"Stock Market Crash of 2002"

How the Drop in the Equity Market Affects Insurers

Southeastern Actuaries Conference Spring Meeting
June 19, 2003

Lorne Schinbein
Vice President and Marketing Actuary
Western Reserve Life Assurance Co. of Ohio



"Stock Market Crash of 2002"

	01/01/2002	12/31/ 2002	% CHG
• DJIA	10,021.70	8,341.63	- 16.8%
• S&P 500	1,148.08	879.82	- 23.4%
 Nasdaq Comp. 	1,965.18	1,335.51	- 32.0%



Crash is Really a "PILE-UP"

Period from 2000 Peak to Present (May 27, 2003):

		<u>2000 Peak</u>	<u>May 2003</u>	% CHG
•	DJIA	11,722.98	8,781.35	- 25.1%
•	S&P 500	1,527.46	951.48	- 37.7%
•	Nasdaq Comp.	5,048.62	1,556.69	- 69.2%



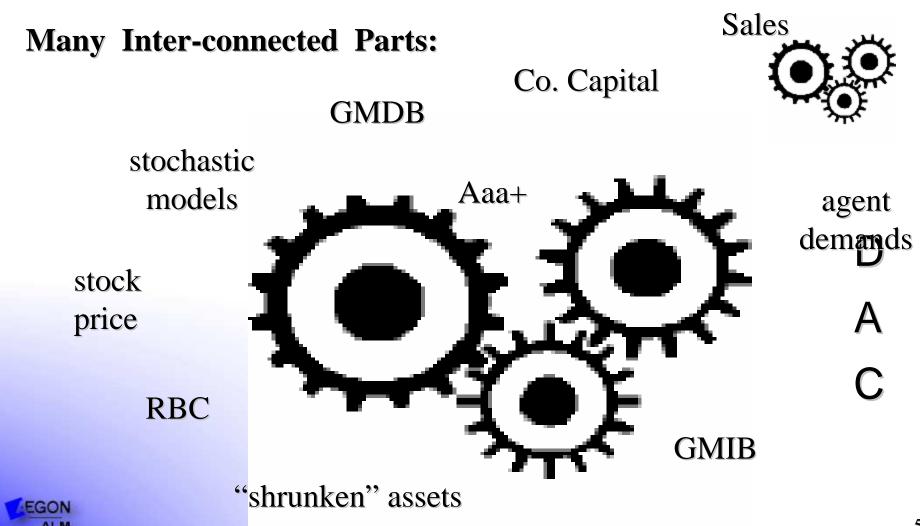
Presentation Outline

 Review some impacts of "Equity Market Performance" on insurance companies

 Watch Equity-Based Products compete to be the "Sole Survivor"?



Impact of Recent Equity Market



Impact of Recent Equity Market

- Stock Price
- Reduced Sales
- Shrunken Assets and "Revenue at Risk"
- Increased Reserves / Capital Needs
- DAC Write-downs
- Distribution / Consumer Demands
- More Robust Product Models Required



Insurance Company Stock Price

Period from 2000 Peak to Present (May 27, 2003):

		<u>2000 Peak</u>	May 2003	<u>% CHG</u>
•	DJ Insurance,			
	Life Index (US)	435.50	342.41	-21.4%



