

BLACKROCK PREFERRED INCOME STRATEGIES FUND, INC.

Form N-CSRS

July 07, 2008

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSRS

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21341

Name of Fund: BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(PSW)

Fund Address: 100 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19809

Name and address of agent for service: Donald C. Burke, Chief Executive Officer,
BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc., 800
Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ, 08536. Mailing address: P.O. Box 9011,
Princeton, NJ, 08543-9011

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (800) 882-0052, Option 4

Date of fiscal year end: 10/31/2008

Date of reporting period: 11/01/2007 - 04/30/2008

Item 1 - Report to Stockholders

EQUITIES FIXED INCOME REAL ESTATE
LIQUIDITY ALTERNATIVES BLACKROCK SOLUTIONS

Semi-Annual Report

BLACKROCK

APRIL 30, 2008 | (UNAUDITED)

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (PSW)
BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (PSY)

NOT FDIC INSURED
MAY LOSE VALUE
NO BANK GUARANTEE

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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

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A Letter to Shareholders

Dear Shareholder

Over the past several months, financial markets have been buffeted by the housing recession, the credit market unraveling and related liquidity freeze and steadily rising commodity prices. Counterbalancing these difficulties were booming export activity, a robust non-financial corporate sector and, notably, aggressive and timely monetary and fiscal policy actions.

Amid the market tumult, the Federal Reserve Board (the "Fed") intervened with a series of moves to bolster liquidity and ensure financial market stability. Since September 2007, the central bank slashed the target federal funds rate 325 basis points (3.25%), bringing the rate to 2.0% as of period-end. Of greater magnitude, however, were the Fed's other policy decisions, which included opening the discount window directly to broker dealers and investment banks and backstopping the unprecedented rescue of Bear Stearns.

The Fed's response to the financial crisis helped to improve credit conditions and investor mood. After hitting a low point on March 17 (coinciding with the collapse of Bear Stearns), equity markets found a welcome respite in April, when the S&P 500 Index of U.S. stocks posted positive monthly performance for the first time since October 2007. International markets, which outpaced those of the U.S. for much of 2007, saw a reversal in that trend, as effects of the credit crisis and downward pressures on growth were far-reaching.

In contrast to equity markets, Treasury securities rallied (yields fell as prices correspondingly rose), as a broad "flight-to-quality" theme persisted. The yield on 10-year Treasury issues, which touched 5.30% in June 2007 (its highest level in five years), fell to 4.04% by year-end and to 3.77% by April 30. Treasury issues relinquished some of their gains in April, however, as investor appetite for risk returned and other high-quality fixed income sectors outperformed.

Problems within the monoline insurance industry and the failure of auctions for auction rate securities plagued the municipal bond market, driving yields higher and prices lower across the curve. However, in conjunction with the more recent shift in sentiment, the sector delivered strong performance in the final month of the reporting period.

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Overall, the major benchmark indexes generated results that generally reflected heightened investor risk aversion:

| Total Returns as of April 30, 2008 | 6-month |
|---|---------|
| U.S. equities (S&P 500 Index) | - 9.64% |
| Small cap U.S. equities (Russell 2000 Index) | -12.92 |
| International equities (MSCI Europe, Australasia, Far East Index) | - 9.21 |
| Fixed income (Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index) | + 4.08 |
| Tax-exempt fixed income (Lehman Brothers Municipal Bond Index) | + 1.47 |
| High yield bonds (Lehman Brothers U.S. Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Capped Index) | - 0.73 |

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

As you navigate today's volatile markets, we encourage you to review your investment goals with your financial professional and to make portfolio changes, as needed. For more up-to-date commentary on the economy and financial markets, we invite you to visit www.blackrock.com/funds. As always, we thank you for entrusting BlackRock with your investment assets, and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rob Kapito

Rob Kapito
President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

THIS PAGE NOT PART OF YOUR FUND REPORT

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Fund Summary April 30, 2008

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Investment Objective

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (PSW) seeks to provide shareholders with high current income. The secondary objective of the Fund is to seek to provide shareholders with capital appreciation. The Fund seeks to achieve its objectives by investing primarily in a portfolio of preferred securities and debt securities, including convertible securities

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that may be converted into common stock or other securities of the same or a different issuer.

Performance

For the six months ended April 30, 2008, the Fund returned -4.67% based on market price, with dividends reinvested. The Fund's return based on net asset value ("NAV") was -12.34%, with dividends reinvested. For the same period, the Lipper Income & Preferred Stock Funds (closed-end) category posted an average return of -10.71% on a NAV basis. During the period, preferred bond funds came under pressure as a result of adverse financial market conditions and concerns about credit quality. Financial issuers, which constitute a majority of the preferred market, were especially affected.

Fund Information

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Symbol on New York Stock Exchange | PSW |
| Initial Offering Date | August 1, 2003 |
| Yield on Closing Market Price as of April 30, 2008 (\$15.82)* ... | 7.84% |
| Current Monthly Distribution per share of Common Stock** | \$0.1033 |
| Current Annualized Distribution per share of Common Stock** | \$1.2396 |
| Leverage as of April 30, 2008*** | 45% |

* Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

** The distribution is not constant and is subject to change.

*** As a percentage of managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to any borrowing that may be outstanding) minus the sum of accrued liabilities (other than total debt representing financial leverage).

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund's market price and net asset value per share:

| | 4/30/08 | 10/31/07 | Change | High | Low |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Market Price | \$ 15.82 | \$ 17.29 | (8.50%) | \$17.50 | \$14.21 |
| Net Asset Value | \$ 16.44 | \$ 19.54 | (15.86%) | \$19.57 | \$15.91 |

The following charts show the portfolio composition and credit quality allocations of the Fund's long-term investments:

Portfolio Composition

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Asset Mix | 4/30/08 | 10/31/07 |
|-----------|---------|----------|

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Corporate Bonds | 37% | 42% |
| Preferred Stocks | 26 | 22 |
| Capital Trusts | 22 | 19 |
| Trust Preferreds | 8 | 9 |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts | 5 | 7 |
| Exchange-Traded Funds | 2 | -- |
| U.S. Government Obligations | -- | 1 |

 Credit Quality Allocations*

| Credit Rating | 4/30/08 | 10/31/07 |
|-----------------|---------|----------|
| AAA/Aaa | -- | 3% |
| AA/Aa | 12% | 12 |
| A/A | 28 | 21 |
| BBB/Baa | 21 | 30 |
| BB/Ba | 5 | 4 |
| Not Rated | 2 | 2 |
| Other** | 32 | 28 |

* Using the higher of Standard & Poor's or Moody's Investors Service ratings.

** Includes portfolio holdings in Preferred Stocks, Real Estate Investment Trusts and exchange-traded funds.

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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

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Fund Summary April 30, 2008

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

 Investment Objective

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (PSY) seeks to provide shareholders current income. The secondary objective of the Fund is to seek to provide shareholders with capital appreciation. The Fund seeks to achieve its objectives by investing primarily in a portfolio of preferred securities, including convertible preferred securities that may be converted into common stock or other securities of the same or a different issuer.

 Performance

For the six months ended April 30, 2008, the Fund returned -2.27% based on market price, with dividends reinvested. The Fund's return based on NAV was -13.73%, with dividends reinvested. For the same period, the Lipper Income & Preferred Stock Funds (closed-end) category posted an average return of -10.71% on a NAV basis. During the period, preferred bond funds came under pressure as a result of adverse financial market conditions and concerns about credit quality. Financial issuers, which constitute a majority of the

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preferred market, were especially affected.

Fund Information

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Symbol on New York Stock Exchange | PSY |
| Initial Offering Date | March 28, 2003 |
| Yield on Closing Market Price as of April 30, 2008 (\$15.86)* ... | 8.67% |
| Current Monthly Distribution per share of Common Stock** | \$0.114583 |
| Current Annualized Distribution per share of Common Stock** | \$1.374996 |
| Leverage as of April 30, 2008*** | 45% |

* Yield on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

** The distribution is not constant and is subject to change.

*** As a percentage of managed assets, which is the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to any borrowing that may be outstanding) minus the sum of accrued liabilities (other than total debt representing financial leverage).

The table below summarizes the changes in the Fund's market price and net asset value per share:

| | 4/30/08 | 10/31/07 | Change | High | Low |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Market Price | \$ 15.86 | \$ 16.94 | (6.38%) | \$17.65 | \$14.53 |
| Net Asset Value | \$ 16.47 | \$ 19.93 | (17.36%) | \$19.95 | \$16.08 |

The following charts show the portfolio composition and credit quality allocations of the Fund's long-term investments:

Portfolio Composition

| Asset Mix | 4/30/08 | 10/31/07 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Corporate Bonds | 34% | 38% |
| Capital Trusts | 29 | 25 |
| Preferred Stocks | 26 | 25 |
| Trust Preferreds | 7 | 8 |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts | 2 | 3 |
| Exchange-Traded Funds | 2 | -- |
| U.S. Government Obligations | -- | 1 |

Credit Quality Allocations*

| Credit Rating | 4/30/08 | 10/31/07 |
|---------------|---------|----------|
|---------------|---------|----------|

| | | |
|-----------|-----|----|
| AAA/Aaa | -- | 1% |
| AA/Aa | 14% | 13 |
| A/A | 32 | 29 |
| BBB/Baa | 19 | 23 |
| BB/Ba | 3 | 2 |
| Not Rated | 2 | 3 |
| Other** | 30 | 29 |

* Using the higher of Standard & Poor's or Moody's Investors Service ratings.

** Includes portfolio holdings in Preferred Stocks, Real Estate Investment Trusts and exchange-traded funds.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

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The Benefits and Risks of Leveraging

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. and BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (each a "Fund" and, collectively, the "Funds") utilize leverage through the issuance of Preferred Stock. The concept of leverage is based on the premise that the cost of assets to be obtained from leverage will be based on short-term interest or dividend rates on the Preferred Stock, which normally will be lower than the income earned by each Fund on its longer-term portfolio investments. To the extent that the total assets of each Fund (including the assets obtained from leverage) are invested in higher-yielding portfolio investments, each Fund's Common Stock shareholders will be the beneficiaries of the incremental yield.

Leverage creates risks for Common Stock shareholders, including the likelihood of greater NAV and market price volatility. In addition, there is the risk that fluctuations in the dividend rates on any Preferred Stock may reduce the Common Stock's yield and negatively impact its NAV and market price. If the income derived from securities purchased with assets received from leverage exceeds the cost of leverage, each Fund's net income will be greater than if leverage had not been used. Conversely, if the income from the securities purchased is not sufficient to cover the cost of leverage, each Fund's net income will be less than if leverage had not been used, and therefore the amount available for distribution to Common Stock shareholders will be reduced.

As of April 30, 2008, BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. and BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. each had leverage amounts of 45% of managed assets.

Swap Agreements

The Fund may invest in swap agreements, which are over-the-counter contracts in which one party agrees to make periodic payments based on the change in market value of a specified bond, basket of bonds or index in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate or the change in market value of a different bond, basket of bonds or index. Swap agreements may be used to obtain exposure to a bond or market without owning or taking physical custody of securities. Swap agreements involve the risk that the party with whom the

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Fund has entered into the swap will default on its obligation to pay the Fund and the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations to pay the other party to the agreement.

