

#### NOTE 2--Borrowings:

The fund has entered into a \$300,000,000 Revolving Credit and Security Agreement ("Agreement") which expires on June 15, 2006. Under the terms of the Agreement, the fund may borrow Advances (including Eurodollar Advances), on a collateralized basis with certain fund assets used as collateral; the yield to be paid by the fund on such Advances is determined with reference to the principal amount of each Advance (and/or Eurodollar Advance) outstanding from time to time. The fund pays certain other fees associated with the "Agreement". During the period ended March 31, 2003, \$786,465 applicable to those fees was included in interest expense.

The average daily amount of borrowings outstanding during the period ended March 31, 2003, under the Agreement, was approximately \$126,350,000, with a related weighted average annualized interest rate of 1.71%.

#### NOTE 3--Management Fee and Other Transactions With Affiliates:

(A) Pursuant to a management and administration agreement with the Manager, the management and administration fee is computed at the annual rate of .90 of 1% of the value of the fund's average weekly total assets minus the sum of accrued liabilities (other than the aggregate indebtedness constituting financial leverage) (the "Managed Assets") and is payable monthly.

For the period from April 1, 2002 through April 4, 2004, the Manager has agreed to waive receipt of a portion of the fund's management fee in the amount of .10 of 1% of the Managed Assets. The reduction in management fee, pursuant to the undertaking, amounted to \$391,384 during the period ended March 31, 2003.

The fund compensates Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C., an affiliate of the Manager, under a transfer agency agreement for providing personnel and facilities to perform transfer agency services for the fund. During the period ended March 31, 2003, the fund was charged \$9,000 pursuant to the transfer

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

agency agreement.

The fund compensates Mellon, an affiliate of the Manager, under a custody agreement for providing custodial services for the fund. During the period ended March 31, 2003, the fund was charged \$34,713 pursuant to the custody agreement.

(B) In accordance with the Shareholder Servicing Agreement, UBS Warburg LLC Inc. provides certain shareholder services for which the fund pays a fee computed at the annual rate of .10 of 1% of the value of the fund's average weekly Managed Assets. During the period ended March 31, 2003, the fund was charged \$391,384 pursuant to the Shareholder Servicing Agreement.

For the period from April 1, 2002 through April 4, 2004, UBS Warburg LLC has agreed to waive receipt of a portion of the fund's shareholder services fee in the amount of .03 of 1% of the Managed Assets. The

The Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

reduction in shareholder servicing fee, pursuant to the undertaking, amounted to \$117,415 during the period ended March 31, 2003.

(C) Each Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the fund as defined in the Act receives \$17,000 per year plus \$1,000 for each Board meeting attended and \$2,000 for separate committee meetings attended which are not held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting. In the event that there is a joint committee meeting of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds, Inc., The Dreyfus/Laurel Tax-Free Municipal Funds, The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust, collectively, (the "Dreyfus/ Laurel Funds") and the fund, the \$2,000 fee will be allocated between the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and the fund. Each Trustee who is not an interested person also receives \$500 for Board meetings and separate committee meetings attended that are conducted by telephone. The fund also reimburses each Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the fund for travel and out-of-pocket expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation (with the exception of reimbursable amounts).

(D) Pursuant to an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the fund may invest its available cash balances in affiliated money market funds as shown in the fund's Statement of Investments. Management fees are not charged to these accounts. The fund derived \$55,707 in income from these investments, which is included as dividend income in the fund's Statement of Operations.

#### NOTE 4--Securities Transactions:

The aggregate amount of purchases and sales (including paydowns) of investment securities, excluding short-term securities and financial futures, during the period ended March 31, 2003, amounted to \$706,852,481 and \$755,541,467, respectively.

The fund may use various derivatives, including options, futures contracts, forward contracts, mortgage-related securities, asset-backed securities and swaps. The fund may invest in, or enter into, these financial instruments for a variety of reasons, including to hedge certain market trends, to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities or to increase potential income gain.