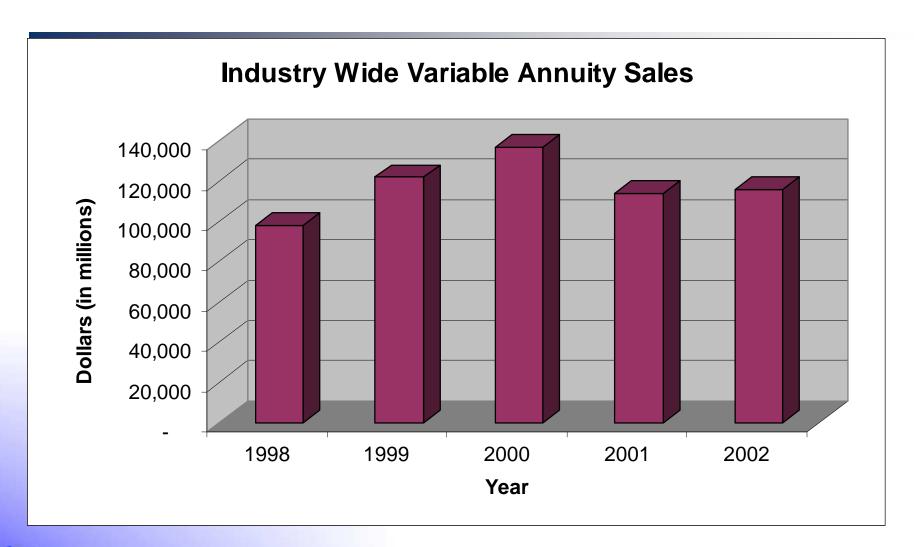
Insurance Company Stock Price

RESPONSE

- Expense Controls
- Product Re-pricing (or exit altogether)
- Sell non-core blocks of business

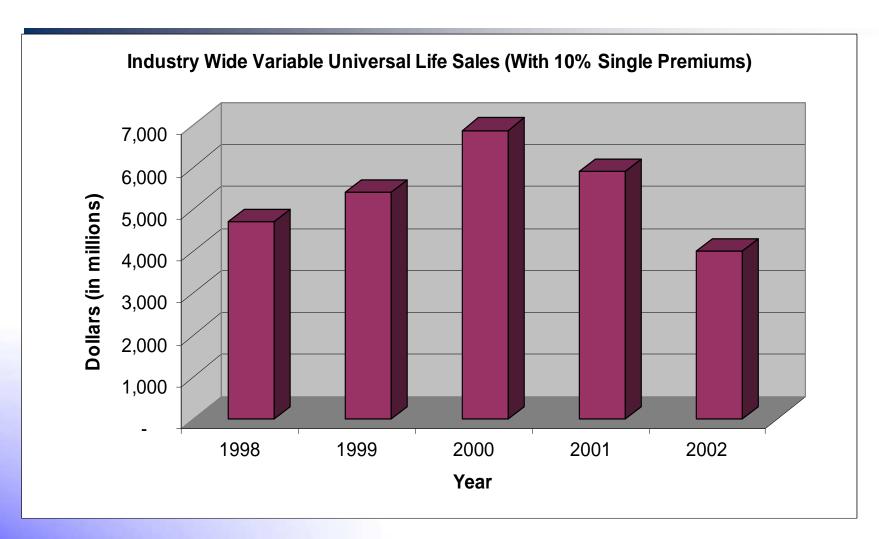


Reduced Sales





Reduced Sales





Reduced Sales

RESPONSE

- Re-evaluate price and commissions
- New Features ??



Shrunken Assets and "Revenue at Risk"

Over Last 3 Years:	Alloc.	Assumed <u>Revenue</u>	Annual <u>Perform.</u>	Actual <u>Revenue</u>
Money Market	7%	42bp	2.91%	42bp
Bond	8	66	8.65	68
Equity Growth	85	93	-29.66	49
TOTAL		87bp		50bp



Shrunken Assets and "Revenue at Risk"

RESPONSE: (for equity based products)

- Re-negotiate fee sharing with money managers
- Increase Fees (12b -1 share class)
- Develop / require asset allocation (may involve re-filing)



Reserve and Capital Requirements

Actuarial Guideline 34 for guaranteed death benefits
Actuarial Guideline 39 for guaranteed living benefits
RBC Requirements for "in-the-money" living benefits, and
the list goes on . . .

Forcing reserve and capital requirements higher !!



Reserve and Capital Requirements

RESPONSE:

- Companies are re-evaluating their overall risk tolerances and risk capacity.
- Re-establishing their own acceptable levels.
- Possibly resulting in higher prices or suspension of sales.