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APRIL 30, 2008

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Schedule of Investments April 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(Percentages shown are based on Net Assets)

| Capital Trusts | Par (000) | Value |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Capital Markets -- 3.4% | | |
| Credit Suisse Guernsey Ltd. Series 1, 3.755% | | |
| (a) (b) | \$ 1,400 | \$ 1,119,538 |
| Lehman Brothers Holdings Capital Trust V, 3.915% | | |
| (a) (b) | 1,600 | 1,088,461 |
| State Street Capital Trust III, 8.25% (a) (b) | 980 | 976,681 |
| State Street Capital Trust IV, 3.80%, 6/01/67 (a) | 3,390 | 2,574,261 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 5,758,941 |
| ===== | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 9.7% | | |
| Abbey National Capital Trust I, 8.963% (a) (b) | 725 | 774,676 |
| BB&T Capital Trust IV, 6.82%, 6/12/77 (a) | 4,600 | 4,045,516 |
| Barclays Bank Plc, 5.926%, (a) (b) (c) | 1,585 | 1,338,282 |
| First Empire Capital Trust II, 8.277%, 6/01/27 | 910 | 913,899 |
| Hubco Capital Trust II Series B, 7.65%, 6/15/28 | 1,500 | 1,559,839 |
| Huntington Capital III, 6.65%, 5/15/37 (a) | 975 | 704,893 |
| Regions Financing Trust II, 6.625%, 5/15/47 (a) | 1,430 | 1,001,465 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc, 7.648% (a) (b) | 980 | 827,994 |
| Wachovia Corp. Series K, 7.98% (a) (b) | 5,335 | 5,248,786 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 16,415,350 |
| ===== | | |
| Consumer Finance -- 0.6% | | |
| MBNA Capital A, 8.278%, 12/01/26 | 910 | 922,614 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 10.4% | | |
| Bank of America Corp. Series M, 8.125% (a) (b) | 3,800 | 3,883,524 |
| Citigroup, Inc., 8.40% (b) | 5,800 | 5,870,064 |
| Farm Credit Bank of Texas Series 1, 7.561% (a) (b) | 3,000 | 2,925,210 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co., 7.90% (b) | 3,500 | 3,565,450 |
| JPMorgan Chase Capital XXIII, 4.065%, 5/15/77 (a) | 1,830 | 1,399,901 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 17,644,149 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 10.9% | | |
| AON Corp., 8.205%, 1/01/27 | 3,990 | 3,762,818 |
| Ace Capital Trust II, 9.70%, 4/01/30 | 1,510 | 1,741,735 |
| Farmers Exchange Capital, 7.05%, 7/15/28 (c) | 9,110 | 8,358,881 |
| Genworth Financial, Inc., 6.15%, 11/15/66 (a) | 750 | 628,081 |
| Mangrove Bay Pass-Through Trust, 6.102%, | | |

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| | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| 7/15/33 (a) (c) | 3,000 | 2,157,180 |
| Oil Casualty Insurance Ltd., 8%, 9/15/34 (c) | 915 | 796,107 |
| Zenith National Insurance Capital Trust I, 8.55% (c) (d) | 1,000 | 945,000 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 18,389,802 |
| ===== | | |
| Multi-Utilities -- 0.7% | | |
| Dominion Resources Capital Trust I, 7.83%, 12/01/27 | 1,200 | 1,227,649 |
| ===== | | |
| Thrifts & Mortgage Finance -- 0.4% | | |
| Webster Capital Trust IV, 7.65%, 6/15/37 (a) | 975 | 714,586 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Capital Trusts -- 36.1% | | 61,073,091 |
| ===== | | |
| ===== | | |
| Preferred Stocks | Shares | |
| ----- | | |
| Capital Markets -- 0.2% | | |
| Deutsche Bank Contingent Capital Trust II, 6.55% | 15,000 | 333,000 |
| ----- | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 6.7% | | |
| Barclays Bank Plc, 8.125% | 50,000 | 1,267,500 |
| First Tennessee Bank NA, 3.90% (a) (c) | 1,176 | 844,515 |
| Provident Financial Group, Inc., 7.75% | 42,000 | 1,080,190 |
| ===== | | |
| Preferred Stocks | Shares | Value |
| ----- | | |
| Commercial Banks (concluded) | | |
| Santander Finance Preferred SA Unipersonal: | | |
| 6.50% | 134,000 | \$ 2,843,319 |
| 6.80% | 110,000 | 2,447,500 |
| Sovereign Bancorp, Inc. Series C, 7.30% (e) | 1,400 | 27,020 |
| Wachovia Corp. Series J, 8% | 112,500 | 2,830,500 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 11,340,544 |
| ===== | | |
| Consumer Finance -- 1.2% | | |
| Capital One Capital II, 7.50%, 6/15/66 | 2,325,500 | 1,995,300 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 6.6% | | |
| Citigroup, Inc. Series AA, 8.125% | 130,000 | 3,295,500 |
| Citigroup, Inc. Series T, 6.50% (f) (g) | 60,000 | 3,129,000 |
| Cobank ACB, 7% (c) | 38,000 | 1,712,508 |
| JPMorgan Chase Capital XXI Series U, 3.80% (a) | 3,870,000 | 2,985,651 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 11,122,659 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 2.2% | | |
| Alabama Power Co., 6.50% | 25,000 | 618,750 |
| Entergy Arkansas, Inc., 6.45% | 28,800 | 717,301 |
| Entergy Louisiana LLC, 6.95% | 22,650 | 2,393,199 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 3,729,250 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 12.5% | | |

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| | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| AXA SA, 6.379% (a) (c) | 3,585,000 | 3,083,792 |
| Aspen Insurance Holdings Ltd., 7.401% (a) | 55,000 | 1,201,750 |
| Axis Capital Holdings Ltd: | | |
| Series A, 7.25% | 35,000 | 834,050 |
| Series B, 7.50% (a) | 9,000 | 865,688 |
| Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd. | | |
| Series A, 7.75% | 35,200 | 832,480 |
| Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd., | | |
| 6.40% (a) (c) | 1,740,000 | 1,259,814 |
| Great West Life & Annuity Insurance Co., | | |
| 7.153% (a) (c) | 2,000,000 | 1,822,568 |
| MetLife, Inc., 6.40% | 4,225,000 | 3,802,661 |
| MetLife, Inc. Series B, 6.50% | 170,000 | 3,915,100 |
| PartnerRe Finance II, 6.44% (a) | 1,450,000 | 1,156,510 |
| RenaissanceRe Holding Ltd. Series D, 6.60% | 110,000 | 2,348,500 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 21,122,913 |
| ===== | | |
| Multi-Utilities -- 1.2% | | |
| Dominion Resources, Inc., 7.50% (a) | 2,100,000 | 1,947,620 |
| ===== | | |
| Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels -- 0.5% | | |
| Enterprise Products Operating LP, 8.375% (a) | 825,000 | 821,154 |
| ===== | | |
| Thrifts & Mortgage Finance -- 9.3% | | |
| Fannie Mae, 8.25% | 190,000 | 4,757,600 |
| Fannie Mae Series L, 5.125% | 6,000 | 205,500 |
| Fannie Mae Series O, 7% (a) | 100,000 | 4,581,250 |
| Freddie Mac Series: | | |
| U, 5.90% | 50,000 | 1,000,000 |
| V, 5.57% | 75,000 | 1,422,660 |
| Y, 6.55% | 100,000 | 2,305,000 |
| Z, 8.375% | 55,000 | 1,408,000 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 15,680,010 |
| ===== | | |
| Wireless Telecommunication Services -- 1.6% | | |
| Centaur Funding Corp., 9.08% (c) | 2,720 | 2,731,900 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Preferred Stocks -- 41.9% | | 70,824,350 |
| ===== | | |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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APRIL 30, 2008

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Schedule of Investments (continued)

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(Percentages shown are based on Net Assets)

| Real Estate Investment Trusts | Shares | Value |
|---|--------|------------|
| ----- | | |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) -- 7.2% | | |
| BRE Properties, Inc. Series D, 6.75% | 10,000 | \$ 216,200 |
| First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc., 6.236% (a) | 610 | 629,825 |
| HCP, Inc. Series F, 7.10% | 17,000 | 374,340 |

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| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| HRPT Properties Trust: | | |
| Series B, 8.75% | 247,917 | 6,202,883 |
| Series C, 7.125% | 125,000 | 2,688,750 |
| iStar Financial, Inc. Series I, 7.50% | 59,500 | 941,290 |
| Public Storage, Inc. Series I, 7.25% | 40,000 | 960,000 |
| Public Storage Series F, 6.45% | 10,000 | 211,000 |

 Total Real Estate Investment Trusts -- 7.2% 12,224,288
 =====

| Trust Preferreds | Par (000) | |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| ----- | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 1.0% | | |
| Citigroup Capital XVII, 6.35%, 3/15/67 (a) (g) | \$ 1,980 | 1,674,171 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 0.7% | | |
| PPL Energy Supply LLC, 7%, 7/15/46 | 1,235 | 1,230,383 |
| ===== | | |
| Gas Utilities -- 5.9% | | |
| Southwest Gas Capital II, 7.70%, 9/15/43 | 10,000 | 9,902,697 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 2.1% | | |
| ABN AMRO North America Capital Funding Trust II, 2.855% (a) (b) (c) (d) | 2,000 | 1,361,435 |
| Lincoln National Capital VI Series F, 6.75%, 9/11/52 | 2,250 | 2,172,397 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 3,533,832 |
| ===== | | |
| Media -- 3.1% | | |
| Comcast Corp., 6.625%, 5/15/56 | 5,875 | 5,239,419 |
| ===== | | |
| Thrifts & Mortgage Finance -- 0.5% | | |
| Countrywide Financial Corp., 6.75%, 4/01/33 | 1,250 | 926,988 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Trust Preferreds -- 13.3% | | 22,507,490 |
| ===== | | |
| Total Preferred Securities -- 98.5% | | 166,629,219 |
| ===== | | |

 Corporate Bonds
 =====

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Building Products -- 0.5% | | |
| C8 Capital SPV Ltd., 6.64% (a) (b) (c) | 980 | 910,695 |
| ===== | | |
| Capital Markets -- 3.9% | | |
| Ameriprise Financial, Inc., 7.518%, 6/01/66 (a) | 1,900 | 1,754,855 |
| The Bear Stearns Cos., Inc., 6.40%, 10/02/17 | 1,000 | 1,031,713 |
| Credit Suisse Guernsey Ltd., 5.86% (a) (b) | 1,970 | 1,667,428 |
| Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc.: | | |
| 4.50%, 9/15/22 (a) | 330 | 320,211 |
| 6.875%, 7/17/37 | 1,950 | 1,807,835 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 6,582,042 |
| ===== | | |

Par

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| Corporate Bonds | (000) | Value |
|--|----------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 18.7% | | |
| BNP Paribas, 7.195% (a) (b) (c) | \$ 7,000 | \$ 6,566,903 |
| Bank of Ireland Capital Funding II, LP, 5.571% (a) (b) (c) | 2,015 | 1,500,746 |
| Bank of Ireland Capital Funding III, LP, 6.107% (a) (b) (c) | 2,150 | 1,632,723 |
| Barclays Bank Plc (a) (b) (c): | | |
| 7.70% | 3,000 | 3,062,433 |
| 7.434% | 1,325 | 1,269,987 |
| Credit Agricole SA, 6.637% (a) (b) (c) | 7,945 | 6,514,694 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc (b) (c): | | |
| 9.118% | 1,200 | 1,213,145 |
| 6.99% (a) | 1,400 | 1,285,014 |
| Series MTN, 7.64% (a) | 1,900 | 1,788,404 |
| Societe Generale, 5.922% (a) (b) (c) | 4,600 | 3,930,143 |
| Standard Chartered Bank, 7.014% (a) (b) (c) | 2,350 | 2,168,159 |
| SunTrust Preferred Capital I, 5.853% (a) (b) | 1,050 | 798,000 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 31,730,351 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 6.3% | | |
| Bank of America Corp. Series K, 8% (a) (b) | 6,310 | 6,419,655 |
| Citigroup, Inc., 8.30%, 12/21/77 (a) | 1,317 | 1,344,571 |
| JPMorgan Chase Capital XXV, 6.80%, 10/01/37 | 3,125 | 2,961,516 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 10,725,742 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 0.8% | | |
| PPL Capital Funding, 6.70%, 3/30/67 (a) | 1,500 | 1,278,389 |
| ===== | | |
| Gas Utilities -- 1.1% | | |
| Southern Union Co., 7.20%, 11/01/66 (a) | 2,350 | 1,918,178 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 24.7% | | |
| The Allstate Corp., 6.50%, 5/15/57 (a) | 3,200 | 2,935,584 |
| The Allstate Corp. Series B, 6.125%, 5/15/67 (a) | 2,625 | 2,438,145 |
| American International Group, Inc., 6.25%, 3/15/87 (g) | 2,800 | 2,468,732 |
| Chubb Corp., 6.375%, 3/29/67 (a) | 4,475 | 4,175,412 |
| Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., 6.60%, 5/01/67 (a) | 3,560 | 2,894,825 |
| Liberty Mutual Group, Inc., 7%, 3/15/37 (a) (c) | 2,550 | 2,350,682 |
| Lincoln National Corp. (a): | | |
| 7%, 5/17/66 | 3,000 | 2,764,428 |
| 6.05%, 4/20/67 | 1,250 | 1,073,845 |
| Nationwide Life Global Funding I, 6.75%, 5/15/67 | 2,450 | 1,994,721 |
| Oil Insurance Ltd., 7.558% (a) (b) (c) | 1,000 | 873,690 |
| Progressive Corp., 6.70%, 6/15/37 (a) | 2,900 | 2,593,290 |
| QBE Capital Funding II LP, 6.797% (a) (b) (c) | 2,120 | 1,821,050 |
| Reinsurance Group of America, 6.75%, 12/15/65 (a) | 700 | 555,551 |
| Swiss Re Capital I LP, 6.854% (a) (b) (c) | 2,225 | 2,018,972 |
| The Travelers Cos., Inc., 6.25%, 3/15/67 (a) | 5,750 | 5,032,699 |
| ZFS Finance (USA) Trust II, 6.45%, 12/15/65 (a) (c) | 1,800 | 1,585,606 |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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Schedule of Investments (continued)