The fund may enter into credit default swaps which involve commitments to pay a fixed rate in exchange for payment if a credit event affecting a third party (the referenced company) occurs. Credit events may include a failure to pay interest, bankruptcy, or restructuring. Net periodic interest payments to be received or paid are accrued daily and are recorded in the Statement of Operations as an adjustment to interest income. Credit default swaps are

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

marked-to-market daily and the change, if any, is recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the Statement of Operations. As of March 31, 2003, there were no credit default swaps outstanding.

The fund may enter into interest rate swaps which involve the exchange of commitments to pay and receive interest based on a notional principal amount. Net periodic interest payments to be received or paid are accrued daily and are recorded in the Statement of Operations as an adjustment to interest income. Interest rate swaps are marked-to-market daily and the change, if any, is recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the Statement of Operations.

Realized gains or losses on maturity or termination of swaps are presented in the Statement of Operations.

Risks may arise upon entering into these agreements from the potential inability of the counterparties to meet the terms of the agreement and are generally limited to the amount of net payments to be received, if any, at the date of default.

The following summarizes interest rate swaps entered into by the fund at March 31, 2003:

Notional Amount (\$)	Description	Unrealized (Depreciation) (\$)
25,000,000	Agreement with Merrill Lynch terminating March 26, 2013 to pay a fixed rate of 4.48% and to receive 3 month LIBOR	(495,373)
25,000,000	Agreement with Merrill Lynch terminating April 2, 2013 to pay a fixed rate of 4.289% and to receive 3 month LIBOR	--

The fund may invest in financial futures contracts which expose the fund to market risk as a result of changes in the value of the underlying financial instruments. Investments in financial futures require the

The Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

fund to "mark to market" on a daily basis, which reflects the change in the market value of the contracts at the close of each day's trading. Typically, variation margin payments are received or made to reflect daily unrealized gains or losses. When the contracts are closed, the fund recognizes a realized gain or loss. These investments require initial margin deposits with a custodian, which consist of cash or cash equivalents, up to approximately 10% of the contract amount. The amount of these deposits is determined by the exchange or Board of Trade on which the contract is traded and is subject to change. At March 31, 2003, there were no financial futures contracts outstanding.

The fund may enter into forward currency exchange contracts. When executing forward currency exchange contracts, the fund is obligated to buy or sell a foreign currency at a specified rate on a certain date in the future. With respect to sales of forward currency exchange contracts, the fund would incur a loss if the value of the contract increases between the date the forward contract is opened and the date the forward contract is closed. The fund realizes a gain if the value of the contract decreases between those dates. With respect to purchases of forward currency exchange contracts, the fund would incur a loss if the value of the contract decreases between the date the forward contract is opened and the date the forward contract is closed. The fund

**Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D**

realizes a gain if the value of the contract increases between those dates. The fund is also exposed to credit risk associated with counter party nonperformance on these forward currency exchange contracts which is typically limited to the unrealized gain on each open contract. The following summarizes open forward currency exchange contracts at March 31, 2003:

Forward Currency Exchange Contracts	Foreign Currency Amounts	Proceeds (\$)	Val
-----			
SALES:			
Canadian dollar, expiring 6/23/2003	590,000	395,502	399,4

At March 31, 2003, the cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$458,932,003 accordingly, accumulated net unrealized depreciation on investments was \$72,337,090, consisting of \$18,097,495 gross unrealized appreciation and \$90,434,585 gross unrealized depreciation.

NOTE 5--Change in Accounting Principle:

As required, effective April 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies (the "Guide") and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed income securities on a scientific basis. In addition, the Guide now requires paydown gains and losses to be included in interest income. Prior to April 1, 2001, the fund did not amortize premiums on fixed income securities and amortized discount on a straight line basis and included paydown gains and losses in net realized gains on investments. The cumulative effect of this accounting change had no impact on total net assets of the fund, but resulted in a \$3,758,896 reduction in accumulated undistributed investment income-net and a corresponding \$3,758,896 increase in accumulated net unrealized appreciation (depreciation), based on securities held by the fund on March 31, 2001.

