

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): August 2, 2004

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other
jurisdiction of
incorporation)

1-7182
(Commission
File Number)

13-2740599
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 449-1000

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

Item 5. Other Events

Exhibits are filed herewith in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-109802) filed by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Company") with the Securities and Exchange Commission covering Senior Debt Securities issuable under an indenture dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended through the date hereof, between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank (as so amended, the "Indenture"). The Company shall issue \$9,005,650 aggregate principal amount of 97% Protected Notes Linked to the Gold Spot Price due August 1, 2008 under the Indenture. The exhibits consist of the form of Securities and an opinion of counsel relating thereto.

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

EXHIBITS

- (4) Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures.
Form of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s 97% Protected Notes Linked to the Gold Spot Price due August 1, 2008.

- (5) & (23) Opinion re: legality; consent of counsel.
Opinion of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP relating to the 97% Protected Notes Linked to the Gold Spot Price due August 1, 2008 (including consent for inclusion of such opinion in this report and in Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Registration Statement relating to such Securities).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

EXHIBITS TO CURRENT REPORT ON
FORM 8-K DATED AUGUST 2, 2004

Commission File Number 1-7182

Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
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THIS NOTE IS A GLOBAL SECURITY WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE THEREOF. UNLESS AND UNTIL IT IS EXCHANGED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR NOTES IN CERTIFICATED FORM, THIS NOTE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT AS A WHOLE BY THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, A NEW YORK CORPORATION ("DTC"), TO A NOMINEE OF DTC OR BY DTC OR ANY SUCH NOMINEE TO A SUCCESSOR DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE OF SUCH SUCCESSOR DEPOSITORY. UNLESS THIS NOTE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC TO MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY NOTE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC (AND ANY PAYMENT IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL INASMUCH AS THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

No. R
CUSIP: 59021W 32 4

900,565 Units
(Each Unit representing \$10 principal
amount of Notes)

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
97% Protected Notes
Linked to the Gold Spot Price
due August 1, 2008
(the "Notes")

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Company", which term includes any successor corporation under the Indenture herein referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to CEDE & CO., or its registered assigns, a sum for each Unit equal to the Minimum Redemption Amount, as defined below, plus the Supplemental Redemption Amount, as defined below, if any, on August 1, 2008 (the "Stated Maturity").

Payment or delivery of the Minimum Redemption Amount and the Supplemental Redemption Amount, if any, and any interest on any overdue amount thereof with respect to this Note shall be made at the office or agency of the Company maintained for that purpose in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts.

This Note is one of the series of 97% Protected Notes Linked to the Gold Spot Price due August 1, 2008.

Payment at Maturity

The “**Minimum Redemption Amount**” per Unit equals \$9.70.

The “**Supplemental Redemption Amount**” per Unit shall be determined by the Calculation Agent (as defined below) and equals:

$$\$10.00 \times \left[\frac{\text{Ending Value} - \text{Starting Value}}{\text{Starting Value}} \right] \times \text{Participation Rate}$$

provided, however, that in no event shall the Supplemental Redemption Amount be less than zero.

The “**Starting Value**” equals 387.30.

The “**Ending Value**” shall be determined by Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. (the “**Calculation Agent**”) and shall equal the average, arithmetic mean, of the London Gold P.M. Fixings determined on each of the first five Calculation Days during the Calculation Period (each as defined below). If there are fewer than five Calculation Days during the Calculation Period, then the Ending Value shall equal the average, arithmetic mean, of the London Gold P.M. Fixings on those Calculation Days. If there is only one Calculation Day during the Calculation Period, then the Ending Value shall equal the London Gold P.M. Fixing on that Calculation Day. If no Calculation Days occur during the Calculation Period, then the Ending Value shall equal the Gold Spot Price at 3:00 p.m. London time as quoted by another publicly available source, selected by the Calculation Agent in its reasonable judgement, on the last scheduled Business Day (as defined below) in the Calculation Period, or if no such other source is available, as determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion and in good faith.

The “**Participation Rate**” equals 75%.

A “**Business Day**” means any day on which commercial banks are open for business in London and New York, the London bullion market is open for trading and the London Gold P.M. Fixing is determined and published.

A “**Calculation Day**” means any Business Day during the Calculation Period on which a disruption in the market has not occurred.

The “**Calculation Period**” means the period from and including the seventh scheduled Business Day prior to the maturity date and including the second scheduled Business Day prior to the maturity date.

All determinations made by the Calculation Agent shall be at the sole discretion of the Calculation Agent and, absent manifest error, shall be conclusive for all purposes and binding on the Company and the Holders and beneficial owners of the Notes.

General

This Note is one of a duly authorized issue of Securities of the Company, issued and to be issued under an Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended and restated (herein referred to as the "Indenture"), between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee (herein referred to as the "Trustee", which term includes any successor Trustee under the Indenture), to which Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto reference is hereby made for a statement of the respective rights thereunder of the Company, the Trustee and the Holders of the Notes, and the terms upon which the Notes are, and are to be, authenticated and delivered.

