

CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING INC

Form 10-Q

April 16, 2004

Table of Contents

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 10-Q**

**x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED MARCH 27, 2004**

**.. TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

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**COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 0-27677**

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**CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

**DELAWARE**  
**(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)**

**33-0724325**  
**(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)**

**4645 MORENA BOULEVARD**

**SAN DIEGO, CA 92117**

**(Address, including Zip Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)**

(858) 587-1500

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (b) OF THE ACT: NONE**

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (g) OF THE ACT:**

**COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$0.01 PER SHARE**

(Title of Each Class)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act): Yes  No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date:

The number of shares of common stock outstanding as of April 9, 2004 was approximately 21,524,000.

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**Table of Contents**

**CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
ITEM 1.	
<u>CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 27, 2004 (unaudited) and September 27, 2003 (audited)</u>	2
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and six months ended March 27, 2004 (unaudited) and March 29, 2003 (unaudited)</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three and six months ended March 27, 2004 (unaudited) and March 29, 2003 (unaudited)</u>	4
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>	5
ITEM 2.	
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	9
ITEM 3.	
<u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	13
ITEM 4.	
<u>CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u>	14
<b><u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	
ITEM 1.	
<u>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u>	15
ITEM 2.	
<u>CHANGES IN SECURITIES</u>	15
ITEM 3.	
<u>DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES</u>	15
ITEM 4.	
<u>SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS</u>	15
ITEM 5.	
<u>OTHER INFORMATION</u>	15
ITEM 6.	
<u>EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K</u>	15

**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	<b>March 27,</b>	<b>September 27,</b>
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
	<u>(Unaudited)</u>	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40,980,029	\$ 22,967,317
Inventories	37,644,811	34,506,912
Other current assets	2,894,129	5,410,123
Deferred tax assets	5,800,000	5,300,000
	<u>87,318,969</u>	<u>68,184,352</u>
Total current assets		
Fixed assets, net	100,316,252	100,018,536
Goodwill	28,790,000	28,790,000
Other assets	1,872,398	1,371,894
	<u>218,297,619</u>	<u>198,364,782</u>
Total assets		
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable, trade	\$ 30,788,406	\$ 20,928,264
Accounts payable, other	2,615,371	6,457,132
Accrued payroll and related expense	4,465,854	2,526,756
Income and sales taxes payable	3,620,315	2,320,337
Other current liabilities	10,622,221	9,886,267
	<u>52,112,167</u>	<u>42,118,756</u>
Total current liabilities		
Deferred rent	10,933,875	9,946,860
Other liabilities	317,777	312,777
Deferred tax liabilities	6,300,000	5,600,000
	<u>69,663,819</u>	<u>57,978,393</u>
Total liabilities		
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred Stock \$0.01 par value, 3,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding		
Common Stock \$0.01 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding shares 21,524,220 and 21,290,182 at March 27, 2004 and September 27, 2003, respectively	215,242	212,902
Additional paid-in capital	46,108,154	44,498,540
Deferred compensation	(9,000)	(63,000)
Retained earnings	102,319,404	95,737,947
	<u>148,633,800</u>	<u>140,386,389</u>
Total stockholders' equity		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 218,297,619</u>	<u>\$ 198,364,782</u>

*See accompanying notes.*

**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(Unaudited)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 27, 2004</b>	<b>March 29, 2003</b>	<b>March 27, 2004</b>	<b>March 29, 2003</b>
Net sales	\$ 118,776,591	\$ 93,098,703	\$ 268,067,229	\$ 226,427,339
Cost of goods sold, including buying, distribution and occupancy costs	93,767,147	74,841,538	203,883,718	171,578,511
Gross profit	25,009,444	18,257,165	64,183,511	54,848,828
Selling, general and administrative expenses	25,321,803	20,752,893	53,687,643	45,085,200
Store closing costs	(325,000)	5,500,000	(325,000)	5,500,000
Operating income (loss)	12,641	(7,995,728)	10,820,868	4,263,628
Other income (expense):				
Interest income, net	80,852	22,598	118,309	31,405
Other charges, net	(74,268)	(72,649)	(149,904)	(135,148)
Total other expense	6,584	(50,051)	(31,595)	(103,743)
Income (loss) before income taxes	19,225	(8,045,779)	10,789,273	4,159,885
Income taxes (benefit)	7,497	(3,137,854)	4,207,816	1,622,355
Net income (loss)	\$ 11,728	\$ (4,907,925)	\$ 6,581,457	\$ 2,537,530
Earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.23)	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.12
Diluted	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.23)	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.11
Weighted average shares outstanding:				
Basic	21,510,966	21,236,375	21,437,504	21,225,797
Diluted	23,899,664	21,236,375	23,827,491	23,494,120

