

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) September 4, 2002

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<TABLE>

<S>	<C>	<C>
New Jersey	001-4802	22-0760120
(State or other juris- diction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Iden- tification Number)

1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417-1880

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

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Registrant's telephone number, including area code (201) 847-6800

N/A

(Former name or former addresses if changed since last report.)

Item 5. Other Events

On September 4, 2002, the Registrant issued the press release that is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

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

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Press release dated September 4, 2002

SIGNATURES

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.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Gary DeFazio

Gary DeFazio
Assistant Secretary

Date: September 4, 2002

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number

99.1

Description of Exhibit

Press release dated September 4, 2002

1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880
www.bd.com

News Release

[LOGO]

Contact:
Charles Borgognoni, Corporate Communications - 201-847-6651

BD Director Albert J. Costello Dies at 66

Franklin Lakes, NJ (September 4, 2002) -- Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) (NYSE:BDX) acknowledges with sorrow the September 3 death of Board member Albert J. Costello. Mr. Costello, who would have turned 67 today, joined the BD Board of Directors in 1996.

"Al's passing has saddened us profoundly," said Edward J. Ludwig, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of BD. "Al was not only a source of great insight and leadership for me and the Company, he was also a warm human being with a wonderful wit and sense of humor. We will all miss Al very much."

Mr. Costello was a distinguished business leader. In 1999, he retired as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of W.R. Grace & Company. Prior to that, Mr. Costello was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Cyanamid Company. In addition to his position on the BD Board, Mr. Costello also served as a director of FMC Corporation.

BD is a medical technology company that serves healthcare institutions, life sciences researchers, clinical laboratories, industry and the general public. BD manufactures and sells a broad range of medical supplies, devices, laboratory equipment and diagnostic products. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, BD reported total revenues of \$3.8 billion.