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21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP

Form DEF 14A

April 30, 2002

NOTICE OF 2002 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDER  
AND PROXY STATEMENT

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CORPORATE INFORMATION

CORPORATE OFFICES

21st Century Plaza  
6301 Owensmouth Avenue  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
(818) 704-3700

INTERNET SITE

i21.com

INVESTOR RELATIONS

(818) 704-3595

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

(818) 704-3065

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

American Stock  
Transfer & Trust Company  
40 Wall Street  
New York, NY 10005

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
350 South Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2002, at Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, in the Ahmanson Hall.

TRADING INFORMATION

The Common Stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "TW".

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NOTICE OF 2002 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
AND PROXY STATEMENT

=====  
21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP

Woodland Hills, California 91367

Dear Shareholder,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of 21st Century Insurance Group on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at the Skirball Cultural Center, Ahmanson Hall, 2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049.

Details of the business to be conducted at the annual meeting are given in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement.

Whether or not you plan to attend, it is important that your shares be represented and voted at the meeting. I therefore urge you to sign, date and promptly return your proxy card in the enclosed self-addressed envelope or to use one of the other available methods (by telephone or the Internet) so your shares can be voted in accordance with your instructions. You may attend the annual meeting and vote in person, if you so decide.

Tickets for the meeting are not required, though we ask that attendees sign the attendance register prior to the commencement of the meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our appreciation for your continued interest in the affairs of the Company.

Sincerely,

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]

ROBERT M. SANDLER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

-----  
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

We encourage you to sign and return your proxy card or use the telephone or the Internet for voting your shares prior to the meeting.  
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21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
JUNE 26, 2002

=====  
The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of 21st Century Insurance Group ("21st

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Century" or "Company") will be held at the Skirball Cultural Center, Ahmanson Hall, 2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049 on June 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

1. To elect nine directors.
2. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent accountants for 2002.
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 10, 2002 as the record date for the determination of those shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

MICHAEL J. CASSANEGO  
SECRETARY

Woodland Hills, California  
DATED: April 29, 2002

-----  
IMPORTANT

Whether or not you expect to attend in person, we urge you to sign, date and return the enclosed Proxy, by mail, telephone or the Internet at your earliest convenience. This will ensure the presence of a quorum at the meeting. PROMPTLY SUBMITTING THE PROXY WILL SAVE THE COMPANY THE EXPENSE AND EXTRA WORK OF ADDITIONAL SOLICITATION. You can also vote your stock at the meeting if you desire to do so, as your Proxy is revocable at your option.  
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21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP  
6301 OWENSMOUTH AVENUE  
WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91367

=====  
PROXY STATEMENT  
FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD JUNE 26, 2002  
=====

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Card are solicited by the Board of Directors of 21st Century Insurance Group for

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use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at the Skirball Cultural Center, Ahmanson Hall, 2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049. These proxy materials are proposed to be sent on or about April 29, 2002 to all shareholders of the Company's common stock of record as of April 10, 2002. The Company's principal executive office is located at 6301 Owensmouth Avenue, Woodland Hills, California 91367.

All proxies, properly executed and returned, will be voted at the annual meeting as directed by the shareholder. Any shareholder may revoke a proxy by giving written notice to the Company, by submitting a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or by voting in person at the meeting. If no directions are indicated, the shares represented by the signed proxy will be voted FOR the election of the nominees and FOR ratifying the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent accountants for 2002. The cost of the solicitation of these proxies is to be borne by the Company.

Only shareholders of the Company's common stock at the close of business on April 10, 2002 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. As of that date, 85,368,891 shares of common stock without par value of 21st Century Insurance Group were outstanding. A quorum represented by a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock, present in person or by proxy, is necessary to conduct the meeting. In the election of directors, nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes cast, up to the number of the directors to be elected, are elected. Each share is entitled to one vote on all matters except for the election of directors. In electing directors, each shareholder is entitled to that number of votes which is equal to the number of shares held multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. If notice of intention to cumulate votes is given by any shareholder, all shareholders may cumulate their votes and give one nominee all of those votes, or they may distribute the votes among as many nominees as the shareholder deems fit. Votes withheld from any director are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business. The Company believes that abstentions should be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting for the transaction of business. In the absence of controlling precedent to the contrary, the Company intends to count broker non-votes as present or represented for purposes of determining the absence of a quorum for the transaction of business.