*See accompanying notes.*



**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(Unaudited)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 27, 2004</b>	<b>March 29, 2003</b>	<b>March 27, 2004</b>	<b>March 29, 2003</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 11,728	\$ (4,907,925)	\$ 6,581,457	\$ 2,537,530
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:				
Depreciation and amortization	4,651,556	3,909,443	9,329,811	7,810,163
Deferred rent	595,271	179,560	987,015	689,305
Amortization of deferred compensation	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000
Loss on impairment and disposal of assets	14,842	3,072,136	93,375	3,235,796
Deferred income taxes	200,000	3,100,000	200,000	3,100,000
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Inventories	(3,434,563)	(9,505,060)	(3,137,899)	(1,364,363)
Other current assets	1,809,050	(3,683,531)	2,515,994	(5,541,561)
Accounts payable, trade	10,811,409	6,702,297	9,860,142	1,654,695
Accounts payable, other	(2,767,946)	189,766	(3,841,761)	(1,395,284)
Accrued payroll and related expense	(1,457,093)	(2,040,109)	1,939,098	(52,595)
Income and sales taxes payable	(3,446,928)	(5,874,529)	1,692,783	341,633
Other current liabilities	(3,593,558)	(324,832)	735,954	3,491,436
Other liabilities		58,894	5,000	73,894
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	3,420,768	(9,096,890)	27,014,969	14,634,649
<b>Investing Activities</b>				
Purchases of fixed assets	(2,010,411)	(6,203,399)	(9,676,641)	(10,672,081)
Other assets	(578,697)	(45,781)	(544,765)	13,457
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,589,108)	(6,249,180)	(10,221,406)	(10,658,624)
<b>Financing Activities</b>				
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	241,982	131,570	1,219,149	164,070
Net cash provided by financing activities	241,982	131,570	1,219,149	164,070
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,073,642	(15,214,500)	18,012,712	4,140,095
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	39,906,387	32,908,075	22,967,317	13,553,480
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	\$ 40,980,029	\$ 17,693,575	\$ 40,980,029	\$ 17,693,575



*See accompanying notes.*

**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****1. Interim Financial Statements**

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of Charlotte Russe Holding, Inc. (the Company) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Certain information and footnote disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements have been condensed or omitted pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited financial statements contain all material adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, necessary to present fairly the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the periods indicated, and have been prepared in a manner consistent with the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2003.

Due to the seasonal nature of the Company's business, the results of operations for the three and six month periods ended March 27, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results of a full fiscal year.

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and the footnotes for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2003 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 19, 2003 and Form 10-K/A, filed with the Securities Exchange Commission on March 12, 2004.

**2. Stock Based Compensation**

The Company accounts for the issuance of stock option grants in accordance with Accounting Principles Board Opinion (APB) No. 25 and related interpretations in accounting for stock options. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, encourages, but does not require the Company to record compensation cost for stock-based employee compensation plans at fair value. The Company has adopted the disclosure-only provision of SFAS No. 123. Accordingly, compensation expense has only been recognized for stock options granted to employees when the exercise price was below fair market value on the date of grant. Had compensation expense been recorded for options granted in the three and six months ended March 27, 2004 and March 29, 2003 using the fair value method under SFAS No. 123, the Company's net income and basic and diluted earnings per share would have been decreased to the following proforma amounts:

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003
Net income (loss) as reported	\$ 11,728	\$ (4,907,925)	\$ 6,581,457	\$ 2,537,530