Deferred Acquisition Cost Write-off

At issue is the immediate write-down of DAC due to revenue shortfalls and excessive claims versus best estimates.

RESULT:

"Double-Whammy" impact on GAAP earnings.

THIRD "WHAMMY":

Forces reconsideration of future best estimates possibly leading to further DAC write-downs.



Deferred Acquisition Cost Write-off

RESPONSE:

- Product discontinuations thereby limiting future exposure
- Increased prices
- Reduced commissions



Distribution / Consumer Issues

Company Earnings:

Product discontinuation, increased prices or reduced commission do not sit well with distributors and / or customers (since equity guarantees more popular than ever).

Complaints:

\$50,000 VA that is now worth \$25,000!!!!!



Distribution / Consumer Issues

RESPONSE:

- Company may need to accept reduced sales
- Create new commission bonus strategies
- Create new less risky but equally marketable features

 Market performance obviously not within control of company; need to address each complaint on own merit.



Equity Guarantees

Variable Annuities:

- GMAB Guaranteed Minimum Accumulation Benefit
- GMDB Guaranteed Minimum Death Benefit
- GMIB Guaranteed Minimum Income Benefit
- GMWB Guaranteed Minimum Withdrawal Benefit
- GPAF Guaranteed Pay-out (Variable) Annuity Floor

Variable Life:

No Lapse Guarantees



Equity Guarantees

RESPONSE:

- Withdraw features (not at risk for what you don't sell)
- Increase Price, Cost-benefit Matching (NAR)
- Limits, limits, limits
- Reinsurance (if available)
- Reduced Commissions
- Improved pricing models (for better understanding risk)



More Robust Product Models

Benchmarks

Low Incidence

High Severity

Mean / Variance

Percentiles

Left Tail Risk



RESPONSE

- Establish collection of benchmark fund assumptions
 - Fund mapping process (actual -> benchmarks)
 - Gross return, volatility and correlation
- Establish liability model assumptions
 - Dynamic policyholder behavior



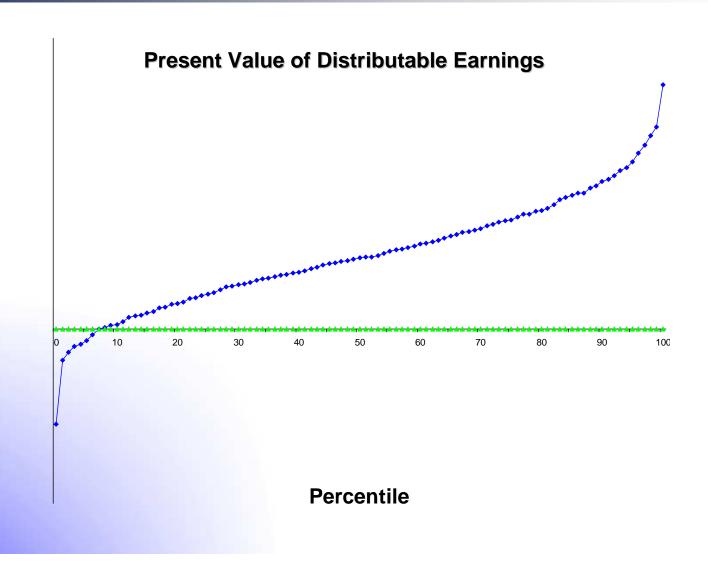
Benchmark Fund Return and Volatility Examples

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Gross Return</u>	<u>Volatility</u>
S&P 500	8.0%	16.1%
NASDAQ100	11.0%	30.0%

Policyholder Behavior

fewer / no surrenders when "in-the-money"







Modeling Challenges:

- Properly modeling product equity risk
- Models too slow unable to do sufficient scenarios
- Lack fully integrated model across product lines
- Inconsistent approaches used across company
- Communicating results to management
- Establishing pricing hurdles



Meeting The Challenges

Pricing Hurdle

Minimum return requirements:

- 85% chance of achieving at least Y% IRR
- 95% chance of achieving at least Z% IRR
- 99% chance that product losses do not exceed \$M / %Premium



Presentation Outline

 Review some impacts of "Equity Market Performance" on insurance companies

 Watch Equity-Based Products compete to be the "Sole Survivor"?