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(Percentages shown are based on Net Assets)

| Corporate Bonds | Par (000) | Value |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Insurance (concluded) | | |
| ZFS Finance (USA) Trust IV, 5.875%, 5/09/32 (a) (c) | \$ 500 | \$ 458,380 |
| ZFS Finance (USA) Trust V, 6.50%, 5/09/67 (a) (c) | 4,355 | 3,836,415 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 41,872,027 |
| ===== | | |
| Multi-Utilities -- 0.3% | | |
| Puget Sound Energy, Inc. Series A, 6.974%, 6/01/67 (a) | 475 | 428,068 |
| ----- | | |
| Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels -- 2.6% | | |
| Conoco Funding Co., 6.35%, 10/15/11 | 1,510 | 1,613,400 |
| Plains All American Pipeline LP, 6.50%, 5/01/18 (c) | 800 | 803,411 |
| TransCanada PipeLines Ltd., 6.35%, 5/15/67 (a) | 2,150 | 1,910,853 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 4,327,664 |
| ===== | | |
| Thriffs & Mortgage Finance -- 0.3% | | |
| Washington Mutual Preferred Funding Delaware, 6.534% (a) (b) (c) | 800 | 460,056 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Corporate Bonds -- 59.2% | | 100,233,212 |
| ===== | | |
| Exchange-Traded Funds | Shares | Value |
| ----- | | |
| UltraShort Financials ProShares | 46,000 | \$ 4,657,960 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Exchange-Traded Funds -- 2.8% | | 4,657,960 |
| ===== | | |
| Total Long-Term Investments (Cost -- \$295,281,096) -- 160.5% | | 271,520,391 |
| ===== | | |
| ===== | | |
| Short-Term Securities | Beneficial Interest (000) | |
| ----- | | |
| BlackRock Liquidity Series, LLC Cash Sweep Series, 3.03% (h) (i) | \$ 35,107 | 35,106,666 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Short-Term Securities | | |

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| | |
|--|---------------|
| (Cost -- \$35,106,666) -- 20.7% | 35,106,666 |
| ===== | |
| Total Investments | |
| (Cost -- \$330,387,762*) -- 181.2% | 306,627,057 |
| Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets -- (0.5%) | (866,289) |
| Preferred Stock, at Redemption Value -- (80.7%) | (136,517,798) |
| Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock -- 100.0% | \$169,242,970 |
| | ===== |

* The cost and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments as of April 30, 2008, as computed for federal income tax purposes, were as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Aggregate cost | \$330,381,803 |
| | ===== |
| Gross unrealized appreciation | \$ 1,676,011 |
| Gross unrealized depreciation | (25,430,757) |
| | ----- |
| Net unrealized depreciation | \$(23,754,746) |
| | ===== |

- (a) Variable rate security. Rate shown is as of report date. Maturity shown is the final maturity date.
- (b) Security is perpetual in nature and has no stated maturity date. In certain instances, a final maturity date may be extended and/or the final payment may be deferred at the issuers option for a specified time without default.
- (c) Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration to qualified institutional investors. Unless otherwise indicative these securities are not considered to be illiquid.
- (d) Illiquid security.
- (e) Depositary receipts.
- (f) Convertible security.
- (g) All or a portion of the security has been pledged as collateral in connection with open financial futures contracts.
- (h) Investments in companies considered to be an affiliate of the Fund, for purposes of Section 2(a)(3) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, were as follows:

| Affiliate | Net Activity (000) | Interest Income |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| ----- | | |
| BlackRock Liquidity Series, LLC | | |
| Cash Sweep Series | \$ 12,151 | \$ 643,631 |
| ----- | | |

- (i) Represents the current yield as of report date.

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- o For Fund compliance purposes, the Fund's industry classifications refer to any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or ratings group indexes, and/or as defined by Fund management. This definition may not apply for purposes of this report, which may combine industry sub-classifications for reporting ease.
- o Financial futures contracts sold as of April 30, 2008 were as follows:

| Number of Contracts | Issue | Expiration Date | Face Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 189 | 5-Year U.S. Treasury Bond | June 2008 | \$ 21,146,912 | \$ (18,135) |
| 125 | 10-Year U.S. Treasury Bond | June 2008 | 14,894,257 | \$ 417,694 |
| 974 | 30-Year U.S. Treasury Bond | June 2008 | 114,250,295 | \$ 398,826 |
| Total Net Unrealized Appreciation | | | | \$ 798,385 |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

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Schedule of Investments (concluded)

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

- o Swaps outstanding as of April 30, 2008 were as follows:

| | Notional Amount (000) | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Receive a fixed rate of 3.1925% and pay a floating rate based on 3-month USD LIBOR Broker, Citibank N.A. Expires April 2010 | \$ 74,700 | \$ 113,974 |
| Receive a fixed rate of 3.193% and pay a floating rate based on 3-month USD LIBOR Broker, Deutsche Bank AG Expires April 2010 | 99,600 | 152,948 |
| Bought credit default protection on Capital One Financial Corp. and pay 4.175% Broker, Citibank N.A. Expires March 2013 | 1,000 | (77,819) |
| Bought credit default protection on Capital One Financial Corp. and pay 4.2% | | |

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| | | |
|---|--------|--------------|
| Broker, Deutsche Bank AG | | |
| Expires March 2013 | 2,000 | (157,700) |
| Bought credit default protection on American Express Company and pay 2.10% | | |
| Broker, JPMorgan Chase | | |
| Expires March 2013 | 2,000 | (92,840) |
| Bought credit default protection on Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. and pay 4.95% | | |
| Broker, Deutsche Bank AG | | |
| Expires March 2013 | 1,000 | (139,122) |
| Receive a fixed rate of 3.8925% and pay a floating rate based on 3-month USD LIBOR | | |
| Broker, Lehman Brothers Special Finance | | |
| Expires April 2013 | 19,900 | 87,495 |
| Bought credit default protection on Kimco Realty Corp. and pay 2.4% | | |
| Broker, Goldman Sachs & Co. | | |
| Expires March 2018 | 1,000 | (82,377) |
| Bought credit default protection on Mack-Cali Realty L.P. and pay 3.1% | | |
| Broker, Goldman Sachs & Co. | | |
| Expires March 2018 | 1,000 | (55,731) |
| Bought credit default protection on ERP Operating Limited Partnership and pay 2.35% | | |
| Broker, Goldman Sachs & Co. | | |
| Expires March 2018 | 1,000 | (95,644) |
| ----- | | |
| Total | | \$ (346,816) |
| | | ===== |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

=====
Schedule of Investments April 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(Percentages shown are based on Net Assets)

| Capital Trusts | Par (000) | Value |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Capital Markets -- 3.4% | | |
| Credit Suisse Guernsey Ltd, Series 1, 3.75% (a) (b) | \$ 5,800 | \$ 4,638,086 |
| Lehman Brothers Holdings Capital Trust V, 3.915% (a) (b) | 6,400 | 4,353,843 |
| State Street Capital Trust III, 8.25% (a) (b) | 4,000 | 3,986,453 |
| State Street Capital Trust IV, 3.80%, 6/01/67 (a) | 12,535 | 9,518,690 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 22,497,072 |
| ===== | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 19.5% | | |
| ABN AMRO North America Holding Preferred | | |
| Capital Repackaging Trust I, 6.523% (a) (b) (c) | 12,035 | 11,843,126 |
| Abbey National Capital Trust I, 8.963% (a) (b) | 2,811 | 3,003,607 |

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| | | |
|--|----------|--------------|
| BB&T Capital Trust IV, 6.82%, 6/12/77 (a) | 18,350 | 16,138,091 |
| Bank One Capital III, 8.75%, 9/01/30 | 2,000 | 2,180,868 |
| Barclays Bank Plc, 5.926% (a) (b) (c) | 6,115 | 5,163,151 |
| First Empire Capital Trust II, 8.277%, 6/01/27 | 3,630 | 3,645,555 |
| HSBC America Capital Trust I, 7.808%, 12/15/26 (c) | 2,000 | 2,014,218 |
| HSBC Capital Funding LP/Jersey Channel Islands, 10.176% (a) (b) (c) | 15,835 | 19,610,919 |
| HSBC Finance Capital Trust IX, 5.911%, 11/30/35 (a) | 7,300 | 6,066,242 |
| Hubco Capital Trust II Series B, 7.65%, 6/15/28 | 12,275 | 12,764,685 |
| Huntington Capital III, 6.65%, 5/15/37 (a) | 3,850 | 2,783,423 |
| NationsBank Capital Trust III, 3.263%, 1/15/27 (a) | 13,470 | 10,133,643 |
| Regions Financing Trust II, 6.625%, 5/15/47 (a) | 5,705 | 3,995,354 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc, 7.648% (a) (b) | 3,930 | 3,320,426 |
| SunTrust Preferred Capital I, 5.853% (a) (b) | 4,175 | 3,173,000 |
| Wachovia Corp, Series K, 7.98% (a) (b) | 24,650 | 24,251,656 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 130,087,964 |
| ===== | | |
| Consumer Finance -- 0.7% | | |
| MBNA Capital A, 8.278%, 12/01/26 | 4,630 | 4,694,181 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 11.9% | | |
| AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, 8.393%, 12/15/16 (a) (d) | 15,000 | 12,610,935 |
| Bank of America Corp., Series M, 8.125% (a) (b) | 15,200 | 15,534,096 |
| Citigroup, Inc., 8.40% (a) (b) | 23,000 | 23,277,840 |
| Farm Credit Bank of Texas Series 1, 7.561%, (a) (b) | 9,000 | 8,775,630 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co., 7.90% (a) (b) | 13,000 | 13,243,100 |
| JPMorgan Chase Capital XXIII, 4.065%, 5/15/77 (a) | 8,375 | 6,406,649 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 79,848,250 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 0.8% | | |
| SWEPCO Capital I, 5.25%, 10/01/43 (a) | 5,000 | 5,027,690 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 10.6% | | |
| AON Corp., 8.205%, 1/01/27 | 12,175 | 11,481,780 |
| Ace Capital Trust II, 9.70%, 4/01/30 | 11,300 | 13,034,177 |
| Farmers Exchange Capital, 7.05%, 7/15/28 (c) | 15,000 | 13,763,250 |
| GE Global Insurance Holding Corp., 7.75%, 6/15/30 | 10,000 | 10,587,070 |
| Genworth Financial, Inc., 6.15%, 11/15/66 (a) | 3,000 | 2,512,323 |
| ING Capital Funding Trust III, 8.439% (a) (b) | 6,066 | 6,092,575 |
| Oil Casualty Insurance Ltd., 8%, 9/15/34 (c) | 3,605 | 3,136,574 |
| | | |
| | Par | |
| Capital Trusts | (000) | Value |
| ----- | | |
| Insurance (concluded) | | |
| Principal Life Insurance Co., 8%, 3/01/2044 (Surplus Notes) (c) | \$ 6,325 | \$ 6,917,690 |
| Zenith National Insurance Capital Trust I, 8.55%, 8/01/28 (c) (d) | 3,750 | 3,543,750 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 71,069,189 |
| ===== | | |
| Multi-Utilities -- 1.5% | | |
| Dominion Resources Capital Trust I, | | |