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Less: stock-based compensation expense for all awards, net of related tax effects	(279,380)	(278,160)	(564,250)	(570,350)
Pro forma net income (loss)	\$ (267,652)	\$ (5,186,085)	\$ 6,017,207	\$ 1,967,180
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.23)	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.12
Pro forma	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.24)	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.09
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.23)	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.11
Pro forma	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.24)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.08

**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)****2. Stock Based Compensation (continued)**

Pro forma information regarding net income is required by SFAS No. 123, and has been determined as if the Company had accounted for its employee stock options under the fair value method of that Statement. For options granted through October 18, 1999, the fair value of options granted were estimated at the date of grant using the minimum value option pricing model. Following the Company's initial public offering, the fair value of the options granted was estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The following weighted average assumptions were used for those periods:

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003
Risk free interest rate	3.20%	2.75%	3.20%	2.75%
Dividend yield				
Expected volatility	66.0%	65.0%	66.0%	65.0%
Weighted average expected life	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years

The minimum value option-pricing model is similar to the Black-Scholes option-pricing model except that it excludes the factor of volatility. In addition, option valuation models require the input of highly subjective assumptions. Because the Company's employee stock options have characteristics significantly different from those of traded options, and because changes in the subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimate, in management's opinion, the existing models do not necessarily provide a reliable single measure of the fair value of its employee stock options.

**3. Net Income Per Common Share**

Basic earnings per share is calculated based on the weighted average outstanding common shares. Diluted earnings per share is calculated based on the weighted average outstanding shares and potentially dilutive stock options and warrants. In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 128, Earnings Per Share, the following table reconciles income and share amounts utilized to calculate basic and diluted net income per common share.

**Three Months Ended**

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**Six Months Ended**

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	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003
Net income (loss)	\$ 11,728	\$ (4,907,925)	\$ 6,581,457	\$ 2,537,530
Earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.23)	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.12
Effect of dilutive stock options			(0.01)	
Effect of dilutive warrants			(0.02)	(0.01)
Diluted	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.23)	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.11
Weighted average number of shares:				
Basic	21,510,966	21,236,375	21,437,504	21,225,797
Effect of dilutive stock options	560,476		566,746	487,439
Effect of dilutive warrants	1,828,222		1,823,241	1,780,884
Diluted	23,899,664	21,236,375	23,827,491	23,494,120

**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

The calculation of dilutive shares excludes the effect of the following options that are considered anti-dilutive:

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003	March 27, 2004	March 29, 2003
Anti-dilutive options	229,965	1,153,733	229,625	893,191

**4. Recent Accounting Pronouncement**

The Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Interpretation No. 46 ( FIN 46 ), *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities*, in January 2003, and a revised interpretation of FIN 46 ( FIN 46-R ) was issued in December 2003. FIN 46 requires certain variable interest entities to be consolidated by the primary beneficiary of the entity if the equity investors in the entity do not have the characteristics of a controlling financial interest or do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. The provisions of FIN 46 are effective immediately for all arrangements entered into after January 31, 2003. Since January 31, 2003, the Company has not invested in any entities it believes are variable interest entities for which the Company is the primary beneficiary. For all arrangements entered into after January 31, 2003, the Company is required to continue to apply FIN 46 through the end of the first quarter of fiscal 2004. The Company is required to adopt the provisions of FIN 46-R for those arrangements in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. For arrangements entered into prior to February 1, 2003, the Company is required to adopt the provisions of FIN 46-R in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. The adoption of FIN No. 46 did not have an impact on the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

**5. Store Closing Costs**

During fiscal 2003, the Company decided to exit the Charlotte's Room concept and closed all 10 Charlotte's Room stores. In accordance with SFAS No. 146, the Company recorded a liability of \$2.6 million and recognized an impairment charge of \$2.9 million for total store closing costs of \$5.5 million, before the effect of income taxes. During fiscal 2003, the final settlement was estimated to be \$4.9 million and was included in the results of operations for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2003.

The \$2.9 million impairment charge reflected the difference between the carrying value and fair value of Charlotte's Room assets, principally leasehold improvements. Fair value was based on estimated market valuations for those assets since their carrying value was not anticipated to be recoverable through future cash flows. The majority of these assets were disposed of during the third quarter at approximately the estimated fair value.

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During the second quarter of fiscal 2004, the Company revised the estimate of the reserve requirement for Charlotte's Room closure costs. As a result, the Company recorded a reversal of the reserve to income in the amount of \$325,000. This income was included in the results of operations for the quarter ended March 27, 2004.

**Table of Contents****CHARLOTTE RUSSE HOLDING, INC.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

A reconciliation of the initial reserve to the ending liability, as of March 27, 2004, is as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Initial Reserve Estimate</u>	<u>Revisions to Estimate Based Upon Final Costs</u>	<u>Costs Paid or Settled</u>	<u>Other Adjustments</u>	<u>Ending Reserve</u>
Contract termination costs	\$ 1,787,100	\$ (490,677)	\$ (1,153,285)	\$	\$ 143,138
Employee termination	100,000		(18,055)	(81,945)	
Other associated costs	712,900	(434,323)	(433,900)	160,171	4,846
	<u>2,600,000</u>	<u>(925,000)</u>	<u>(1,605,240)</u>	<u>78,226</u>	<u>147,984</u>
Store closing costs	\$ 2,600,000	\$ (925,000)	\$ (1,605,240)	\$ 78,226	\$ 147,984

**6. Commitments and Contingencies**

From time to time, the Company may be involved in litigation relating to claims arising out of its operations. As of the date of this filing, the Company is not engaged in any legal proceedings that are expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition or results of operations.



**Table of Contents****ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We have made statements in this Quarterly Report that are forward-looking statements. In some cases you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as may, will, should, expects, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, intends, predicts, the negative of these terms and other comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements, which are subject to risks, uncertainties, and assumptions about us, may include, among other things, projections of our future financial performance, our anticipated growth strategies, anticipated trends in our business and consumer preferences especially with respect to the impact of economic weakness on consumer spending, as well as projections relating to our anticipated rate of new store openings, anticipated store opening costs, capital expenditures, inventory turnover rates and vendor delivery times. These statements are only predictions based on our current expectations and projections about future events. Because these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including those factors discussed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 12, 2004.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may not occur.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations should be read in conjunction with the Financial Statements and Notes thereto of the Company included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The following table sets forth our operating results, expressed as a percentage of net sales and store information for the periods indicated. These operating results are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for any future period.

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 27, 2004</b>	<b>March 29, 2003</b>	<b>March 27, 2004</b>	<b>March 29, 2003</b>
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of goods sold	78.9	80.4	76.1	75.8
Gross profit	21.1	19.6	23.9	24.2
Selling, general and administrative expenses	21.4	22.3	20.0	19.9
Store closing costs	(0.3)	5.9	(0.1)	2.4
Operating income	0.0	(8.6)	4.0	1.9
Interest income, net	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other charges, net	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	(0.1)
Income (loss) before income taxes	0.0	(8.6)	4.0	1.8

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Income taxes (benefit)	<u>0.0</u>	<u>(3.3)</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>0.7</u>
Net income (loss)	0.0%	(5.3)%	2.5%	1.1%
Number of stores open at end of period	<u>335</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>280</u>

## **Table of Contents**

### **Three Months Ended March 27, 2004 Compared to the Three Months Ended March 29, 2003**

*Net Sales.* Our net sales increased to \$118.8 million from \$93.1 million, an increase of \$25.7 million, or 27.6%, over the same period last year. This increase reflects \$22.5 million of additional net sales from the 6 new stores opened during the three months ended March 27, 2004, as well as other stores opened in prior fiscal periods that did not qualify as comparable stores. Our comparable store sales increased by 3.5% and contributed \$3.2 million to the net sales increase during the three months ended March 27, 2004 as compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year.

*Gross Profit.* Gross profit represents net sales less cost of goods sold, which includes buying, distribution and occupancy costs. Our gross profit increased to \$25.0 million from \$18.3 million, an increase of \$6.7 million, or 37.0%, over the same period last year. This increase was the result of higher net sales and improved gross profit margins. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit increased to 21.1% from 19.6%. The increase as a percentage of net sales was principally due to higher initial mark-ups and the impact of leveraging store occupancy costs, distribution costs and buying expenses as we achieved higher average sales per store. These improvements were partially offset by higher markdown and shrinkage expenses.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Our selling, general and administrative expenses increased to \$25.3 million from \$20.8 million, an increase of \$4.5 million, or 22.0%, over the same period last year. This increase was attributable to new store expansion and increased corporate expenses. As a percentage of net sales, selling, general and administrative expenses decreased to 21.3% from 22.3%, primarily due to the impact of leveraging corporate expenses over increased sales and improvements in store operating expenses.