NOTE 6--Subsequent Event Note:

On April 24, 2003, the Board of Trustees declared a cash dividend of \$.04875 per share from investment income-net, payable on May 22, 2003 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on May 8, 2003. The previous cash dividend declared on March 26, 2003 was \$.062 per share from investment income-net.

The Fund

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Trustees and Shareholders Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund (the "Fund"), including the statement of investments, as of March 31,2003, and the related statement of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and the statement of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and financial highlights for each of the years or periods indicated herein. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of March 31, 2003, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers. As to securities purchased or sold but not yet received or delivered, we performed other appropriate auditing procedures. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund as of March 31, 2003, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, and the changes in its net assets and financial highlights for each of the years or periods indicated herein, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

New York, New York  
May 14, 2003

### IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited)

For federal tax purposes, the fund hereby designates 4.07% of the ordinary dividends paid during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003 as qualifying for the corporate dividends received deduction. Shareholders will receive notification in January 2004 of the percentage applicable to the preparation of their 2003 income tax returns.

The Fund

### DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN (Unaudited)

To participate automatically in the Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan") of the Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund (the "fund"), fund shares must be registered in either your name, or, if your fund shares are held in nominee or "street" name through your broker-dealer, your broker-dealer must be a participant in the Plan. You may terminate your participation in the Plan, as set forth below. All shareholders participating (the "Participants") in the Plan will be bound by the following provisions:

Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C (the "Agent") will act as Agent for each Participant, and will open an account for each Participant under the Plan in the same name as their present shares are registered, and put into effect for them the dividends reinvestment option of the plan as of the first record date for a dividend or capital gains distribution.

Whenever the fund declares income dividend or capital gains distribution payable in shares of the fund or cash at the option of the shareholders, each Participant that does not opt for cash distributions shall take such distribution entirely in shares. If on the payment date for a dividend or capital gains distribution, the net asset value is equal to or less than the market price per share plus estimated brokerage commissions, the Agent shall automatically receive such shares, including fractions, for each Participant's

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

account except in the circumstances described in the following paragraph. Except in such circumstances, the number of additional shares to be credited to each Participant's account shall be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the income dividend or capital gains distribution payable on their shares by the greater of the net asset value per share determined as of the date of purchase or 95% of the then current market price per share of the fund's shares on the payment date.

Should the net asset value per share of the fund shares exceed the market price per share plus estimated brokerage commissions on the payment date for a share or cash income dividend or capital gains distribution, the Agent or a broker-dealer selected by the Agent shall endeavor, for a purchase period of 30 days to apply the amount of such dividend or capital gains distribution on each Participant's shares (less their pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Agent's open-market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of such dividend or distribution) to purchase shares of the fund on the open market for each Participant's account. In no event may such purchase be made more than 30 days after the payment date for such dividend or distribution except where temporary curtailment or suspension of purchase is necessary to comply with applicable provisions of federal securities laws. If, at the close of business on any day during the purchase period the net asset value per share equals or is less than the market price per share plus estimated brokerage commissions, the Agent will not make any further open-market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of such dividend or distribution. If the Agent is unable to invest the full dividend or distribution amount through open-market purchases during the purchase period, the Agent shall request that, with respect to the uninvested portion of such dividend or distribution amount, the fund issue new shares at the close of business on the earlier of the last day of the purchase period or the first day during the purchase period on which the net asset value per share equals or is less than the market price per share, plus estimated brokerage commissions. These newly issued shares will be valued at the then-current market price per share of the fund's shares at the time such shares are to be issued.

For purposes of making the dividend reinvestment purchase comparison under the Plan, (a) the market price of the fund's shares on a particular date shall be the last sales price on the New York Stock Exchange on that date, or, if there is no sale on such Exchange on that date, then the mean between the closing bid and asked quotations for such shares on such Exchange on such date and (b) the net asset value per share of the fund's shares on a particular date shall be the net asset value per share most recently calculated by or on behalf of the fund.