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| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 7.83%, 12/01/27 | 10,000 | 10,230,410 |
| ===== | | |
| Road & Rail -- 0.5% | | |
| BNSF Funding Trust I, 6.613%, 12/15/55 (a) | 3,750 | 3,442,980 |
| ===== | | |
| Thrifts & Mortgage Finance -- 0.4% | | |
| Webster Capital Trust IV, 7.65%, 6/15/37 (a) | 3,875 | 2,840,022 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Capital Trusts -- 49.3% | | 329,737,758 |
| ===== | | |
| ===== | | |
| Preferred Stocks | Shares | |
| ----- | | |
| Capital Markets -- 0.2% | | |
| Deutsche Bank Contingent Capital Trust II, 6.55% | 72,200 | 1,602,840 |
| ===== | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 8.5% | | |
| Barclays Bank Plc, 8.125% | 225,000 | 5,703,750 |
| First Tennessee Bank NA, 3.90% (c) | 4,650 | 3,339,281 |
| Provident Financial Group, Inc., 7.75% | 166,800 | 4,289,896 |
| SG Preferred Capital II, 6.302% (a) | 23,000 | 21,806,875 |
| Santander Finance Preferred SA Unipersonal: | | |
| 6.50% | 374,000 | 7,935,831 |
| 6.80% | 208,600 | 4,641,350 |
| Sovereign Bancorp, Inc. Series C, 7.30% (e) | 48,000 | 926,400 |
| Wachovia Corp., Series J, 8% | 325,000 | 8,177,000 |
| ----- | | |
| | | 56,820,383 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 5.9% | | |
| Citigroup, Inc.: | | |
| Series AA, 8.125% | 326,400 | 8,274,240 |
| Series T, 6.50% (f) | 240,000 | 12,516,000 |
| Cobank ACB, 7% (c) | 152,000 | 6,850,032 |
| JPMorgan Chase Capital XXI Series U, 3.80% (a) | 15,525,000 | 11,977,320 |
| ----- | | |
| | | 39,617,592 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 2.2% | | |
| Alabama Power Co.: | | |
| 5.83% | 14,000 | 336,000 |
| 6.50% | 145,000 | 3,588,750 |
| Entergy Arkansas, Inc., 6.45% | 114,400 | 2,849,281 |
| Entergy Louisiana LLC, 6.95% | 49,850 | 5,267,151 |
| Interstate Power & Light Co. Series B, 8.375% | 80,000 | 2,344,000 |
| ----- | | |
| | | 14,385,182 |
| ===== | | |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(Percentages shown are based on Net Assets)

| Preferred Stocks | Shares | Value |
|---|------------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Insurance -- 15.9% | | |
| ACE Ltd. Series C, 7.80% | 400,000 | \$ 9,880,000 |
| AXA SA, 6.379% (a) (c) | 13,470,000 | 11,586,800 |
| Aspen Insurance Holdings Ltd., 7.401% (a) | 194,000 | 4,238,900 |
| Axis Capital Holdings Ltd.: | | |
| Series A, 7.25% | 129,300 | 3,081,219 |
| Series B, 7.50% (a) | 36,000 | 3,462,750 |
| Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd. | | |
| Series A, 7.75% | 139,200 | 3,292,080 |
| Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd., | | |
| 6.40% (a) (c) | 6,930,000 | 5,017,535 |
| Great West Life & Annuity Insurance Co., | | |
| 7.153% (a) (c) | 7,500,000 | 6,834,630 |
| MetLife, Inc.: | | |
| 6.40%, 12/15/66 | 16,825,000 | 15,143,139 |
| Series B, 6.50% | 764,400 | 17,604,132 |
| PartnerRe Finance II, 6.44% (a) | 5,700,000 | 4,546,280 |
| Prudential Plc, 6.50% | 92,400 | 2,042,040 |
| RenaissanceRe Holding Ltd. Series D, 6.60% | 435,000 | 9,287,250 |
| Zurich RegCaPS Funding Trust, 6.58% (a) (c) | 9,800 | 9,634,625 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 105,651,380 |
| ===== | | |
| Multi-Utilities -- 1.7% | | |
| Dominion Resources, Inc., 7.50% (a) | 8,400,000 | 7,790,479 |
| Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Series A, 6% | 140,000 | 3,591,000 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 11,381,479 |
| ===== | | |
| Thriffs & Mortgage Finance -- 8.6% | | |
| Fannie Mae: | | |
| 8.25% | 749,025 | 18,755,586 |
| Series L, 5.125% | 264,650 | 9,064,263 |
| Series O, 7% (a) | 112,148 | 5,137,780 |
| Freddie Mac: | | |
| Series Q, 3.85% (a) | 120,000 | 3,660,000 |
| Series U, 5.90% | 225,000 | 4,500,000 |
| Series V, 5.57% | 325,000 | 6,164,860 |
| Series Y, 6.55% | 216,600 | 4,992,630 |
| Series Z, 8.375% | 215,000 | 5,504,000 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 57,779,119 |
| ===== | | |
| Wireless Telecommunication Services -- 0.4% | | |
| Centaur Funding Corp., 9.08% (c) | 2,423 | 2,433,601 |
| | | ----- |
| Total Preferred Stocks -- 43.4% | | 289,671,576 |
| ===== | | |
| ----- | | |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts | | |
| ===== | | |
| Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) -- 4.1% | | |
| BRE Properties, Inc. Series D, 6.75% | 35,000 | 756,700 |
| Developers Diversified Realty Corp., 8% | 400,000 | 9,660,000 |

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| | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc., 6.236% (a) | 2,390 | 2,467,675 |
| Firststar Realty LLC, 8.875% (c) | 4,000 | 3,781,250 |
| HCP, Inc. Series F, 7.10% | 50,000 | 1,101,000 |
| Kimco Realty Corp. Series F, 6.65% | 50,000 | 1,115,000 |
| Public Storage Series F, 6.45% | 40,000 | 844,000 |
| Public Storage, Inc. Series I, 7.25% | 160,000 | 3,840,000 |
| Sovereign Real Estate Investment Corp., 12% (c) | 3,857 | 3,857,000 |

Total Real Estate Investment Trusts -- 4.1% 27,422,625
=====

| Trust Preferreds | Par (000) | Value |
|---|--------------|---------------------|
| ----- | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 0.2% | | |
| KeyCorp Capital IX, 6.75% | \$ 1,868 | \$ 1,513,920 |
| ===== | | |
| Communications Equipment -- 0.3% | | |
| Corporate-Backed Trust Certificates, Motorola Debenture Backed Series 2002-14, 8.375%, 11/15/28 | 2,000 | 1,870,127 |
| ===== | | |
| Consumer Finance -- 2.1% | | |
| Capital One Capital II, 7.50%, 6/15/66 | 16,702 | 14,330,468 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 0.9% | | |
| Citigroup Capital XVII, 6.35%, 3/15/67 | 7,048 | 5,958,336 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 1.5% | | |
| Georgia Power Co. Series O, 1.475%, 4/15/33 | 1,250 | 1,210,611 |
| HECO Capital Trust III, 6.50%, 3/18/34 | 1,250 | 1,161,265 |
| National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp., 6.75%, 2/15/43 | 1,250 | 1,220,500 |
| PPL Energy Supply LLC, 7%, 7/15/46 (a) | 5,835 | 5,813,186 |
| Virginia Power Capital Trust II, 1.844%, 7/30/42 | 950 | 950,947 |
| | | ----- 10,356,509 |
| ===== | | |
| Gas Utilities -- 0.9% | | |
| Southwest Gas Capital II, 7.70%, 9/15/43 | 5,750 | 5,694,051 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 2.8% | | |
| ABN AMRO North America Capital Funding Trust II, 2.855% (a) (b) (c) (d) | 11,000 | 7,490,357 |
| Lincoln National Capital VI Series F, 6.75%, 9/11/52 | 5,000 | 4,827,548 |
| W.R. Berkley Capital Trust II, 6.75%, 7/26/45 | 7,375 | 6,537,689 |
| | | ----- 18,855,594 |
| ===== | | |
| Media -- 3.1% | | |
| Comcast Corp., 6.625%, 5/15/56 | 23,375 | 20,846,666 |
| ===== | | |
| Thriffs & Mortgage Finance -- 0.5% | | |
| Countrywide Financial Corp., 6.75%, 4/01/33 | 4,250 | 3,177,059 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Trust Preferreds -- 12.3% | | 82,602,730 |
| ===== | | |
| Total Preferred Securities -- 109.1% | | 729,434,689 |
| ===== | | |

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Corporate Bonds

| | | |
|---|-------|------------|
| ===== | | |
| Building Products -- 0.4% | | |
| C8 Capital SPV Ltd., 6.64% (a) (b) (c) | 3,915 | 3,638,131 |
| ===== | | |
| Capital Markets -- 4.7% | | |
| Ameriprise Financial, Inc., 7.518%, 6/01/66 (a) | 7,600 | 7,019,421 |
| The Bear Stearns Cos., Inc., 6.40%, 10/02/17 | 7,750 | 7,995,776 |
| Credit Suisse Guernsey Ltd., 5.86% (a) (b) | 9,045 | 7,655,778 |
| Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc.: | | |
| 4.50%, 9/15/22 (a) | 1,310 | 1,271,142 |
| 6.875%, 7/17/37 | 7,800 | 7,231,341 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 31,173,458 |
| ===== | | |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

Schedule of Investments (continued)

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
(Percentages shown are based on Net Assets)

| Corporate Bonds | Par (000) | Value |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| ----- | | |
| Commercial Banks -- 18.3% | | |
| BNP Paribas, 7.195% (a) (b) (c) (g) | \$ 23,025 | \$ 21,600,420 |
| Bank of Ireland Capital Funding II, LP, 5.571% (a) (b) (c) | 8,065 | 6,006,707 |
| Bank of Ireland Capital Funding III, LP, 6.107% (a) (b) (c) | 8,575 | 6,511,906 |
| Barclays Bank Plc (a) (b) (c): | | |
| 7.43% | 5,250 | 5,032,025 |
| 7.7% | 13,000 | 13,270,544 |
| Credit Agricole SA, 6.637% (a) (b) (c) | 31,800 | 26,075,173 |
| HBOS Plc, 6.657% (a) (b) (c) | 5,000 | 3,687,000 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc (b): | | |
| 6.99% (c) | 5,575 | 5,117,109 |
| 9.12% | 4,800 | 4,852,579 |
| Series MTN, 7.64% | 7,500 | 7,059,488 |
| Societe Generale, 5.922% (a) (b) (c) | 17,250 | 14,738,037 |
| Standard Chartered Bank, 7.014% (a) (b) (c) | 9,575 | 8,834,096 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 122,785,084 |
| ===== | | |
| Diversified Financial Services -- 3.3% | | |
| Bank of America Corp., Series K, 8% (a) (b) | 11,895 | 12,101,711 |
| Citigroup, Inc., 8.30%, 12/21/77 (a) | 4,000 | 4,083,740 |
| JPMorgan Chase Capital XXV, 6.80%, 10/01/37 | 6,150 | 5,828,263 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 22,013,714 |
| ===== | | |
| Electric Utilities -- 0.8% | | |