"SURVIVOR" - The Product

What to expect!!

- Meet the Product "Contestants"
- Experience the Economic "Environment"
- Relive the "Challenges"
- See what Product will be the "Sole Survivor"



The Three Product "Contestants"

Variable Annuity

Variable Life

Mutual Fund



The Product "Contestants"

Variable Annuity

- Asset Based Revenues
 - Mortality & Expense (M&E)
 - Management Fees
 - 12(b)-1 Fees
- Equity Guarantees
 - Guaranteed Minimum Death Benefits
 - Return of Premium
 - High Water Mark
 - Roll-up
 - Guaranteed Income Benefits
 - Guaranteed Accumulation / Withdrawal Benefits



The Product "Contestants"

Variable Life

- Several Revenue Sources
 - Mortality & Expense (M&E) and Management Fees
 - Cost of Insurance
 - Per Unit Load Structures
- Equity Guarantees
 - Minimum No Lapse Guarantee

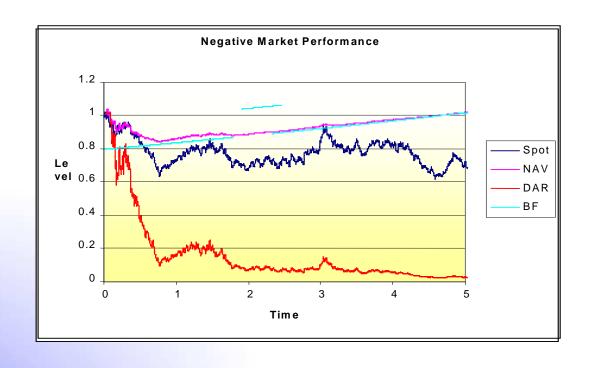
Mutual Fund

- Management Fees, 12(b)-1
- No Equity Guarantees



The Economic "Environment"

Contestants will endure months in a down(pour) market.





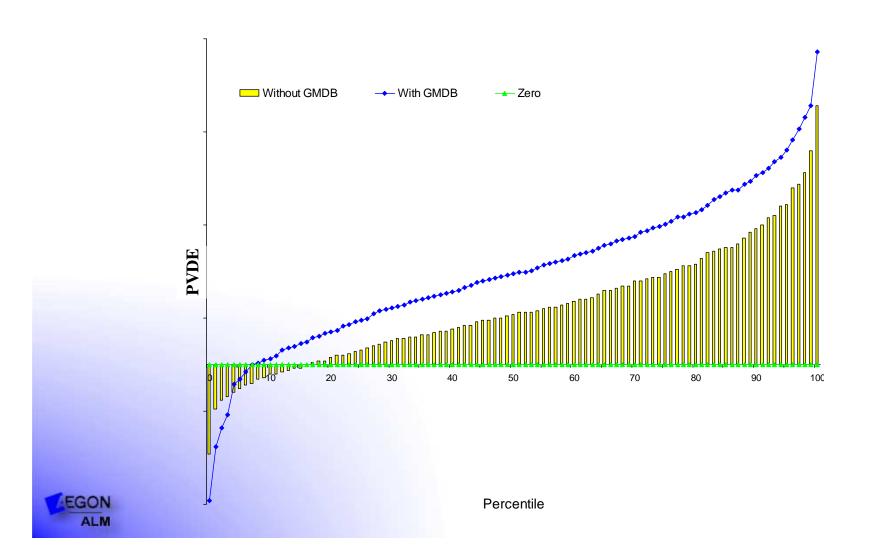
The "Challenges"

(from insurance company perspective)

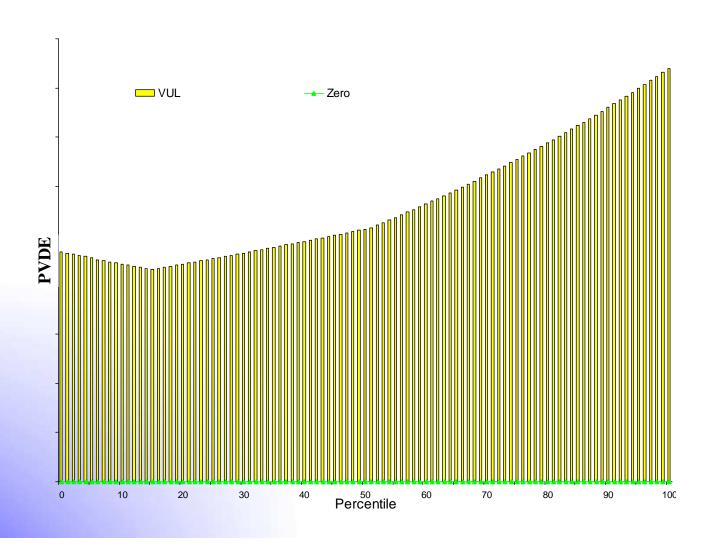
- Equity Performance "Jungle"
- "Rainy Season" Revenue at Risk
- "Dreaded" Embedded Option Risk, and
- Other "Venomous" Risks (WSJ \$-for-\$ article)



Variable Annuity

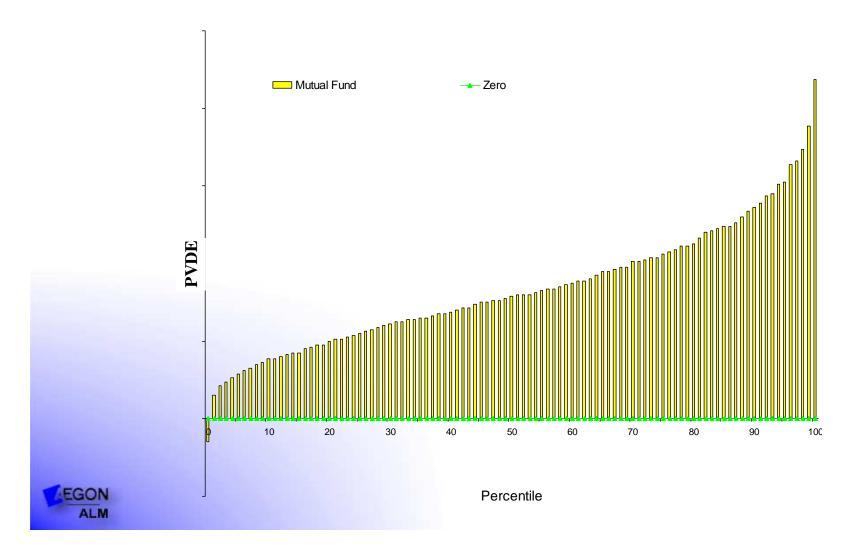


Variable Life





Mutual Fund



Meeting The "Challenges"

Will the Marketplace accept:

- Elimination of Guarantees
- Increases in the price of Guarantee features
- Imposing limits on Guarantees
- Limiting the number of Guarantees per contract
- Requiring asset allocation

OR . . . Does company need to pursue hedging strategy?



Meeting The "Challenges"

HEDGING

- Use derivatives to create alternative return distributions
- Examination suggests hedging strategies involving buying puts and / or selling calls are not economically viable
- Work involving more complex strategies is necessary



The "Sole Survivor"

You VOTE, will it be:

Variable Life with its COI source of revenue,

An appropriately hedged Variable Annuity

OR

A plain vanilla Mutual Fund?



Coming Next Season:

Deflation Island

See how long the contestants' inflated rafts and egos last !!