Open-market purchases provided for above may be made on any securities exchange where the fund's shares are traded, in the over-the-counter market or in negotiated transactions and may be on such terms as to price, delivery and otherwise as the Agent shall determine.

The Fund

### DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN (Unaudited) (CONTINUED)

Each Participant's uninvested funds held by the Agent will not bear interest, and it is understood that, in any event, the Agent shall have no liability in connection with any inability to purchase shares within 30 days after the initial date of such purchase as herein provided, or with the timing of any purchase effected. The Agent shall have no responsibility as to the value of the fund's shares acquired for each Participant's account. For the purpose of cash investments, the Agent may commingle each Participant's fund with those of other shareholders of the fund for whom the Agent similarly acts as Agent, and the average price (including brokerage commissions) of all shares purchased by the Agent as Agent shall be the price per share allocable to each Participant in connection therewith.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

The Agent may hold each Participant's shares acquired pursuant to the Plan together with the shares of other shareholders of the fund acquired pursuant to the Plan in noncertificated form in the Agent's name or that of the Agent's nominee. The Agent will forward to each Participant any proxy solicitation material; and will vote any shares so held for each Participant first in accordance with the instructions set forth on proxies returned by the participant to the fund, and then with respect to any proxies not returned by the participant to the fund in the same portion as the agent votes proxies returned by the participants to the fund. Upon a Participant's written request, the Agent will deliver to the Participant, without charge, a certificate or certificates for the full shares.

The Agent will confirm to each Participant each acquisition made for their account as soon as practicable but not later than 60 days after the date thereof. Although each Participant may from time to time have an undivided fractional interest (computed to four decimal places) in a share of the fund, no certificates for a fractional share will be issued. However, dividends and distributions on fractional shares will be credited to each Participant's account. In the event of termination of a Participant's account under the Plan, the Agent will adjust for any such undivided fractional interest in cash at the market value of the fund's shares at the time of termination.

Any share dividends or split shares distributed by the fund on shares held by the Agent for Participants will be credited to their accounts. In the event that the fund makes available to its shareholders rights to purchase additional shares of other securities, the shares held for each Participant under the Plan will be added to other shares held by the Participant in calculating the number of rights to be issued to each Participant.

The Agent's service fee for handling capital gains distributions or income dividends will be paid by the fund. Each Participant will be charged their pro rata share of brokerage commissions on all open-market purchases.

Each Participant may terminate their account under the Plan by notifying the Agent in writing. Such termination will be effectively immediately if the Participant's notice is received by the Agent not less than ten days prior to any dividend or distribution record date, otherwise such termination will be effective shortly after the investment of such dividend distributions with respect to any subsequent dividend or distribution. The Plan may be terminated by the Agent or the fund upon notice in writing mailed to each Participant at least 90 days prior to any record date for the payment of any dividend or distribution by the fund. Upon any termination, the Agent will cause a certificate or certificates to be issued for the full shares held for each Participant under the Plan and cash adjustment for any fraction to be delivered to them without charge. If a Participant elects by notice to the Agent in writing in advance of such termination to have the Agent sell part or all of their shares and remit the proceeds to them, the Agent is authorized to deduct a \$5.00 fee plus brokerage commission for this transaction from the proceeds.

These terms and conditions may be amended or supplemented by the Agent or the Fund at any time or times but, except when necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable law or the rules or policies of the Securities and Exchange Commission or any other regulatory authority, only by mailing to each Participant appropriate written notice at least 30 days prior to the effective date thereof. The amendment or supplement shall be deemed to be accepted by each Participant unless, prior to

The Fund

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN (Unaudited) (CONTINUED)

the effective date thereof, the Agent receives written notice of the termination of their account under the Plan. Any such amendment may include an appointment

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

by the Agent in its place and stead of a successor Agent under these terms and conditions, with full power and authority to perform all or any of the acts to be performed by the Agent under these terms and conditions. Upon any such appointment of any Agent for the purpose of receiving dividends and distributions, the fund will be authorized to pay to such successor Agent, for each Participant's account, all dividends and distributions payable on shares of the fund held in their name or under the Plan for retention or application by such successor Agent as provided in these terms and conditions.