If there are nominees other than those designated by the Board of Directors, the proxyholders have discretionary authority to cumulate votes, which they will do through instructions from the Board, with the objective of electing as many of the nominees of the Board of Directors as possible. The effect of the decision of the proxyholders to exercise their discretionary authority to cumulate votes will be to make it more difficult for nominees, other than those designated by the Board of Directors, to be elected.

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### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

#### PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The following table lists the beneficial ownership of each person or group who owned as of March 31, 2002, to the Company's knowledge, more than five percent of any class of its outstanding voting securities.

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TITLE OF CLASS	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
Common	AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC. ("AIG") Through its subsidiaries: American Home Assurance Company, Commerce & Industry Insurance Company, National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. and New Hampshire Insurance Company 70 Pine Street New York, NY 10270	53,44
Common	AMERICAN UNION INSURANCE COMPANY 2205 East Empire Street, Suite A Bloomington, IL 61704	6,02
Common	CAPITAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COMPANY 333 South Hope Street Los Angeles, CA 90071	4,29

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MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP

The following table summarizes the ownership of equity securities of 21st Century Insurance Group and an affiliated company, AIG, by the directors, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, former Chief Executive Officer and the four other highest paid executive officers, and the directors and officers as a group.

EQUITY SECURITIES OF 21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP AS OF MARCH 31, 2002				
TITLE OF CLASS	NAME OF BENEFICIAL OWNER	21ST CENTURY		AIG
		AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (1) AS OF MARCH 31, 2002	PERCENT OF CLASS	AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP AS OF MARCH 31, 2002
Common	Robert M. Sandler	20,000 (2)	*	
Common	John B. De Nault, III	1,233,700 (2)	1.4%	
Common	William N. Dooley	12,000 (3)	*	
Common	R. Scott Foster	62,080 (2)	*	
Common	Roxani M. Gillespie	12,000 (3)	*	
Common	James P. Miscoll	14,195 (3)	*	
Common	Gregory M. Shepard	6,046,200 (2) (4)	7.1%	
Common	Howard I. Smith	20,000 (2)	*	
Common	Bruce W. Marlow	165,564 (5)	*	



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[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
WILLIAM N. DOOLEY

DIRECTOR SINCE 1998  
Senior Vice President, AIG Financial Services, located in New York, NY. He also serves as a Director of International Lease Finance Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIG. AGE 49

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
R. SCOTT FOSTER, M.D.

DIRECTOR SINCE 1986  
Ophthalmologist in Stockton, CA and Clinical Professor at Stanford University. He is the son of the late Louis W. Foster, Founder of the Company. AGE 61

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
ROXANI M. GILLESPIE

DIRECTOR SINCE 1998  
Partner in the law firm of Barger & Wolen located in San Francisco, CA since 1997. Previously, Ms. Gillespie was a member of the law firm of Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger for 7 years. She was the California Insurance Commissioner from 1986 to 1991. AGE 61

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
BRUCE W. MARLOW

DIRECTOR SINCE 2000  
Vice Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company. Prior to joining the Company in February 2000, Mr. Marlow was employed by Allstate Corporation, since 1999, as Senior Vice President and President of its Independent Agency Markets subsidiary. Before retiring for three years, he served Progressive Corporation from 1978-96, holding various positions including Chief Operating Officer from 1988-1996. AGE 53

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[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
JAMES P. MISCOLL

DIRECTOR SINCE 1998  
Retired as Vice Chairman of Bank of America in 1992. Mr. Miscoll currently serves as consultant for AIG, and as director of Chela Financial, East West Bank, Encore Productions, MK Gold Company and Westinghouse Air Brake Company. AGE 67

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
GREGORY M. SHEPARD

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DIRECTOR SINCE 1995

AGE 46

Chairman of the Board and President of American Union Insurance Company (AUIC) since 1985. Previously, Mr. Shepard also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of Direct Auto Insurance Company, which changed its name to AUIC in 1998, and American Union Financial Corporation, American Union Life Insurance Company, and Direct Auto Indemnity Company, which merged into AUIC in 1998 and 1999. In addition, he was Chairman and President of Illinois HealthCare Insurance Company, resigning in 2000.

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
HOWARD I. SMITH

DIRECTOR SINCE 1994

AGE 57

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of AIG located in New York, NY. Mr. Smith currently serves as a director of Transatlantic Holdings, Inc., a majority-owned subsidiary of AIG; and International Lease Finance Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIG.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following is information concerning the executive officers of the Company.

OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY	AGE	HAS SERVED AS AN OFFICER SINCE	BUSINESS BACKGROUND
BRUCE W. MARLOW	53	2000	Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining the Company in February 2000, Mr. Marlow was employed by Allstate Corporation, as Senior Vice President and President of its Agency Markets subsidiary. Before retiring from Allstate in 1996, he served Progressive Corporation from 1978 to 1996 in various positions including Chief Operating Officer from 1988-1996.
RICHARD A. ANDRE	52	1988	Senior Vice President, Human Resources. Before joining the Company in 1988, Mr. Andre was with Fidelity National Insurance Company. Prior to that time, he was employed by Fidelity National Insurance Corporation where he held a variety of positions including Vice President of Personnel for Safeco Title Insurance Company.



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MICHAEL J. CASSANEGO	51	1999	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Mr. Cassanego joined the Company in March 2001. Previously, he was employed by Fremont Compensation Insurance Group, which he joined in 1997. Mr. Cassanego was employed by Fremont's acquisition of Industrial Indemnity Company, serving in several positions including Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel.
G. EDWARD COMBS	49	2000	Senior Vice President, New Business. Mr. Combs joined the Company in 2000. Previously, he was employed by Fremont Compensation Insurance Corporation for 22 years, serving in various positions.
MICHAEL A. GOGGIO	36	2001	Vice President, Finance. Mr. Goggio joined the Company in June 2001. He was previously employed as Vice President, Corporate Auditor by GuideOne Insurance Group from 1997 to 2001 and as Assistant Vice President and Controller at United Insurance Company from 1993 to 1997.

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OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY	AGE	HAS SERVED AS AN OFFICER SINCE	BUSINESS BACKGROUND
DOUGLAS K. HOWELL	40	2001	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Howell joined the Company in April 2001. Previously, he was employed by GuideOne Insurance Group from 1997 to 2001 as Vice President, Finance and Corporate Development of its affiliate, Bankers Life Holding Company, from 1997 to 1999.
JOHN L. INGERSOLL	36	2001	Vice President, New Customer Marketing. Prior to joining the Company in February 2001, Mr. Ingersoll served as Vice President of NetCubator, LLC from September 2000 to February 2001; Senior Vice President of InsWeb Corporation from 1999 to 2000; and Senior Vice President, Business Development of Countrywide Financial from 1996 to 1999.
JOHN M. LORENTZ	49	1996	Controller. Mr. Lorentz joined the Company in 1996. He was previously employed by Transamerica Financial Group as Vice President and Controller in 1995 and as Assistant Controller from 1990 to 1995.
JOSEPH J. PRATT	53	1995	Vice President and Chief Actuary. Mr. Pratt joined the Company in 1995. He was an actuary with Farmers Insurance Group from June 1994 to October 1995. He also served as Vice President and Actuary for Transamerica Insurance Group from 1990 to 1995.
ERIC SAUDI	55	2001	Vice President, Customer Care. Mr. Saudi joined the Company in July 1978, serving in various claim positions including Assistant Vice President. He was promoted to Vice President in October 2001. He has over 26 years in the insurance industry.
CAREN L. SILVESTRI	48	2000	Vice President and Product Manager. Ms. Silvestri joined the Company in 1982, serving in various positions including Vice President, Product Manager and Secretary.

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			Operations and Underwriting. She has over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry.
DEAN E. STARK	48	1993	Senior Vice President, Claims. Mr. Stark joined the Company in 1979, serving in numerous claim positions including Vice President. He has over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry.
JOHN M. VRIJMOET	40	2000	Vice President, Consumer Marketing. Mr. Vrijmoet joined the Company in July 2000. He was previously Vice President of Progressive Corporation, serving in various management positions from 1991 to 2000.

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Each executive officer serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Every person chosen by the Board of Directors to be an executive officer is listed above.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The business of the Company is managed under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Board meets on a regularly scheduled basis during the year to review significant developments affecting the Company and to act on matters requiring Board approval. It also holds special meetings when an important matter requires Board action between scheduled meetings. The Board of Directors met six times during 2001. Each Board member participated in at least 75% of the meetings of the Board and Committees of the Board on which he or she served.

The Board of Directors has standing audit and compensation committees, identified below. The Company does not have a standing nominating committee. The functions of a nominating committee are performed by the Board as a whole.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE.** The Compensation Committee met once last year. The Compensation Committee reviews and approves compensation policies, except those related to equities, and makes recommendations regarding executive compensation to the Board of Directors. No member of the Committee is a former or current officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Current members of the Committee are Robert M. Sandler, William N. Dooley, R. Scott Foster, James P. Miscoll and Gregory M. Shepard.