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| | | |
|---|--------|-------------|
| PPL Capital Funding, 6.70%, 3/30/67 (a) | 5,925 | 5,049,635 |
| ===== | | |
| Gas Utilities -- 1.8% | | |
| Southern Union Co., 7.20%, 11/01/66 (a) | 14,400 | 11,753,942 |
| ===== | | |
| Insurance -- 24.1% | | |
| The Allstate Corp. (a): | | |
| 6.50%, 5/15/57 | 12,775 | 11,719,402 |
| Series B, 6.125%, 5/15/67 | 10,450 | 9,706,138 |
| American International Group, Inc., | | |
| 6.25%, 3/15/87 | 11,220 | 9,892,562 |
| Chubb Corp., 6.375%, 3/29/67 (a) | 17,700 | 16,515,038 |
| Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., | | |
| 6.60%, 5/01/67 (a) | 14,280 | 11,611,825 |
| Liberty Mutual Group, Inc., 7%, 3/15/37 (a) (c) | 10,150 | 9,356,635 |
| Lincoln National Corp. (a): | | |
| 7%, 5/17/66 | 12,000 | 11,057,712 |
| 6.05%, 4/20/67 | 5,025 | 4,316,857 |
| Nationwide Life Global Funding I, | | |
| 6.75%, 5/15/67 | 9,675 | 7,877,114 |
| Oil Insurance Ltd., 7.558% (a) (b) (c) | 5,000 | 4,368,450 |
| Progressive Corp., 6.70%, 6/15/37 (a) | 11,650 | 10,417,873 |
| QBE Capital Funding II LP, 6.797% (a) (b) (c) | 8,525 | 7,322,856 |
| Reinsurance Group of America, 6.75%, | | |
| 12/15/65 (a) | 3,000 | 2,380,932 |
| Structured Asset Repackaged Trust Series | | |
| 2004-1, 5.417%, 4/21/11 | 525 | 503,446 |
| Swiss Re Capital I LP, 6.854% (a) (b) (c) | 8,875 | 8,053,202 |
| The Travelers Cos., Inc., 6.25%, 3/15/67 (a) | 22,850 | 19,999,508 |
| ZFS Finance (USA) (a) (b): | | |
| Trust IV, 5.875%, 5/09/32 | 1,300 | 1,191,788 |
| Trust V, 6.50%, 5/09/67 | 17,110 | 15,072,575 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 161,363,913 |
| ===== | | |

| Corporate Bonds | Par (000) | Value |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Multi-Utilities -- 0.2% | | |
| Puget Sound Energy, Inc. Series A, 6.974%, 6/01/67 (b) | \$ 1,825 | \$ 1,644,684 |
| ===== | | |
| Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels -- 3.2% | | |
| Conoco Funding Co., 6.35%, 10/15/11 | 6,100 | 6,517,710 |
| Enterprise Products Operating LP, 8.375%, 8/01/66 (a) | 4,225 | 4,205,303 |
| Plains All American Pipeline LP, 6.50%, 5/01/18 (c) | 3,145 | 3,158,410 |
| TransCanada PipeLines Ltd., 6.35%, 5/15/67 (a) | 8,300 | 7,376,783 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 21,258,206 |
| ===== | | |
| Thriffs & Mortgage Finance -- 0.9% | | |
| Roslyn Real Estate Asset Corp. Series D, 8.88% (a) (b) | -- (h) | 4,016,250 |
| Washington Mutual Preferred Funding Delaware, 6.534% (a) (b) (c) | 3,200 | 1,840,224 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 5,856,474 |
| ----- | | |
| Total Corporate Bonds -- 57.7% | | 386,537,241 |