The Agent shall at all times act in good faith and agree to use its best efforts within reasonable limits to insure the accuracy of all services performed under this Agreement and to comply with applicable law, but assumes no responsibility and shall not be liable for loss or damage due to errors unless such error is caused by the Agent's negligence, bad faith, or willful misconduct or that of its employees.

These terms and conditions shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

BOARD MEMBERS INFORMATION (Unaudited)

JOSEPH S. DIMARTINO (59)

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD (1998)

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

\* Corporate Director and Trustee

OTHER BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

\* The Muscular Dystrophy Association, Director

\* Levcor International, Inc., an apparel fabric processor, Director

\* Century Business Services, Inc., a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, Director

\* The Newark Group, a provider of a national market of paper recovery facilities, paperboard mills and paperboard converting plants, Director

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 191

-----

JAMES FITZGIBBONS (68)

BOARD MEMBER (1998)

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

\* Chairman of the Board, Davidson Cotton Company (1998-2001)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

\* Howes Leather Corporation, Director

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 25

-----

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

J. TOMLINSON FORT (74)

BOARD MEMBER (1998)

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

\* Of Counsel, Reed Smith LLP (1998-Present)

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 25

-----

KENNETH A. HIMMEL (56)

BOARD MEMBER (1998)

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

\* President and CEO, Related Urban Development Company, a real estate development company (1996-Present)

\* President and CEO, Himmel & Company, a real estate development company (1980-Present)

\* CEO, American Food Management, a restaurant company (1983-Present)

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 25

The Fund

BOARD MEMBERS INFORMATION (Unaudited) (CONTINUED)

STEPHEN J. LOCKWOOD (55)

BOARD MEMBER (1998)

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

\* Chairman of the Board, Stephen J. Lockwood and Company LLC, an investment company (2000-Present)

\* Chairman of the Board and CEO, LDG Reinsurance Corporation (1977-2000)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

\* BDML Holdings, an insurance company, Chairman of the Board

\* Affiliated Managers Group, an investment management company, Director

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 25

-----

ROSLYN WATSON (53)

BOARD MEMBER (1998)

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

\* Principal, Watson Ventures, Inc., a real estate investment company (1993-Present)

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

### OTHER BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

- \* American Express Centurion Bank, Director
- \* The Hyams Foundation Inc., a Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Trustee
- \* National Osteoporosis Foundation, Trustee

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 25

-----

BENAREE PRATT WILEY (56)

BOARD MEMBER (1998)

### PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS:

- \* President and CEO, The Partnership, an organization dedicated to increasing the Representation of African Americans in positions of leadership, influence and decision-making in Boston, MA (1991-Present)

### OTHER BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

- \* Boston College, Trustee
- \* The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Director
- \* The First Albany Companies, Inc., an investment bank, Director
- \* Mass. Development, Director
- \* Commonwealth Institute, Director
- \* Efficacy Institute, Director
- \* PepsiCo Africa-America, Advisory Board

NO. OF PORTFOLIOS FOR WHICH BOARD MEMBER SERVES: 25

-----

ONCE ELECTED ALL BOARD MEMBERS SERVE FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD MEMBERS, INCLUDING THEIR ADDRESS IS AVAILABLE IN THE FUND'S STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM DREYFUS FREE OF CHARGE BY CALLING THIS TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-554-4611.

RUTH MARIE ADAMS, EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER

FRANCIS P. BRENNAN, EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER

### OFFICERS OF THE FUND (Unaudited)

STEPHEN E. CANTER, PRESIDENT SINCE MARCH 2000.

Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Manager, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 188 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Canter also is a Board member and, where applicable, an Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SINCE NOVEMBER 2002.

Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a Director of the Manager, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 188 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Byers also is an Officer, Director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since January 2000. Prior to joining the Manager, he served as an Executive Vice President-Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

GERALD E. THUNELIUS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SINCE NOVEMBER 2001.