**EQUITY BASED COMPENSATION COMMITTEE.** The Equity Based Compensation Committee met once last year. The Committee reviews and approves equity-based compensation policies and makes recommendations regarding equity-based compensation to the Board of Directors. No member of the Committee is a former or current officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Members of the Committee are John B. De Nault, III, R. Scott Foster and Gregory M. Shepard.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE.** The Audit Committee met four times during 2001. Pursuant to the charter approved by the Board of Directors, it recommends to the Board of Directors the appointment of the firm selected to be independent auditors for the Company, reviews the Company's procedures and accounting objectives, reviews and approves the findings and reports of the independent auditors, and makes recommendations and reports to the Board of Directors as it deems appropriate. Current members of the Committee, who the Board believes are independent per the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange, are John B. De Nault, III, R. Scott Foster and Gregory M. Shepard.

### REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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The Audit Committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process including the systems of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Committee reviewed the audited financial statements in the Annual Report with management including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The Committee reviewed with the independent auditors, who are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles, their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, the Committee has discussed with the independent auditors the auditors'

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independence from the Company and its management including the matters in the written disclosures required by the Independence Standards Board and considered the compatibility of non-audit services with the auditors' independence. The consulting services provided by the independent auditors in 2001 were limited to certain technical tax matters and financial reporting developments, which the Committee believes do not impair the auditors' independence.

The Committee discussed with the Company's internal and independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Committee meets with the internal and independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, this Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Audit Committee's recommendations as outlined in this report have been submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

Submitted by the Audit Committee

John B. De Nault III  
R. Scott Foster  
Gregory M. Shepard

### COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

For 2001, each outside director of the Company received an annual remuneration of \$15,000. All directors received \$1,250 for each attended meeting of the Board of Directors. In addition, each committee member received \$1,250 for each attended meeting of a committee, if otherwise entitled. No director is entitled to more than \$1,250 for any calendar day, regardless of the number of meetings attended on that day. Under the Company's 1995 Stock Option Plan, nonemployee directors receive an option to purchase 4,000 shares of the Company's common stock on the day of each Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the date on which the individual initially becomes a director. The options have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the underlying shares subject to the option on

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the date of grant and become exercisable one year after the date of grant.

Ms. Gillespie is a partner in the law firm of Barger & Wolen who rendered services to the Company currently not exceeding 5% of its gross revenues.

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### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

#### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth the annual and long-term compensation and the compensation paid during each of the Company's last three years to the Company's Chief Executive Officer and the four highest-paid executive officers (the "Named Executives"), based on base salary and bonus earned during 2001.

NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	YEAR	ANNUAL COMPENSATION			LONG TERM COM	
		SALARY (\$)	BONUS (\$)	OTHER ANNUAL COMPENSATION (\$) (1)	RESTRICTED STOCK AWARDS (\$) (3)	SECURIT UNDERLY OPTIO (#) (4)
Bruce W. Marlow CEO, President, COO, Vice Chairman and Director	2001	704,327	150,000		--	610
	2000	550,000	250,000		600,000	100
	1999	--	--		--	
G. Edward Combs Senior Vice President, Marketing	2001	311,181	35,000			77
	2000	200,000	75,000		300,000	87
	1999	--	--		--	
Michael J. Cassanego Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary	2001	274,423	41,250		--	68
	2000	245,000	50,000		--	69
	1999	187,320	65,000		230,000	20
Dean E. Stark Senior Vice President Claims	2001	249,230	37,500		--	64
	2000	210,000	50,000		--	58
	1999	171,000	50,000		171,000	15
Richard A. Andre Senior Vice President Human Resources	2001	223,212	33,541		--	57
	2000	203,100	20,000		--	57
	1999	194,100	40,000		194,100	12

#### OPTION GRANTS AND EXERCISES IN 2001

The following table sets forth as to each of the Named Executives information with respect to options granted for the year ended December 31, 2001 and the present value of the options on the date of grant.