The Company hereby covenants for the benefit of the Holders of the Notes, to the extent permitted by applicable law, not to claim voluntarily the benefits of any laws concerning usurious rates of interest against a Holder of the Notes.

The Notes are not subject to redemption by the Company or at the option of the Holder prior to the Stated Maturity.

In case an Event of Default with respect to any Notes shall have occurred and be continuing, the amount payable to a Holder of a Note upon any acceleration permitted by the Notes, with respect to the principal amount hereof, shall be equal to such principal amount and the Supplemental Redemption Amount, if any, calculated as though the date of early repayment were the Stated Maturity of the Notes.

In case of default in payment of the Notes (whether at the Stated Maturity or upon acceleration), from and after such date the Notes shall bear interest, payable upon demand of the Holders thereof, at the rate of 1.50% per annum (to the extent that payment of such interest shall be legally enforceable) on the unpaid amount due and payable on such date in accordance with the terms of the Notes to the date payment of such amount has been made or duly provided for.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Securities of each series to be affected under the Indenture at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of not less than 66 2/3% in aggregate original public offering price or principal amount, as the case may be, of the Securities at the time Outstanding of each series affected thereby. Holders of specified percentages in aggregate original public offering price or principal amount, as the case may be, of the Securities of each series at the time Outstanding, on behalf of the Holders of all Securities of each series, are permitted to waive compliance by the Company with certain provisions of the Indenture and certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Note shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this Note and of any Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange herefor or in lieu hereof whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Note.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Note or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the Minimum Redemption Amount plus the Supplemental Redemption Amount, if any, with respect to this Note and any interest on any overdue amount thereof at the time, place, and rate, and in the coin or currency herein prescribed.

As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations set forth therein and on the first page hereof, the transfer of this Note may be registered on the Security Register of the Company, upon surrender of this Note for registration of transfer at the office or agency of the Company in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, duly endorsed by, or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company duly executed by, the Holder hereof or by his attorney duly authorized in writing, and thereupon one or more new Notes, of authorized denominations and for the same aggregate principal amount, shall be issued to the designated transferee or transferees.

The Notes are issuable only in registered form without coupons in denominations of \$10 and integral multiples thereof. This Note shall remain in the form of a global security held by a Depository. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if (x) any Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as Depository and a successor depository is not appointed by the Company within 60 days, (y) the Company executes and delivers to the Trustee a Company Order to the effect that this Note shall be exchangeable or (z) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Notes, this Note shall be exchangeable for Notes in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount, in denominations of \$10 and integral multiples thereof. Such definitive Notes shall be registered in such name or names as the Depository shall instruct the Trustee. If definitive Notes are so delivered, the Company may make such changes to the form of this Note as are necessary or appropriate to allow for the issuance of such definitive Notes.

The Company shall treat the Notes as debt instruments for tax purposes, and, where required, shall file information returns with the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with this treatment, in the absence of any change or clarification in the law, by regulation or otherwise, requiring a different characterization of the Notes.

No service charge shall be made for any such registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Prior to due presentment of this Note for registration of transfer, the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name this Note is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this Note be overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any such agent shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

All terms used in this Note which are defined in the Indenture but not in this Note shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

Unless the certificate of authentication hereon has been executed by JPMorgan Chase Bank, the Trustee under the Indenture, or its successor thereunder, by the manual signature of one of its authorized officers, this Note shall not be entitled to any benefits under the Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this instrument to be duly executed under its corporate seal.

Dated: August 2, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION
This is one of the Securities of the series
designated therein referred to in the
within-mentioned Indenture.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

[Copy of Seal]

By: Treasurer

Attest: Secretary

JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee

By: Authorized Officer

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EXHIBIT (5) & (23)

August 2, 2004

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
4 World Financial Center
New York, New York 10080

Gentlemen:

As your counsel, we have examined a copy of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (hereinafter called the "Company"), certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. We are familiar with the corporate proceedings had in connection with the proposed issuance and sale by the Company to the Underwriter named in the Terms Agreement referred to below, pursuant to an Underwriting Agreement dated August 5, 1998 (the "Underwriting Agreement"), between the Company and Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S"), as supplemented by the Terms Agreement dated July 28, 2004 (the "Terms Agreement") between the Company and MLPF&S (the "Underwriter"), of \$9,005,650 aggregate principal amount of the Company's 97% Protected Notes Linked to the Gold Spot Price due August 1, 2008 (the "Securities"). We have also

examined a copy of the Indenture between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank as Trustee, dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended (the "Indenture"), and the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-109802) relating to the Notes (the "Registration Statement").

Based upon the foregoing and upon such further investigation as we deemed relevant in the premises, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Company has been duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware.

2. The Securities have been duly and validly authorized by the Company and when the Securities have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and delivered against payment therefor as set forth in the Underwriting Agreement, as supplemented by the Terms Agreement, the Securities will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except to the extent that enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, moratorium, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles at equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and as an exhibit to the Current Report of the Company on Form 8-K dated August 2, 2004. We also consent to the use of our name under the caption "United States Federal Income Taxation" in the prospectus supplement related to the offering of the Securities.

Very truly yours,

/s/ SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP