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POPULAR INC Form 8-K January 17, 2003

> SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

> > FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 16, 2003 _____ _____

> POPULAR, INC. _____

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO NO. 0-13818 NO. 66-0416582

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)(Commission
File Number)(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

 209 MUNOZ RIVERA AVENUE

 HATO REY, PUERTO RICO
 00918

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (787) 765-9800 _____

> _____ (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events

On January 16, 2003, Popular, Inc. (the "Corporation") announced in a news release its operational results for the quarter and year-ended December 31,2002. A copy of the Corporation's release, dated January 16, 2003, is attached hereto as Exhibit 99(a) and is incorporated herein by reference.

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Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

99(a) News release, dated January 16, 2003, announcing the Corporation's consolidated earnings for the quarter and year-ended December 31, 2002.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

POPULAR, INC. (Registrant)

Date: January 17, 2003

By: S/Amilcar L. Jordan Name: Amilcar L. Jordan, Esq. Title: Senior Vice President and Comptroller

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number

Description

99(a)

News release, dated January, 16, 2003