*Store Closing Costs.* Our store closing costs reflects a \$325,000 reversal of the Charlotte s Room reserve for closing costs based upon a revision to the estimate for the reserve requirement.

*Income Taxes.* Our effective tax rate of 39.0% approximates our statutory income tax rate and is consistent with the tax rate utilized for fiscal year 2003.

*Net Income.* Our net income increased to approximately \$12,000 from a loss of \$4.9 million for the same quarter last year. This increase was primarily due to the reduction in store closing costs and increase in gross profit, which was partially offset by an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses and a reduction in income tax benefit accruals.

### **Six Months Ended March 27, 2004 Compared to the Six Months Ended March 29, 2003**

*Net Sales.* Our net sales increased to \$268.1 million from \$226.4 million, an increase of \$41.7 million, or 18.4%, over the same period last year. This increase reflects \$47.6 million of additional net sales from the 24 new stores opened during the six months ended March 27, 2004, as well as other stores opened in prior fiscal periods that did not qualify as comparable stores. This increase was partially offset by a 2.8% decrease in comparable store sales, which resulted in a decrease in sales of \$5.9 million compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year.

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*Gross Profit.* Gross profit represents net sales less cost of goods sold, which includes buying, distribution and occupancy costs. Our gross profit increased to \$64.2 million from \$54.8 million, an increase of \$9.4 million, or 17.0%, over the same period last year. This increase was the result of higher net sales and improved gross profit margins. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit decreased to 23.9% from 24.2%. The decrease as a percentage of net sales was principally due to the impact of higher store occupancy costs as these relatively fixed charges were spread over smaller average sales per store, and increased markdown expense. This decrease was partially offset by higher initial mark-ups.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Our selling, general and administrative expenses increased to \$53.7 million from \$45.1 million, an increase of \$8.6 million, or 19.1%, over the same period last year. This

## **Table of Contents**

increase was attributable to new store expansion and increased corporate expenses. As a percentage of net sales, selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 20.0% from 19.9%, primarily due to increased store payroll and corporate expenses.

*Store Closing Costs.* Our store closing costs reflects a \$325,000 reversal of the Charlotte's Room reserve for closing costs based upon a revision to the estimate of the reserve requirement.

*Income Taxes.* Our effective tax rate of 39.0% approximates our statutory income tax rate and is consistent with the tax rate utilized for fiscal year 2003.

*Net Income.* Our net income increased to \$6.6 million from \$2.5 million for the same period last year. The increase was primarily due to the reduction in store closing costs and an increase in gross profit, which was partially offset by an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses and income tax expense.

## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Our capital requirements result primarily from capital expenditures related to new store openings. We have historically satisfied our cash requirements principally through cash flow from operations, although we have also used borrowings under our unsecured credit facility. Due to the rapid turnover of inventory, we generate trade payables and other accrued liabilities sufficient to offset most, if not all, of our working capital requirements, and this allows us to generally operate with limited working capital. As of March 27, 2004, we had working capital of approximately \$35.2 million which included cash and cash equivalents of \$41.0 million.

Net cash provided by operations was \$27.0 million for the six months ended March 27, 2004 compared with \$14.6 million during the six months ended March 29, 2003. Cash flows from operating activities for the period were primarily generated by income from operations and changes in working capital account balances, specifically increases in accounts payable, trade, increases in accrued payroll and other current liabilities, offset by decreases in inventories and accounts payable, other. Net cash used in investing activities was \$10.2 million for the six months ended March 27, 2004, compared with \$10.7 million in the six months ended March 29, 2003. Cash used in investing activities primarily represents capital expenditures for store openings, store remodeling, and fixtures.