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NAME	NUMBER OF OPTIONS GRANTED (1)	PERCENT OF TOTAL OPTIONS GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN 2001	EXERCISE OR BASE PRICE (\$/SH) (1)	EXPIRATION DATE	P
Bruce W. Marlow	610,571	33.5%	\$18.15	06/06/11	
G. Edward Combs	77,462	4.25 %	\$18.15	06/06/11	
Michael J. Cassanego	68,408	3.75 %	\$18.15	06/06/11	
Dean E. Stark	64,676	3.54 %	\$18.15	06/06/11	
Richard A. Andre	57,214	3.14 %	\$18.15	06/06/11	

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DECEMBER 31, 2001 OPTION VALUES

The following table provides information as to the value of options held by each of the Named Executives at December 31, 2001. No options were exercised by the Named Executives during 2001.

AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES DURING THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND DECEMBER 31, 2001 OPTION VALUES

NAME	SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE (#)	VALUE REALIZED (\$)	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS AT DECEMBER 31, 2001 (#)		EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE	EXERCISABLE VALUE AT DECEMBER 31, 2001
			EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE			
Bruce W. Marlow	--	--	120,772	589,799	120,772	469,027	165,000
G. Edward Combs	--	--	29,031	135,525	29,031	106,494	65,000
Michael J. Cassanego	--	--	36,396	121,200	36,396	84,804	70,000
Dean E. Stark	--	--	79,663	109,001	79,663	29,338	68,000
Richard A. Andre	--	--	69,190	99,593	69,190	30,403	63,000

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION

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The Compensation Committee, consisting of nonemployee directors Robert M. Sandler, William N. Dooley, R. Scott Foster, James P. Miscoll and Gregory M. Shepard, has furnished the following report on executive compensation:

### GENERAL COMPENSATION POLICY

The Board of Directors' fundamental policy has been to offer the Company's executive officers competitive compensation opportunities based in large part upon their contributions to the success of the Company, and upon their personal performance. The Company believes in compensating its executives for demonstrated and sustained levels of performance in their individual jobs. The achievement of higher levels of performance and contribution is rewarded by higher levels of compensation. In November 2000, the Board of Directors, pursuant to the recommendations of the Equity Based Compensation and Compensation Committees, revised the criteria for short-term compensation and long-term incentives for its officers.

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The compensation package is comprised of these three elements:

- o base salary, perquisites and other personal benefits designed principally to be competitive with relevant compensation levels in the industry;
- o short-term cash compensation based upon performance levels achieved in relation to pre-established target levels; and
- o long-term incentive plan providing only stock option grants to its officers also based upon their performance levels.

Some of the more important factors, which the Board considered in establishing the components of each executive officer's compensation package for the 2001 fiscal year, are summarized below.

**BASE SALARY.** Base salary for each officer is set subjectively, after reviewing personal performance, internal comparability considerations and salary levels in effect for comparable positions in the market place. The Company uses salary survey information to assign a salary grade range to each position, including executive officers. Salary range midpoints are targeted at the 50th percentile of like business enterprises in the same geographic area, if possible.

Salary recommendations for the year were based in part upon salary survey information published by the National Association of Independent Insurers, SNL Executive Compensation Review for Insurance Companies, and Sibson & Company. The Committee believes that information provided by these groups presents a broadly based cross-section of insurance company compensation practices. Individual salary adjustments for executive officers were based upon analysis of base salary levels, effectiveness of performance, changes in job responsibilities and a subjective assessment of their personal contributions to the effectiveness of the organization as a whole. All of the factors enumerated were applied in a subjective, non-quantitative manner to establish an executive officer's base salary. The peer group examined when establishing these compensation levels is different from the industry group utilized in the Stockholder Return Performance Graph shown on page 18.

**SHORT-TERM COMPENSATION.** Variable payments for the officers are based upon the enhancement of value to the shareholders and customers as measured by pre-established targets relative to the Company's revenue growth rate and GAAP combined ratio.

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LONG-TERM INCENTIVE COMPENSATION. In 1995, the Compensation Committee concluded that a stock option plan would improve the linkage between shareholder value and executive compensation. Upon this Committee's recommendation, the Board of Directors adopted the 1995 Stock Option Plan. Shareholders approved the plan and amendments thereto at the 1995, 1997 and 2000 Annual Meetings. Executives and key employees are eligible to receive stock options from time to time, giving them the right to purchase shares of the Company's common stock at a specified price in the future. The Plan is currently administered by the Equity Based Compensation Committee, which has authority to select optionees and to determine the number of shares granted to them.

