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UICI
Form 8-K
September 04, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 8-K

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) August 26, 2002

UICI
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Delaware | 001-14953 | 75-2044750 |
| ----- (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | ----- (Commission File Number) | ----- (IRS Employer Identification No.) |
| 4001 McEwen Drive, Suite 200, Dallas, Texas | | 75244 |
| ----- (Address of principal executive offices) | | ----- (Zip Code) |

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (972) 392-6700

Not Applicable

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

ITEM 4. CHANGES IN REGISTRANT'S CERTIFYING PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

On August 26, 2002, UICI (the "Company") dismissed Ernst & Young LLP as its independent accountants and selected KPMG LLP as its new independent accountants effective August 26, 2002. The Company's Audit Committee participated in and approved the decision to change independent accountants.

The reports of Ernst & Young LLP on the financial statements for each of the past two fiscal years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 contained no adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

In addition, in connection with its audits of the Company's financial statements for each of the two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent

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interim period through August 26, 2002, there have been no disagreements with Ernst & Young LLP on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of Ernst & Young LLP, would have caused Ernst & Young LLP to make reference thereto in their report on the financial statements for such years.

Except as described in the next succeeding paragraph, during the two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period through August 26, 2002, there were no reportable events (as defined in Regulation S-K Item 304(a)(1)(v)).

In a letter dated April 4, 2000 to the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors, Ernst & Young LLP advised the Company that, during the course of and in connection with Ernst & Young LLP's audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1999, Ernst & Young LLP had noted certain matters involving the Company's internal controls and its operations that Ernst & Young LLP considered to be reportable conditions and material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to the auditor's attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of an entity's internal control that, in the auditor's judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the consolidated financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. The Company has authorized Ernst & Young LLP to respond fully to inquiries of the Company's new accountants concerning this matter.

The Company provided Ernst & Young LLP with a copy of the disclosure made under this Item 4 of Form 8-K and has requested that Ernst & Young LLP furnish it with a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission stating whether or not it agrees with the above statements. A copy of such letter, dated September 3, 2002, is filed as Exhibit 16 to this Form 8-K.

During the two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period through August 26, 2002, neither the Company nor anyone on its behalf has consulted with KPMG LLP regarding: (i) either the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed; or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's financial statements; or (ii) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement, as that term is defined in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K and the related instructions to Item 304 of Regulation S-K, or a reportable event, as that term is defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

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|------------|---|
| Exhibit 16 | Letter, dated September 3, 2002, from Ernst & Young LLP to the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding change in certifying accountants. |
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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.

UICI

(Registrant)

Date September 3, 2002

By /s/ Mark D. Hauptman

Mark D. Hauptman
Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

16

Letter dated September 3, 2002 from Ernst & Young LLP to the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding change in certifying accountants