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=====
U.S. Government Obligations
=====
U.S. Treasury Bond, 5.00%, 5/15/37                1,050          1,137,939
-----
Total U.S. Government Obligations -- 0.2%          1,137,939
=====

```

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=====
Exchange-Traded Funds                               Shares
-----
UltraShort Financials ProShares                    235,000         23,796,100
-----
Total Exchange-Traded Funds -- 3.6%                23,796,100
=====
Total Long-Term Investments
(Cost -- $1,258,194,321) -- 170.6%                1,140,905,969
=====

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=====
Short-Term Securities                               Beneficial
                                                    Interest
                                                    (000)
-----
BlackRock Liquidity Series, LLC
  Cash Sweep Series, 3.03% (i) (j)                $    85,380     85,380,027
-----
Total Short-Term Securities
(Cost -- $85,380,027) -- 12.8%                    85,380,027
=====
Total Investments
(Cost -- $1,343,574,348*) -- 183.4%                1,226,285,996
-----
Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets -- (1.1%)     (7,243,559)
-----
Preferred Stock, at Redemption Value -- (82.3%)    (550,448,020)
-----
Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock -- 100.0%    $ 668,594,417
=====

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See Notes to Financial Statements.

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Schedule of Investments (concluded)

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

* The cost and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments, as of April 30, 2008, as computed for federal income tax purposes, were as follows:

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| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Aggregate cost | \$ 1,341,403,679 |
| | ===== |
| Gross unrealized appreciation | \$ 6,435,562 |
| Gross unrealized depreciation | (121,534,897) |
| | ----- |
| Net unrealized depreciation | \$ (115,099,335) |
| | ===== |

- (a) Variable rate security. Rate shown is as of report date. Maturity shown is the final maturity date.
- (b) Security is a perpetual in nature and has no state maturity date. In certain instances, a final maturity date may be extended and/or the final payment may be deferred at the issuer's option for a specified time without default.
- (c) Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration to qualified institutional investors. Unless otherwise indicated, these securities are not considered to be illiquid.
- (d) Security is illiquid.
- (e) Depositary receipts.
- (f) Convertible security.
- (g) All or a portion of the security has been pledged as collateral in connection with open financial futures contracts.
- (h) Amount is less than \$1,000.
- (i) Investments in companies considered to be an affiliate of the Fund, for purposes of Section 2(a)(3) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, were as follows:

| Affiliate | Net Activity (000) | Interest Income |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|
| BlackRock Liquidity Series, LLC Cash Sweep Series | \$31,115 | \$1,449,958 |

- (j) Represents the current yield as of report date.
- o For Fund compliance purposes, the Fund's industry classifications refer to any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or ratings group indexes, and/or as defined by Fund management. This definition may not apply for purposes of this report, which may combine industry sub-classifications for reporting ease.
- o Financial futures contracts sold as of April 30,2008 were as follows:

| Number of Contracts | Issue | Expiration Date | Face Amount | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|------------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------|--|
|------------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------|--|

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| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 749 | 5-Year U.S. Treasury Notes | June 2008 | \$ 83,804,431 | \$ (71,866) |
| 499 | 10-Year U.S. Treasury Notes | June 2008 | 59,457,871 | 1,667,433 |
| 3,892 | 30-Year U.S. Treasury Notes | June 2008 | 453,960,060 | (978,252) |
| Total Net Unrealized Appreciation | | | | \$ 617,315 |

o Swaps outstanding as of April 30,2008 were as follows:

| | Notional Amount (000) | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Receive a fixed rate of 3.1925% and pay a floating rate based on 3-month USD LIBOR Broker, Citibank NA Expires April 2010 | \$295,900 | \$ 451,469 |
| Receive a fixed rate of 3.193% and pay a floating rate based on 3-month USD LIBOR Broker, Deutsche Bank AG London Expires April 2010 | 394,500 | 605,804 |
| Bought credit default protection on Capital One Financial Corp, and pay 4.175% Broker, Citibank NA Expires March 2013 | 14,000 | (1,107,326) |
| Bought credit default protection on American Express Company, and pay 2.10% Broker JPMorgan Chase Expires March 2013 | 8,000 | (371,360) |
| Bought credit default protection on Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc., and pay 4.95% Broker, Deutsche Bank AG London Expires March 2013 | 4,000 | (556,488) |
| Receive a fixed rate of 3.8925% and pay a floating rate based on 3-month USD LIBOR Broker, Lehman Brothers Special Finance Expires April 2013 | 78,900 | 346,904 |
| Bought credit default protection on Kimco Realty Corp. and pay 2.4% Broker, Goldman Sachs & Co. Expires March 2018 | 6,000 | (494,262) |
| Bought credit default protection on Mack-Cali Realty, L.P. and pay 3.1% Broker, Goldman Sachs & Co. Expires March 2018 | 5,000 | (278,655) |
| Bought credit default protection on ERP Operating Limited Partnership and pay 2.35% Broker, Goldman Sachs & Co. Expires March 2018 | 6,000 | (573,864) |
| Total | | \$ (1,977,778) |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

=====
 Statements of Assets and Liabilities

April 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

Assets

 Investments at value -- unaffiliated(1)
 Investments at value -- affiliated(2)
 Unrealized appreciation on swaps
 Interest receivable
 Dividends receivable
 Swaps payable
 Other assets
 Prepaid expenses

 Total assets

 Liabilities

 Unrealized depreciation on swaps
 Bank overdraft
 Investments purchased payable
 Margin variation payable
 Swaps payable
 Investment advisory fees payable
 Income dividends payable -- common shares
 Officer and Directors' fees payable
 Other affiliates payable
 Other accrued expenses

 Total liabilities

 Preferred Stock

 Preferred Stock, at redemption value, par value \$0.10 per share(3) at \$25,000 per share
 liquidation preference

 Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock

 Net Assets applicable to Common Stock shareholders

=====
Statements of Assets and Liabilities (concluded)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. |
| April 30, 2008 (Unaudited) | |

Analysis of Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share(4) | \$ 1,029,188 |
| Paid-in capital in excess of par | 238,394,096 |
| Undistributed net investment income | 906,078 |
| Accumulated net realized loss | (47,777,256) |
| Net unrealized appreciation/depreciation | (23,309,136) |
| Net Assets | \$ 169,242,970 |
| Net asset value per share of Common Stock(4) | \$ 16.44 |
| (1) Investments at cost-- unaffiliated | \$ 295,281,096 |
| (2) Investments at cost-- affiliated | \$ 35,106,666 |
| (3) Preferred Stock outstanding: | |
| Series M7 Shares | 2,730 |
| Series T7 Shares | 2,730 |
| Series W7 Shares | -- |
| Series TH7 Shares | -- |
| Series F7 Shares | -- |
| Series W28 Shares | -- |
| Series TH28 Shares | -- |
| (4) Common Stock issued and outstanding | 10,291,881 |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

=====
Statements of Operations

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BlackRock
Preferred and
Corporate Income
Strategies
Fund, Inc.

Six Months Ended April 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

Investment Income

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Interest | \$ 7,768,096 |
| Interest from affiliates | 643,631 |
| Dividends (1) | 2,090,474 |
| Total income | 10,502,201 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Investment advisory | 943,983 |
| Commissions for Preferred Stock | 182,022 |
| Professional | 41,491 |
| Accounting services | 33,600 |
| Transfer agent | 16,847 |
| Custodian | 11,118 |
| Officer and Directors | 9,632 |
| Printing | 9,081 |
| Registration | 4,654 |
| Miscellaneous | 28,304 |
| Total expenses excluding interest expense | 1,280,732 |
| Interest expense | 10,175 |
| Total expenses | 1,290,907 |
| Net investment income | 9,211,294 |

Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Net realized loss from: | |
| Investments | (9,230,268) |
| Financial futures contracts and swaps | (6,597,909) |
| Borrowed bonds | (196,096) |
| | (16,024,273) |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on: | |
| Investments | (16,278,018) |
| Financial futures contracts and swaps | 1,089,814 |
| Borrowed bonds | 16,010 |
| | (15,172,194) |
| Total realized and unrealized loss | (31,196,467) |

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| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Dividends to Preferred Stock Shareholders from | |
| Net investment income | (3,238,522) |
| Net Decrease in Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock Shareholders Resulting from Operations | \$ (25,223,695) |
| (1) Withholding tax | \$ 9,433 |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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Statements of Changes in Net Assets

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets:

Operations

| | |
|--|--|
| Net investment income | |
| Net realized loss | |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation | |
| Dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders from net investment income | |
| Net decrease in net assets applicable to Common Stock shareholders resulting from operations | |

Dividends and Distributions to Common Stock Shareholders

| | |
|--|--|
| Net investment income | |
| Tax return of capital | |
| Decrease in net assets resulting from dividends and distributions to Common Stock shareholders | |

Common Stock Transactions

| | |
|--|--|
| Reinvestment of Common Stock dividends | |
|--|--|

Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock Shareholders

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Total decrease in net assets applicable to Common Stock shareholders
 Beginning of period
 End of period
 End of period undistributed net investment income

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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=====

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets:

 Operations

 Net investment income
 Net realized loss
 Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation
 Dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders from net investment income
 Decrease in net assets applicable to Common Stock shareholders resulting from
 operations

 Dividends and Distributions to Common Stock Shareholders from

 Net investment income
 Tax return of capital
 Decrease in net assets resulting from dividends and distributions to Common Stock
 shareholders

 Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock Shareholders

 Total decrease in net assets applicable to Common Stock shareholders
 Beginning of period
 End of period
 End of period undistributed net investment income

See Notes to Financial Statements.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

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Financial Highlights

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

| | Six Months Ended April 30, 2008 (Unaudited) | 2007 | Year Ended October | |
|---|--|----------|--------------------|----------|
| | | | 2006 | 2007 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Per Share Operating Performance | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Net asset value, beginning of period | \$ 19.54 | \$ 22.25 | \$ 22.36 | \$ 22.36 |
| Net investment income | 0.90 (2) | 2.01 (2) | 2.14 (2) | 2.14 (2) |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) | (3.04) | (2.41) | 0.07 | (0.07) |
| Dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders from net investment income | (0.31) | (0.71) | (0.63) | (0.63) |
| Net increase (decrease) from investment operations | (2.45) | (1.11) | 1.58 | 1.58 |
| Dividends and distribution to Common Stock shareholders from: | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.65) | (1.18) | (1.69) | (1.69) |
| Tax return of capital | -- | (0.42) | -- | -- |
| Total dividends and distributions to Common Stock shareholders | (0.65) | (1.60) | (1.69) | (1.69) |
| Capital charges with respect to issuance of Common Stock | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Capital charges with respect to issuance of Preferred Stock | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Net asset value, end of period | \$ 16.44 | \$ 19.54 | \$ 22.25 | \$ 22.25 |
| Market price, end of period | \$ 15.82 | \$ 17.29 | \$ 21.26 | \$ 21.26 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Total Investment Return(3) | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Based on net asset value | (12.34%) (4) | (5.03%) | 7.97% | 7.97% |
| Based on market price | (4.67%) (4) | (12.05%) | 9.69% | 9.69% |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Ratios to Average Net Assets of Common | | | | |

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| Stock | | | |
|--|------------|-------|-------|
| Total expenses after waiver and excluding interest expense (5) | 1.43% (6) | 1.29% | 1.29% |
| Total expenses after waiver (5) | 1.44% (6) | 1.32% | 1.29% |
| Total expenses (5) | 1.44% (6) | 1.32% | 1.29% |
| Total net investment income (5) | 10.27% (6) | 9.38% | 9.70% |
| Dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders | 3.61% (6) | 3.29% | 2.84% |
| Net investment income to Common Stock shareholders | 6.66% (6) | 6.09% | 6.86% |

| Supplemental Data | | | | | |
|--|----|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Net assets applicable to Common Stock, end of period (000) | \$ | 169,243 | \$201,155 | \$228,734 | \$229 |
| Preferred Stock outstanding at liquidation preference, end of period (000) | \$ | 136,500 | \$136,500 | \$136,500 | \$136 |
| Portfolio turnover | | 44% | 88% | 19% | |
| Asset coverage (000) | \$ | 2,240 | \$ 2,474 | \$ 2,676 | \$ 2 |

- (1) Commencement of operations.
- (2) Based on average shares outstanding.
- (3) Total investment returns based on market value, which can be significantly greater or lesser than the net asset value, may result in substantially different returns. Total investment returns exclude the effects of sales charges.
- (4) Aggregate total investment return.
- (5) Do not reflect the effect of dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders.
- (6) Annualized.

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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Financial Highlights (concluded)

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

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| | Six Months Ended April 30, 2008 (Unaudited) | Year Ended October 31, 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|--|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| ===== | | | | |
| Per Share Operating Performance | | | | |
| Net asset value, beginning of period | \$ 19.93 | \$ 22.36 | \$ 22.26 | \$ 23.48 |
| Net investment income | 0.89 (2) | 2.02 (2) | 2.03 (2) | 2.09 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) | (3.34) | (2.35) | 0.32 | (0.91) |
| Dividends and distributions to Preferred Stock shareholders from: | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.32) | (0.73) | (0.65) | (0.40) |
| Net realized gain | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Net increase (decrease) from investment operations | (2.77) | (1.06) | 1.70 | 0.78 |
| Dividends and distributions to Common Stock shareholders from: | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.69) | (1.16) | (1.51) | (2.00) |
| Net realized gain | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Tax return of capital | -- | (0.21) | (0.09) | -- |
| Total dividends and distributions to Common Stock shareholders | (0.69) | (1.37) | (1.60) | (2.00) |
| Capital charges with respect to issuance of Common Stock | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Capital charges with respect to issuance of Preferred Stock | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Net asset value, end of period | \$ 16.47 | \$ 19.93 | \$ 22.36 | \$ 22.26 |
| Market price, end of period | \$ 15.86 | \$ 16.94 | \$ 20.12 | \$ 21.20 |
| ===== | | | | |
| Total Investment Return(3) | | | | |
| Based on net asset value | (13.73%) (4) | (4.35%) | 8.77% | 3.73% |
| Based on market price | (2.27%) (4) | (9.65%) | 2.77% | 1.43% |
| ===== | | | | |
| Ratios to Average Net Assets of Common Stock | | | | |
| Total expenses after waiver and excluding interest expense(5) | 1.36% (6) | 1.23% | 1.23% | 1.20% |
| Total expenses after waiver(5) | 1.36% (6) | 1.27% | 1.23% | 1.20% |
| Total expenses(5) | 1.36% (6) | 1.27% | 1.23% | 1.20% |
| Total net investment income(5) | 10.09% (6) | 9.29% | 9.26% | 8.96% |

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| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders .. | 3.66% (6) | 3.34% | 2.96% | 1.73% |
| Net investment income to Common Stock shareholders | 6.43% (6) | 5.95% | 6.30% | 7.23% |

Supplemental Data

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Net assets applicable to Common Stock, end of period (000) | \$ 668,594 | \$ 809,411 | \$ 907,897 | \$ 903,601 |
| Preferred Stock outstanding at liquidation preference, end of period (000) | \$ 550,000 | \$ 550,000 | \$ 550,000 | \$ 550,000 |
| Portfolio turnover | 41% | 81% | 18% | 28% |
| Asset coverage (000) | \$ 2,216 | \$ 2,472 | \$ 2,651 | \$ 2,643 |

- (1) Commencement of operations.
- (2) Based on average shares outstanding.
- (3) Total investment returns based on market value, which can be significantly greater or lesser than the net asset value, may result in substantially different returns. Total investment returns exclude the effects of sales charges.
- (4) Aggregate total investment return.
- (5) Do not reflect the effect of dividends to Preferred Stock shareholders.
- (6) Annualized.

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

1. Significant Accounting Policies:

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. and BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (the "Funds" or individually as the "Fund"), are registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as diversified, closed-end management investment companies. The Funds' financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which may require the use of management accruals and estimates. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The Funds determine and make available for publication the net asset value of its Common Stock on a daily basis.

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the

Funds:

Valuation of Investments: The Funds value their bond investments on the basis of last available bid price or current market quotations provided by dealers or pricing services selected under the supervision of each of the Fund's Board of Directors (the "Board"). Financial futures contracts are traded on exchanges and are valued at their last sale price. Swap agreements are valued by quoted fair values received daily by each of the Fund's pricing service. Short-term securities may be valued at amortized cost. Investments in open-end investment companies are valued at net asset value each business day. In determining the value of a particular investment, pricing services may use certain information with respect to transactions in such investments, quotations from dealers, pricing matrixes, market transactions in comparable investments, various relationships observed in the market between investments and calculated yield measures based on valuation technology commonly employed in the market for such investments.

Equity investments traded on a recognized securities exchange or the NASDAQ Global Market System are valued at the last reported sale price that day or the NASDAQ official closing price, if applicable. Equity investments traded on a recognized securities exchange for which there were no sales on that day are valued at the last available bid price.

In the event that application of these methods of valuation results in a price for an investment which is deemed not to be representative of the market value of such investment, the investment will be valued by a method approved by the Board as reflecting fair value ("Fair Value Assets"). When determining the price for Fair Value Assets, the investment advisor and/or sub-advisor seeks to determine the price that the Funds might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that asset in an arm's length transaction. Fair value determinations shall be based upon all available factors that the investment advisor and/or subadvisor deems relevant. The pricing of all Fair Value Assets is subsequently reported to the Board or a committee thereof.

Derivative Financial Instruments: Each Fund may engage in various portfolio investment strategies to increase the return of each Fund and to hedge, or protect, its exposure to interest rate movements and movements in the securities markets. Losses may arise if the value of the contract decreases due to an unfavorable change in the price of the underlying security, or if the counterparty does not perform under the contract.

- o Financial futures contracts -- Each Fund may purchase or sell financial futures contracts and options on such financial futures contracts. Futures contracts are contracts for delayed delivery of securities at a specific future date and at a specific price or yield. Upon entering into a contract, the Fund deposits and maintains as collateral such initial margin as required by the exchange on which the transaction is effected. Pursuant to the contract, the Fund agrees to receive from, or pay to, the broker an amount of cash equal to the daily fluctuation in value of the contract. Such receipts or payments are known as variation margin and are recognized by the Fund as unrealized gains or losses. When the contract is closed, the Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed.
- o Swaps -- Each Fund may enter into swap agreements, which are OTC contracts in which the Fund and a counterparty agree to make periodic net payments on a specified notional amount. These periodic payments received or made by the Fund are recorded in the accompanying Statement of Operations as realized gains or losses, respectively. Gains or losses are realized upon termination of the

swap agreements. Swaps are marked-to-market daily and changes in value are recorded as unrealized appreciation (depreciation). When the swap is terminated, the Fund will record a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the proceeds from (or cost of) the closing transaction and the Fund's basis in the contract, if any.

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

- o Credit default swaps -- Credit default swaps are agreements in which one party pays fixed periodic payments to a counterparty in consideration for a guarantee from the counterparty to make a specific payment should a negative credit event take place.
- o Interest rate swaps -- Interest rate swaps are agreements in which one party pays a floating rate of interest on a notional principal amount and receives a fixed rate of interest on the same notional principal amount for a specified period of time. Alternatively, a party may pay a fixed rate and receive a floating rate. Interest rate swaps are efficient as asset/liability management tools. In more complex swaps, the notional principal amount may decline (or amortize) over time.
- o Total return swaps -- Total return swaps are agreements in which one party commits to pay interest in exchange for a market-linked return. To the extent the total return of the security or index underlying the transaction exceeds or falls short of the offsetting interest rate obligation, the Fund will receive a payment from or make a payment to the counterparty.

Segregation: In cases in which the 1940 Act and the interpretive positions of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") require that each of the Fund's segregate assets in connection with certain investments (e.g., swaps and futures), the Fund will, consistent with certain interpretive letters issued by the SEC, designate on its books and records cash or other liquid debt securities having a market value at least equal to the amount that would otherwise be required to be physically segregated.

Borrowed Bond Agreements: In a borrowed bond agreement, each Fund borrows securities from a third party, with the commitment that they will be returned to the lender on an agreed-upon date. Borrowed bond agreements are primarily entered into to settle short positions. In a borrowed bond agreement, the Fund's prime broker or third party broker takes possession of the underlying collateral, securities or cash to settle such short positions. The value of the underlying collateral securities or cash approximates the principal amount of the bonds borrowed transaction, including accrued interest. To the extent that the bonds borrowed transactions exceed one business day, the value of the collateral with any counterparty is marked-to-market on a daily basis to ensure the adequacy of the collateral. If the lender defaults and the value of the collateral declines or if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the lender of the security, realization of the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited.

Capital Trusts: These securities are typically issued by corporations, generally in the form of interest-bearing notes with preferred securities characteristics, or by an affiliated business trust of a corporation, generally in the form of

beneficial interests in subordinated debentures or similarly structured securities. The securities can be structured as either fixed or adjustable coupon securities that can have either a perpetual or stated maturity date. Dividends can be deferred without creating an event of default or acceleration, although maturity cannot take place unless all cumulative payment obligations have been met. The deferral of payments does not affect the purchase or sale of these securities in the open market. Payments on these securities are treated as interest rather than dividends for Federal income tax purposes. These securities can have a rating that is slightly below that of the issuing company's senior debt securities.

Preferred Stock: Each Fund may invest in preferred stocks. Preferred stock has a preference over common stock in liquidation (and generally in receiving dividends as well) but is subordinated to the liabilities of the issuer in all respects. As a general rule, the market value of preferred stock with a fixed dividend rate and no conversion element varies inversely with interest rates and perceived credit risk, while the market price of convertible preferred stock generally also reflects some element of conversion value. Because preferred stock is junior to debt securities and other obligations of the issuer, deterioration in the credit quality of the issuer will cause greater changes in the value of a preferred stock than in a more senior debt security with similar stated yield characteristics. Unlike interest payments on debt securities, preferred stock dividends are payable only if declared by the issuer's board of directors. Preferred stock also may be subject to optional or mandatory redemption provisions.

Borrowed Bonds: The Funds engage in short selling of securities as a method of managing potential price declines in similar securities owned by the Fund. When a Fund engages in short selling, it may enter into a borrowed bond agreement to borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the broker-dealer with which it engaged in the short sale. A gain, limited to the price at which a Fund sold the security short or pursuant to the borrowed bond agreement, or a loss, unlimited as to dollar amount, will be recognized upon the termination of a short sale or borrowed bond agreement if the market price is greater or less than the proceeds originally received.

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Reverse Repurchase Agreements: Each Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with qualified third party broker-dealers. Interest on the value of the reverse repurchase agreements issued and outstanding is based upon competitive market rates at the time of issuance and is included within the related liability on the Statements of Assets and Liabilities. At the time the Fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, it identifies for segregation certain liquid securities having a value not less than the repurchase price, including accrued interest, of the reverse repurchase agreement. The Funds may utilize reverse repurchase agreements when it is anticipated that the interest income to be earned from the investment of the proceeds of the transaction is greater than the interest expense of the transaction.

Income Taxes: It is each of the Fund's policy to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its taxable income to its shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required. Under the applicable foreign tax laws, a withholding tax may be imposed on interest, dividends and

capital gains at various rates.

Effective April 30, 2008, each of the Funds implemented Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Interpretation No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes -- an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109" ("FIN 48"). FIN 48 prescribes the minimum recognition threshold a tax position must meet in connection with accounting for uncertainties in income tax positions taken or expected to be taken by an entity, including investment companies, before being measured and recognized in the financial statements. The investment advisor has evaluated the application of FIN 48 to the Funds, and has determined that the adoption of FIN 48 does not have a material impact on the Funds' financial statements. Each Fund files U.S. federal and various state and local tax returns. No income tax returns are currently under examination. The statute of limitations on the Funds' U.S. federal tax returns remain open for the years ended October 31, 2004 through October 31, 2006. The statutes of limitations on each of the Fund's state and local tax returns may remain open for an additional year depending upon the jurisdiction.

Investment Transactions and Investment Income: Investment transactions are recorded on the dates the transactions are entered into (the trade dates). Realized gains and losses on security transactions are determined on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend dates. Interest income is recognized on the accrual basis. The Funds amortize all premiums and discounts on debt securities.

Dividends and Distributions: Dividends from net investment income are declared and paid monthly. Distributions of capital gains are recorded on the ex-dividend dates. If the total dividends and distributions made in any tax year exceeds net investment income and accumulated realized gains, a portion of the total distribution may be treated as a tax return of capital.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements: In September 2006, Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" ("FAS 157"), was issued and is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. FAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The impact on each of the Fund's financial statement disclosures, if any, is currently being assessed.

In addition, in February 2007, Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" ("FAS 159"), was issued and is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. Early adoption is permitted as of the beginning of a fiscal year that begins on or before November 15, 2007, provided the entity also elects to apply the provisions of FAS 157. FAS 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. FAS 159 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. The impact on each of the Fund's financial statement disclosure, if any, is currently being assessed.

In March 2008, Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities -- an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133" ("FAS 161"), was issued and is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. FAS 161 is intended to improve financial reporting for derivative instruments by requiring enhanced disclosure that enables investors to understand how and why an entity uses derivatives, how derivatives are accounted for, and how derivative instruments affect an entity's results of operations and financial position. The investment advisor is currently evaluating the implications of FAS 161 and the impact on each of the Fund's financial statement disclosures, if any, is currently being assessed.

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Deferred Compensation and BlackRock Closed-End Share Equivalent Investment Plan: Under the deferred compensation plan approved by the Fund's Board, non-interested Directors ("Independent Directors") may defer a portion of their annual complex-wide compensation. Deferred amounts earn an approximate return as though equivalent dollar amounts have been invested in common shares of other certain BlackRock Closed-End Funds selected by the Independent Directors. This has approximately the same economic effect for the Independent Directors as if the Independent Directors had invested the deferred amounts directly in other certain BlackRock Closed-End Funds.

The deferred compensation plan is not funded and obligations thereunder represent general unsecured claims against the general assets of the Fund. Each Fund may, however, elect to invest in common shares of other certain BlackRock Closed-End Funds selected by the Independent Directors in order to match its deferred compensation obligations. Investments to cover the Fund's deferred compensation liability are included in other assets on the Statements of Assets and Liabilities.

Other: Expenses directly related to one of the Funds are charged to that Fund. Other operating expenses shared by several funds are prorated among those funds on the basis of relative net assets or appropriate methods.

Bank Overdrafts:

Each Fund recorded a bank overdraft, which resulted from management estimates of available cash.

2. Investment Advisory Agreement and Other Transactions with Affiliates:

Each Fund has entered into an Investment Advisory Agreement with BlackRock Advisors, LLC (the "Advisor"), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc., to provide investment advisory and administration services. Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill Lynch") and The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. are principal owners of BlackRock, Inc.

The Advisor is responsible for the management of each Fund's portfolio and provides the necessary personnel, facilities, equipment and certain other services necessary to the operations of each Fund. For such services, each Fund pays the Advisor a monthly fee at an annual rate of 0.60% of the average daily value of each Fund's net assets (including proceeds from the issuance of Preferred Stock) plus the proceeds of any outstanding borrowings used for leverage.

In addition, the Advisor has entered into a separate sub-advisory agreement with BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. ("BFM"), an affiliate of the Advisor, under which the Advisor pays BFM for services it provides, a monthly fee that is a percentage of the investment advisory fee paid by each Fund to the Advisor. For the six months ended April 30, 2008, each Fund reimbursed the Advisor for certain accounting services, which are included in accounting services expenses in the Statements of Operations as follows:

Six Months

Ended
April 30, 2008

| | |
|---|-----------|
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | \$ 2,897 |
| BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | \$ 10,989 |

Certain officers and/or directors of the Funds are officers and/or directors of BlackRock, Inc. or its affiliates.

3. Investments:

Purchases and sales (including paydowns) of investments, excluding short-term securities, for the six months ended April 30, 2008 were as follows:

| | BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Total Purchases | \$ 125,067,803 | \$ 500,200,095 |
| Total Sales | \$ 137,981,551 | \$ 522,955,279 |

4. Capital Stock Transactions:

Each Fund is authorized to issue 200,000,000 shares of stock, including Preferred Stock, par value \$0.10 per share, all of which were initially classified as Common Stock. Each Fund's Board is authorized, however, to reclassify any unissued shares of stock without approval of holders of Common Stock. At April 30, 2008, the shares owned by an affiliate of the Advisor of BlackRock Preferred & Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. and BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. were 6,192 and 6,338, respectively.

BlackRock Preferred & Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Shares issued and outstanding during the six months ended April 30, 2008 remained constant and during the year ended October 31, 2007 increased by 12,692 as a result of dividend reinvestment.

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Shares issued and outstanding during the six months ended April 30, 2008 and the year ended October 31, 2007, remained constant.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Preferred Stock

Preferred Stock of the Funds have a par value of \$0.10 per share and liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, that entitle

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their holders to receive cash dividends at varying annualized rates for each dividend period. The yields in effect at April 30, 2008 were as follows:

| | BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Series M7 | 4.009% | 4.009% |
| Series T7 | 3.958 | 3.958 |
| Series W7 | -- | 4.084 |
| Series TH7 | -- | 4.066 |
| Series F7 | -- | 4.039 |
| Series W28 | -- | 3.977 |
| Series TH28 | -- | 4.136 |