CEO COMPENSATION. Bruce W. Marlow's annual salary of \$700,000 was established by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee and took into account the fact that he would hold the offices of Chief Executive Officer and President. For year 2001, Mr. Marlow was awarded 610,571 stock options under the 1995 Stock Option Plan and a cash bonus of \$150,000 for services rendered in 2001, based upon an evaluation by the Compensation Committee of his year 2001 performance. In addition to subjective factors, the factors considered for both salary and bonus consideration included the Company's overall underwriting performance as measured by its GAAP combined ratio.

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The Compensation Committee's recommendations as outlined in this report have been submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Company has reviewed Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code which generally limits the deduction of compensation paid to a company's chief executive officer and each of the other four highest compensated executive officers to \$1,000,000 for each individual, with certain exceptions. The Company's deductions for compensation paid during 2001 were not limited by Section 162(m). None of the compensation deduction attributable to stock options granted by the Company is limited by this section, but compensation deductions attributable to restricted stock grants, generally equaling the fair market value of the underlying stock on the date of vesting, do not qualify as an exception. The deductibility of compensation attributable to restricted stock grants or other forms of compensation paid by the Company may be limited in the future. While the Compensation Committee considers Section 162(m) in evaluating compensation of executive officers, it is only one of several factors considered in arriving at a compensation package.

Submitted by the Compensation Committee.

Robert M. Sandler  
William N. Dooley  
R. Scott Foster  
James P. Miscoll  
Gregory M. Shepard

### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

As indicated above, the Company's Compensation Committee consists of Robert M. Sandler, William N. Dooley, R. Scott Foster, James P. Miscoll and Gregory M. Shepard. No Committee member is or was an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

Bruce W. Marlow, Director and Chief Executive Officer also participated in deliberations concerning executive officers' compensation during 2001, other

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than his own. Mr. Marlow has been Chief Executive Officer and a director since February 9, 2000.

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### STOCKHOLDER RETURN PERFORMANCE GRAPH

Set forth below is a line graph comparing the cumulative total stockholder return on the Company's Common Stock against the cumulative total return of the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index and the Standard & Poor's Property & Casualty Insurance Index for the period of five years commencing December 31, 1996 and ending December 31, 2001. The graph and table assume the \$100 was invested on December 31, 1996 in each of the Company's Common Stock, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index and the Standard & Poor's Property & Casualty Insurance Index, and that all dividends were reinvested. This data was furnished by Research Data Group, Inc.

[LINE CHART OMITTED]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
21st Century (TW)	\$100	\$155.81	\$142.07	\$122.47	\$92.88	\$129.06
S&P 500	\$100	\$133.36	\$171.47	\$207.56	\$188.66	\$166.24
S&P P&C	\$100	\$145.47	\$135.35	\$100.89	\$157.14	\$144.50

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### RETIREMENT PLANS

#### PENSION PLAN

The Company's Pension Plan is a noncontributory defined benefit plan for all regular employees under which normal retirement is at age 65 and early retirement can be elected by any participant who has reached age 55 and has at least 10 years of service. The plan, subject to certain maximum and minimum provisions, bases pension benefits on an employee's career average compensation and length of service. The annual pension benefit payable upon normal retirement is equal to the sum of the accruals for each year a participant was in the plan.

At retirement, the participant has various life and contingent annuity payment elections. For purposes of this plan, compensation includes base annual salary plus overtime and bonuses. These pension benefits serve as an offset in calculating benefits for participants under the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN

Employees nominated by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Board of Directors are eligible to participate in the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. The plan is a nonqualified defined benefit plan under which normal retirement is age 65 with at least 5 years of service, and early retirement can



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be elected by any participant who has reached age 55 with at least 10 years of service. The annual retirement benefit payable for 15 years is equal to 60% of the average of the three highest consecutive years of compensation during the ten year period preceding retirement, reduced by the participant's benefit under the Pension Plan and 50% of the participant's social security benefit.

PENSION SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN AND 401(K) SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN

Effective January 1, 1996, the Company adopted the Pension Supplemental Plan and the 401(k) Supplemental Plan. Each is a non-qualified deferred compensation plan designed for certain executives and key employees of the Company whose benefits under the Company's qualified Pension and 401(k) Plans have been limited by certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code").

The Pension Supplemental Plan provides a benefit equal to the difference between the pension that would be payable under the Pension Plan, absent the Code's limitations upon compensation considered in calculating pension benefits, and the actual benefits payable subject to those limitations. If a participant in this plan is also entitled to receive benefits under the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, the Pension Supplemental Plan benefits will be reduced accordingly.