Director of the Long Term Taxable Fixed Income Team and Senior Portfolio Manager of the Manager, and an officer of 1 investment company (comprised of 1 portfolio) managed by the Manager. He is 38 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1989.

MARK N. JACOBS, VICE PRESIDENT SINCE MARCH 2000.

Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 95 investment companies (comprised of 204 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1977.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, SECRETARY SINCE MARCH 2000.

Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Manager, and an officer of 95 investment companies (comprised of 204 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 53 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since July 1980.

JEFF PRUSNOFSKY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SINCE MARCH 2000.

Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 23 investment companies (comprised of 82 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 37 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1990.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SINCE MARCH 2000.

Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 93 investment companies (comprised of 200 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 42 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1991.

The Fund

OFFICERS OF THE FUND (Unaudited) (CONTINUED)

JAMES WINDELS, TREASURER SINCE NOVEMBER 2001.

Director - Mutual Fund Accounting of the Manager, and an officer of 95 investment companies (comprised of 204 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since April 1985.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, ASSISTANT TREASURER SINCE DECEMBER 2002.

Senior Accounting Manager - Taxable Fixed Income Funds of the Manager, and an officer of 18 investment companies (comprising 76 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 34 years old and had been an employee of the Manager since November 1992.

## Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, ASSISTANT TREASURER SINCE NOVEMBER 2001.

Mutual Funds Tax Director of the Manager, and an officer of 95 investment companies (comprised of 204 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 48 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1993.

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

### DIRECTORS

Joseph S. DiMartino, Chairman  
James M. Fitzgibbons  
J. Tomlinson Fort  
Kenneth A. Himmel  
Stephen J. Lockwood  
Roslyn M. Watson  
Benaree Pratt Wiley

### OFFICERS

#### President

Stephen E. Canter

#### Executive Vice President

Stephen R. Byers  
Gerald E. Thunelius

#### Vice President

Mark N. Jacobs

#### Secretary

Steven F. Newman

#### Assistant Secretaries

Jeff Prusnofsky  
Michael A. Rosenberg

#### Treasurer

James Windels

#### Assistant Treasurers

Erik D. Naviloff  
Kenneth J. Sandgren

### PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

Keith Chan  
Martin F. Fetherston  
Louis Geser

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Michael Hoeh  
William Howarth  
Greg Jordan  
Kenneth D. Smalley  
Gerald E. Thunelius  
Samual Weinstock

INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Dreyfus Corporation

CUSTODIAN

Mellon Bank, N.A.

COUNSEL

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP

TRANSFER AGENT, DIVIDEND DISBURSING AGENT

Mellon Investor Services LLC

STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING

NYSE Symbol: DHF

INITIAL SEC EFFECTIVE DATE

4/23/98

THE NET ASSET VALUE APPEARS IN THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS: BARRON'S, CLOSED-END BOND FUNDS SECTION UNDER THE HEADING "MUNICIPAL BOND FUNDS" EVERY MONDAY; WALL STREET JOURNAL, MUTUAL FUNDS SECTION UNDER THE HEADING "CLOSED-END BOND FUNDS" EVERY MONDAY; NEW YORK TIMES, BUSINESS SECTION UNDER THE HEADING "CLOSED-END BOND FUNDS--SINGLE STATE MUNICIPAL BOND FUNDS" EVERY SUNDAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 23(C) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940, AS AMENDED, THAT THE FUND MAY PURCHASE SHARES OF ITS COMMON STOCK IN THE OPEN MARKET WHEN IT CAN DO SO AT PRICES BELOW THE THEN CURRENT NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE.

The Fund

For More Information

Dreyfus  
High Yield Strategies Fund  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

Manager

The Dreyfus Corporation  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

Custodian

Edgar Filing: DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND - Form N-30D

Mellon Bank, N.A.  
One Mellon Bank Center  
Pittsburgh, PA 15258

Transfer Agent &  
Dividend Disbursing Agent

Mellon Investor Services LLC  
Overpeck Centre  
85 Challenger Road  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

(c) 2003 Dreyfus Service Corporation

430AR0303