Each Fund pays commissions to certain broker-dealers at the end of each auction at an annual rate of 0.25%, calculated on the aggregate principal amount. For the six months ended April 30, 2008, MLPF&S earned commissions as follows:

| | Commissions |
|---|-------------|
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | \$ 92,615 |
| BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | \$ 283,800 |

Dividends on seven-day Preferred Stock are cumulative at a rate which is reset every seven days based on the results of an auction. Dividends on 28-day Preferred Stock are cumulative at a rate which is reset every 28 days based on the results of an auction. If the Preferred Stock fails to clear the auction on an auction date, each Fund is required to pay the maximum applicable rate on the Preferred Stock to holders of such shares for each successive dividend period until such time as the stock is successfully auctioned. The maximum applicable rate on the Preferred Stock is 125% times or 1.25% plus the Telerate/BBA LIBOR rate. During the six months ended April 30, 2008, the Preferred Stock of each Fund was successfully auctioned at each auction date until February 13, 2008.

The low, high and average dividend rates on the Preferred Stock for each Fund for the six months ended April 30, 2008 were as follows:

| | Series | Low | High | Average |
|---|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.: | M7 | 3.853% | 5.750% | 4.625% |
| | T7 | 3.880 | 5.750 | 4.685 |
| BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.: | M7 | 3.853 | 5.750 | 4.577 |
| | T7 | 3.796 | 5.750 | 4.668 |
| | W7 | 3.936 | 5.850 | 4.627 |
| | TH7 | 3.850 | 5.600 | 4.591 |
| | W28 | 3.977 | 6.100 | 4.860 |
| | TH28 | 3.954 | 5.750 | 4.851 |
| | F7 | 3.790 | 5.750 | 4.546 |

Since February 13, 2008, the Preferred Stock of the Funds failed to clear any of its auctions. As a result, the Preferred Stock dividend rates were reset to the maximum applicable rate, which ranged from 3.853% to 4.403%. A failed auction is not an event of default for the Funds but it is a liquidity event for the holders of the Preferred Stock. A failed auction occurs when there are more sellers of a fund's auction rate preferred stock than buyers. It is impossible to predict how long this imbalance will last. An auction for the Funds' Preferred Stock may not occur for some time, if ever, and even if liquidity does resume, holders of the Preferred Stock may not have the ability to sell the Preferred Stock at its liquidation preference.

A Fund may not declare dividends or make other distributions on Common Stock or purchase any such shares if, at the time of the declaration, distribution or purchase, asset coverage with respect to the outstanding Preferred Stock is less than 200%.

The Preferred Stock is redeemable at the option of each Fund, in whole or in part, on any dividend payment date at \$25,000 per share plus any accumulated unpaid dividends whether or not declared. The Preferred Stock is also subject to mandatory redemption at \$25,000 per share plus any accumulated or unpaid dividends, whether or not declared, if certain requirements relating to the composition of the assets and liabilities of a Fund, as set forth in each Fund's Articles Supplementary, are not satisfied.

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Notes to Financial Statements (concluded)

The holders of Preferred Stock have voting rights equal to the holders of Common Stock (one vote per share) and will vote together with holders of Common Stock (one vote per share) as a single class. However, holders of Preferred Stock, voting as a separate class, are also entitled to elect two Directors for each Fund. In addition, the 1940 Act requires that along with approval by shareholders that might otherwise be required, the approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding Preferred Stock, voting separately as a class would be required to (a) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the Preferred Stock, (b) change a Fund's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or change its fundamental investment restrictions or (c) change its business so as to cease to be an investment company.

5. Reverse Repurchase Agreements:

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

For the six months ended April 30, 2008 the Fund's average amount of reverse repurchase agreements outstanding was approximately \$314,000 and daily weighted average interest rate was 4.82%.

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

For the six months ended April 30, 2008 the Fund's average amount of reverse repurchase agreements outstanding was approximately \$722,000 and daily weighted average interest rate was 3.82%.

6. Capital Loss Carryforward:

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BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

As of October 31, 2007, the Fund had a capital loss carryforward of \$31,784,984, of which \$1,276,621 expires in 2011, \$10,243,141 expires in 2012, \$5,058,900 expires in 2013, \$8,481,628 expires in 2014 and \$6,724,694 expires in 2015. These amounts will be available to offset future realized capital gains.

BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

As of October 31, 2007, the Fund had a capital loss carryforward of \$112,373,074, of which \$62,733,648 expires in 2012, \$17,911,331 expires in 2013, \$12,145,117 expires in 2014 and \$19,582,978 expires in 2015. These amounts will be available to offset future realized capital gains.

7. Subsequent Event:

Each Fund paid a tax-exempt income dividend to holders of Common Stock per share on May 30, 2008 to shareholders of record on May 15, 2008, as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. ... | \$ 0.103300 |
| BlackRock Preferred and Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | \$ 0.114583 |

The dividends declared on Preferred Stock for the period May 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008 for each Fund were as follows:

| | Series | Dollar Amount |
|---|--------|---------------|
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.: | M7 | \$ 194,895 |
| | T7 | \$ 146,874 |
| BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.: | M7 | \$ 153,748 |
| | T7 | \$ 204,512 |
| | W7 | \$ 258,608 |
| | TH7 | \$ 256,452 |
| | W28 | \$ 309,320 |
| | TH28 | \$ 321,680 |
| | F7 | \$ 214,172 |

On June 2, 2008, the Funds announced the following redemptions of Preferred Stock at a price of \$25,000 per share plus any accrued and unpaid dividends through the redemption date:

| | Series | Redemption Date | Shares to be Redeemed | Aggregate Price |
|---|--------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.: | M7 | 6/10/2008 | 1,365 | \$ 34,125,000 |
| | T7 | 6/11/2008 | 1,365 | \$ 34,125,000 |
| BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.: | M7 | 6/10/2008 | 1,400 | \$ 35,000,000 |
| | T7 | 6/11/2008 | 1,400 | \$ 35,000,000 |

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| | | | |
|------|-----------|-------|---------------|
| W7 | 6/5/2008 | 1,400 | \$ 35,000,000 |
| TH7 | 6/6/2008 | 1,400 | \$ 35,000,000 |
| F7 | 6/9/2008 | 1,400 | \$ 35,000,000 |
| W28 | 6/5/2008 | 2,000 | \$ 50,000,000 |
| TH28 | 6/20/2008 | 2,000 | \$ 50,000,000 |

The Funds will finance the Preferred Stock redemptions with cash received from reverse repurchase agreement transactions.

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Officers and Directors

G. Nicholas Beckwith, III, Director
Richard E. Cavanagh, Director
Richard S. Davis, Director
Kent Dixon, Director
Frank J. Fabozzi, Director
Kathleen F. Feldstein, Director
James T. Flynn, Director
Henry Gabbay, Director
Jerrold B. Harris, Director
R. Glenn Hubbard, Director
W. Carl Kester, Director
Karen P. Robards, Director
Robert S. Salomon, Jr., Director
Donald C. Burke, Fund President and Chief Executive Officer
Anne F. Ackerley, Vice President
Neal J. Andrews, Chief Financial Officer
Jay M. Fife, Treasurer
Brian P. Kindelan, Chief Compliance Officer of the Funds
Howard Surloff, Secretary

Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company
Boston, MA 02101

Transfer Agents

Common Stock:

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
Providence, RI 02940

Preferred Stock:

BNY Mellon Shareowner Services
Jersey City, NJ 07310

Accounting Agent

State Street Bank and Trust Company
Princeton, NJ 08540

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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Deloitte & Touche LLP
Princeton, NJ 08540

Legal Counsel

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
New York, NY 10036

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Additional Information

Availability of Quarterly Schedule of Investments

The Funds file their complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Funds' Forms N-Q are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and may also be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330. The Funds' Forms N-Q may also be obtained upon request and without charge by calling (800) 441-7762.

Electronic Delivery

Electronic copies of most financial reports are available on the Funds' websites or shareholders can sign up for e-mail notifications of quarterly statements, annual and semi-annual reports by enrolling in the Funds' electronic delivery program.

Shareholders Who Hold Accounts with Investment Advisors, Banks or Brokerages:

Please contact your financial advisor to enroll. Please note that not all investment advisors, banks or brokerages may offer this service.

General Information

The Funds will mail only one copy of shareholder documents, including annual and semi-annual reports and proxy statements, to shareholders with multiple accounts at the same address. This practice is commonly called "householding" and it is intended to reduce expenses and eliminate duplicate mailings of shareholder documents. Mailings of your shareholder documents may be householded indefinitely unless you instruct us otherwise. If you do not want the mailing of these documents to be combined with those for other members of your household, please contact the Funds at (800) 441-7762.

Quarterly performance, semi-annual and annual reports and other information regarding the Funds may be found on BlackRock's website, which can be accessed at <http://www.blackrock.com>. This reference to BlackRock's website is intended to allow investors public access to information regarding the Funds and does not, and is not intended to, incorporate BlackRock's website into this report.

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Additional Information (continued)

Deposit Securities

Effective May 30, 2008, following approval by the Funds' Board and the applicable ratings agencies, the definition of "Deposited Securities" in the Funds' Articles Supplementary was amended in order to facilitate the redemption of the Funds' Preferred Stock. The following phrase was added to the definition of "Deposit Securities" found in the Funds' Articles Supplementary:

; provided, however, that solely in connection with any redemption of AMPS, the term Deposit Securities shall include (i) any committed financing pursuant to a credit agreement, reverse repurchase agreement facility or similar credit arrangement, in each case which makes available to the Corporation, no later than the day preceding the applicable redemption date, cash in an amount not less than the aggregate amount due to Holders by reason of the redemption of their shares of AMPS on such redemption date; and (ii) cash amounts due and payable to the Corporation out of a sale of its securities if such cash amount is not less than the aggregate amount due to Holders by reason of the redemption of their shares of AMPS on such redemption date and such sale will be settled not later than the day preceding the applicable redemption date.

BlackRock Privacy Principles

BlackRock is committed to maintaining the privacy of its current and former fund investors and individual clients (collectively, "Clients") and to safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information BlackRock collects, how we protect that information and why in certain cases we share such information with select parties.

If you are located in a jurisdiction where specific laws, rules or regulations require BlackRock to provide you with additional or different privacy-related rights beyond what is set forth below, then BlackRock will comply with those specific laws, rules or regulations.

BlackRock obtains or verifies personal non-public information from and about you from different sources, including the following: (i) information we receive from you or, if applicable, your financial intermediary, on applications, forms or other documents; (ii) information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; (iii) information we receive from a consumer reporting agency; and (iv) from visits to our websites.

BlackRock does not sell or disclose to non-affiliated third parties any non-public personal information about its Clients, except as permitted by law or as is necessary to respond to regulatory requests or to service Client accounts. These non-affiliated third parties are required to protect the confidentiality and security of this information and to use it only for its intended purpose.

We may share information with our affiliates to service your account or to

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provide you with information about other BlackRock products or services that may be of interest to you. In addition, BlackRock restricts access to non-public personal information about its Clients to those BlackRock employees with a legitimate business need for the information. BlackRock maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that are designed to protect the non-public personal information of its Clients, including procedures relating to the proper storage and disposal of such information.

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Additional Information (concluded)

Section 19 Notices (Unaudited)

The amounts and sources of distributions reported are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the Fund's investment experience during the remainder of its fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on the tax regulations. The Fund will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes.

| Fund | Total Fiscal Year to Date Cumulative Distributions by Character | | | | Percentage of Fiscal Distribution | |
|--|---|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Net Investment Income | Net Realized Capital Gains | Return of Capital | Total Per Common Share | Net Investment Income | Net Realized Capital Gains |
| BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | \$ 0.57 | \$ -- | \$ 0.12 | \$ 0.69 | 83% | --% |
| BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc. | 0.61 | -- | 0.04 | 0.65 | 94 | -- |

Each Fund estimates that it has distributed more than its income and net realized gains; therefore, a portion of the distribution may be a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the money that you invested in the Fund is paid back to the shareholder. A return of capital does not necessarily reflect the Fund's investment performance and should not be confused with 'yield' or 'income'.

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This report is transmitted to shareholders only. It is not a prospectus. Past performance results shown in this report should not be considered a representation of future performance. The Funds leverage their Common Stock, which creates risks for Common Stock shareholders, including the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of Common Stock shares, and the risk that fluctuations in short-term dividend rates of the Preferred Stock, currently set at the maximum reset rate as a result of failed auctions, may affect the yield to Common Stock shareholders. Statements and other information herein are as dated and are subject to change.

A description of the policies and procedures that the Funds use to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free (800) 441-7762; (2) at www.blackrock.com; and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Information about how the Funds voted proxies relating to securities held in the Funds' portfolios during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available upon request and without charge (1) at www.blackrock.com or by calling (800) 441-7762 and (2) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.
100 Bellevue Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19809

BLACKROCK
#PCPIS-4/08

- Item 2 - Code of Ethics - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- Item 3 - Audit Committee Financial Expert - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- Item 4 - Principal Accountant Fees and Services - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- Item 5 - Audit Committee of Listed Registrants - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- Item 6 - Investments (a) The registrant's Schedule of Investments is included as part of the Report to Stockholders filed under Item 1 of this form. (b) Not Applicable due to no such divestments during the semi-annual period covered since the previous Form N-CSR filing.
- Item 7 - Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- Item 8 - Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- Item 9 - Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers - Not Applicable
- Item 10 - Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders - The registrant's Nominating and Governance Committee will consider nominees to the

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Board recommended by shareholders when a vacancy becomes available. Shareholders who wish to recommend a nominee should send nominations which include biographical information and set forth the qualifications of the proposed nominee to the registrant's Secretary. There have been no material changes to these procedures.

Item 11 - Controls and Procedures

- 11(a) - The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers or persons performing similar functions have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) are effective as of a date within 90 days of the filing of this report based on the evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act and Rule 13a-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- 11(b) - There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act) that occurred during the second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 12 - Exhibits attached hereto

- 12(a) (1)- Code of Ethics - Not Applicable to this semi-annual report
- 12(a) (2)- Certifications - Attached hereto
- 12(a) (3)- Not Applicable
- 12(b) - Certifications - Attached hereto

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

By: /s/ Donald C. Burke

Donald C. Burke
Chief Executive Officer of
BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Date: June 23, 2008

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Donald C. Burke

Donald C. Burke
Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer) of
BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

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Date: June 23, 2008

By: /s/ Neal J. Andrews

Neal J. Andrews
Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer) of
BlackRock Preferred and Corporate Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

Date: June 23, 2008