The 401(k) Supplemental Plan permits certain executives and key employees to defer an amount of current compensation which, in addition to amounts actually contributed to the 401(k) Plan, allows the participant to defer the full amount of contributions that could have been deferred under the 401(k) Plan without regard to limitations which the Code places on contributions and eligible compensation. To the extent that such limitations preclude a participant's account from receiving matching contributions under the 401(k) Plan, the participant will receive a like amount of matching contributions under the 401(k) Supplemental Plan.

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The table below sets forth the benefit payable for 15 years after retirement from the Pension Plan, Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, the Pension Supplemental Plan, and one half of the Social Security benefit (assuming the recipient is entitled to the age 65 Social Security benefit).

FINAL AVERAGE COMPENSATION	NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE		
	5	10	15 OR MORE
\$150,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 67,500	\$ 90,000
200,000	60,000	90,000	120,000
250,000	75,000	112,500	150,000
300,000	90,000	135,000	180,000
350,000	105,000	157,500	210,000
400,000	120,000	180,000	240,000
450,000	135,000	202,500	270,000
500,000	150,000	225,000	300,000
550,000	165,000	247,500	330,000
600,000	180,000	270,000	360,000
650,000	195,000	292,500	390,000

Any deduction for Social Security or other offset has already been taken into account.

As set forth above, compensation used in calculating the Pension, Supplemental

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Executive Retirement Plan and Pension Supplemental retirement benefit includes annual base salary, overtime and bonuses and will approximate and fall within 10% of the total of 1999 through 2001 salary and bonus amounts shown in the Summary Compensation Table for the listed individuals.

The credited years for the Named Executives in the Summary Compensation Table are Bruce W. Marlow -- 1 year; G. Edward Combs -- 1 year; Michael J. Cassanego -- 2 years; Dean E. Stark -- 22 years; and Richard A. Andre -- 13 years.

### RESTRICTED SHARES PLAN

The shareholders at their meeting held on May 23, 1982 approved the 21st Century Insurance Group Restricted Shares Plan. Pursuant to the Plan, the Board of Directors established a committee of its members currently entitled the Equity Based Compensation Committee (the "Committee") to designate the participants in the Plan, the amount of benefits thereunder, and to otherwise administer the Plan. Members of the Committee are not eligible for benefits under the Plan. Designation of an employee for benefits under the Restricted Shares Plan does not necessarily entitle the employee to benefits under any other Company benefit plan.

In general, the shares granted are restricted for a period of five years, vesting at the rate of 20% per year. If the employment of the participant is terminated within the five-year period, all shares not then vested are forfeited. Any shares forfeited may be regranted to an existing participant or any other employee eligible to be designated as a participant. During the restricted period, a participant has the right to receive dividends and the right to vote the shares.

The Plan does not create any right of any employee or class of employees to receive a grant, nor does it create in any employee or class of employees any right with respect to continuation of employment by the Company.

Presently, officers are not granted shares under this Plan.

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### STOCK OPTION PLAN

In 1995, the Company's shareholders approved the Company's 1995 Stock Option Plan in order to enable the Company to attract, retain and motivate key employees and nonemployee directors and to further align their interests with those of the Company's shareholders by providing for or increasing their proprietary interest in the Company. The Stock Option Plan is administered by a committee comprised of disinterested members of the Board of Directors. The committee has the authority to select persons to be granted options and to determine exercise prices, vesting schedules and other provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of the Stock Option Plan.

Each option gives a grantee the right to purchase shares of the Company's common stock at a specified price in the future. Shares vest at fixed numbers of shares per year over varying future periods. The Stock Option Plan provides that on the day of an annual meeting of shareholders of the Company each nonemployee director will be granted an option to purchase 4,000 shares of the Company's common stock. Nonemployee director options have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the underlying shares subject to the option on the date of grant and become exercisable one year after the date of grant.

### EXECUTIVE SEVERANCE PLAN

The Company has enacted an Executive Severance Plan covering each of its

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executive officers. If an officer is terminated for reasons other than death, long-term disability, or good cause within a three-year period following a change of control of the Company, or if the officer resigns after significant adverse changes in his authority, duties, compensation, benefits or geographical location, then the officer is entitled to a lump sum severance payment of one to three times his or her current annual salary and most recent cash bonus. Junior officers could receive one year of severance payments; senior officers, two years; and the Chief Executive Officer, three years; with all severance payments limited to the amount deductible to the Company under the provisions of Internal Revenue Code Section 280G.

### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's directors, executive officers and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of the Company's equity securities to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of Common Stock and other equity securities of the Company. Executive officers, directors and greater than ten percent shareholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

To the Company's knowledge, based solely on a review of reports furnished to the Company and written representations that no other reports were required during the 2001 fiscal year, all Section 16(a) filing requirements were complied with in a timely manner.

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### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

(PROPOSAL 2)

The Board of Directors has approved a resolution retaining PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as its independent accountants for 2002. The appointment was recommended by the Audit Committee. It is intended that unless otherwise directed by the shareholders, proxies will be voted for the ratification of this appointment.

On April 23, 2001, the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee and management, dismissed Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent accountants and approved the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent accountants to audit its consolidated financial statements for 2001. Ernst & Young LLP had audited the Company's financial statements since 1991.

During the two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period preceding this change in independent accountants, there were no reportable events within the meaning of Item 304(a)(v) of Regulation S-K. There were no disagreements between the Company and Ernst & Young LLP on any matters of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of either independent accounting firm, would have caused such firm to make a reference to the subject matter of the disagreements in connection with its reports. Also, during the last two fiscal years, reports from Ernst & Young LLP on the financial statements contained no adverse opinions or disclaimers of opinion and have not been qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles.

The Company provided PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Ernst & Young LLP with a

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copy of this disclosure. Ernst & Young LLP furnished a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission stating that Ernst & Young LLP agrees with the above statements.

Fees paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for 2001 were as follows:

Audit Fees	\$377,264
Financial Information Systems Design and Implementation Fees	0
All Other Fees (Tax Consulting)	189,876
	-----
	\$567,140

Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are expected to be present at the annual meeting to make a statement, if they desire, and to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

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### SHAREHOLDERS PROPOSALS AT 2003 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

If a shareholder desires to present a proposal at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company for the year 2003 (scheduled to be held on May 27, 2003), such proposal must conform with all of the requirements of Rule 14a-8, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and must be received at the principal executive offices of the Company at 6301 Owensmouth Avenue, Woodland Hills, California 91367 no later than December 31, 2002. In addition, if stockholders wish to present other matters for action at the 2003 annual meeting of stockholders (other than matters included in the Company's proxy materials in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), the Company must receive such notice at the address noted above by March 15, 2003.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2001 is being mailed to the shareholders along with this Proxy Statement.

THE COMPANY WILL PROVIDE WITHOUT CHARGE ON WRITTEN REQUEST A COPY OF 21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP'S ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. THE REQUEST SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE INVESTOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF 21ST CENTURY INSURANCE GROUP, 6301 OWENSMOUTH AVENUE, WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91367.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The Company is unaware of any matter to be acted upon at the meeting by shareholder vote except the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of independent accountants. In the case of any matter properly coming before the meeting for shareholder vote, the proxyholders named in the proxy accompanying this statement shall vote shares held by them in accordance with their best judgment.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ROBERT M. SANDLER  
Chairman of the Board

BRUCE W. MARLOW  
Vice Chairman of the Board

JOHN B. DE NAULT, III  
Director

WILLIAM N. DOOLEY  
Director

R. SCOTT FOSTER, M.D.  
Director

ROXANI M. GILLESPIE  
Director

JAMES P. MISCOLL  
Director

GREGORY M. SHEPARD  
Director

HOWARD I. SMITH  
Director

### COMPANY OFFICERS

BRUCE W. MARLOW  
Chief Executive Officer  
President

RICHARD A. ANDRE  
Sr. Vice President  
Human Resources

MICHAEL J. CASSANEGO  
Sr. Vice President  
General Counsel & Secretary

G. EDWARD COMBS  
Sr. Vice President  
New Business

DOUGLAS K. HOWELL  
Sr. Vice President  
Chief Financial Officer

DEAN E. STARK  
Sr. Vice President  
Claims

MARGARET CHANG  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary

MICHAEL A. GOGGIO  
Vice President

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Finance

JOHN L. INGERSOLL  
Vice President  
New Customer Marketing

JOHN M. LORENTZ  
Controller

JOSEPH J. PRATT  
Vice President  
Chief Actuary

ERIC SAUDI  
Vice President  
Customer Care

CAREN L. SILVESTRI  
Vice President  
Product Manager

JOHN M. VRIJMOET  
Vice President  
Consumer Marketing

- IBC -