

424B3

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

SLM Corporation

Medium Term Notes, Series B



With Maturities of 9 Months or More from Date of Issue

Registration No. 333-90316
 Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)

Pricing Supplement No. 173
 (To Prospectus dated January 23, 2003 and
 Prospectus Supplement dated January 23, 2003)

Trade Date: 11/3/03
 Issue Date: 11/6/03

The date of this Pricing Supplement is 11/3/03

CUSIP	Stated Interest Rate Per Annum (1)	Maturity Date	Price to Public (2)(3)	Discounts & Commissions	Interest Payment			Subject to Redemption			Net Proceeds	OID Status
					Frequency	First Payment	Survivor's Option	Yes/No	Date and terms of redemption	Aggregate Principal Amount		
78490FHF9	5.600%	3/15/24	100%	1.875%	Monthly	12/15/03	Yes	Yes	Callable at 100% on 3/15/2008 and continuously thereafter with 20 days notice.	791,000	776,168.75	N

Effective April 7, 2003 the name of Salomon Smith Barney Inc., an agent of the program, was changed to Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

(1) The interest rates on the Ed Notes may be changed by SLM Corporation from time to time, but any such change will not affect the interest rate on any Ed Notes offered prior to the effective date of the change.

(2)

<http://www.oblible.com>

For a copy of the aggregate principal amount.

(3)

See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution" in the Prospectus supplement for additional information concerning price to public and underwriting compensation.

QuickLinks

[SLM Corporation Medium Term Notes, Series B](#)