In the six months ended March 27, 2004 and March 29, 2003, we opened 24 and 29 new stores, respectively. During fiscal 2004, we plan to open approximately 50 new Charlotte Russe and Rampage stores. We project that total capital expenditures during fiscal 2004 will be approximately \$28.0 million, of which \$9.7 million has been spent during the six months ended March 27, 2004. We plan to fund these expenditures with cash flows from operations, available cash balances and funds available under our revolving credit facility.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$1.2 million for the six months ended March 27, 2004 compared with \$164,000 for six months ended March 29, 2003. Financing activities represent the proceeds of stock option exercises.

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Effective February 28, 2003, the Company obtained a \$25.0 million unsecured revolving credit facility (the new credit facility ) to replace the previous \$15.0 million unsecured revolving credit agreement with another lender. The new credit facility, as amended on July 9, 2003, is subject to certain restrictions and covenants and matures on March 1, 2006. Interest on the new credit facility is payable quarterly, at the Company's option, at either (i) the Bank's Base Rate, as defined, or (ii) the Bank's Eurodollar Rate plus 1.00%, subject to certain adjustments. At March 27, 2004, there was no outstanding debt under the new credit facility. The new credit facility requires that the Company maintain certain financial ratios on a quarterly basis and restricts future liens and indebtedness, sales of assets and prohibits dividend payments. As of March 27, 2004, the Company is in compliance with the terms of the credit facility.

**Table of Contents**

We believe that cash flows from operations, our current cash balance and funds available under our revolving credit facility will be sufficient to meet our working capital needs and contemplated capital expenditure requirements for fiscal 2004. If our cash flow from operations should decline significantly, it may be necessary for us to seek additional sources of capital.

**LETTERS OF CREDIT**

Pursuant to the terms of the \$25.0 million unsecured revolving credit facility, the Company can issue up to \$15.0 million of documentary or standby letters of credit. The outstanding commitments under this agreement at March 27, 2004 totaled approximately \$3.5 million, including \$2.6 million in standby letters of credit.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

The Company's commitment to make future payments under long-term contractual obligations was as follows, as of March 27, 2004:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Less Than 1 Year</u>	<u>1-3 Years</u>	<u>3-5 Years</u>	<u>After 5 Years</u>
<b>Contractual Obligations:</b>					
			(dollars in thousands)		
Operating leases	\$ 457,231	\$ 61,513	\$ 118,374	\$ 114,086	\$ 163,258
Other long-term obligations	6,563	750	1,500	1,500	2,813
	<u>\$ 463,794</u>	<u>\$ 62,263</u>	<u>\$ 119,874</u>	<u>\$ 115,586</u>	<u>\$ 166,071</u>

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations discusses our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as revenues and expenses during the reported periods.

On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments regarding inventories, receivables, fixed assets, intangible assets, accrued liabilities, income taxes and contingencies and litigation. Management bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The results from this evaluation form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Under different assumptions or conditions, alternative estimates and judgments could be derived which would differ from the estimates being used by management. Actual results could differ from any or all of these estimates.

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As a retailer of women's apparel and accessories, our financial statements are affected by several critical accounting policies, many of which affect management's use of estimates and judgments, as described in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. We sell merchandise directly to retail customers and recognize revenue at the point of sale. Customers have the right to return merchandise to us, and we maintain a reserve for the financial impact of returns which occur subsequent to the current reporting period.

Our merchandise is initially offered for sale at a regular price, but is often marked down prior to the ultimate sale of all such units. We utilize the retail method of accounting for our inventory valuation that inherently reduces the inventories' carrying value as markdowns are initiated. In addition, we maintain a reserve for the financial impact of markdowns, which we believe are likely to be encountered in the future. If actual demand or



## **Table of Contents**

market conditions are more or less favorable than those projected by management, the level of the reserve for future markdowns would be subject to change in subsequent reporting periods.

We also provide for estimated inventory losses for damaged, lost or stolen inventory for the period from the physical inventory to the financial statement date. These estimates are based on historical experience and other factors.

We have recorded a goodwill asset that arose from the acquisition of our business in September 1996. This asset is tested for possible impairment on at least an annual basis in accordance with SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangibles*. The carrying values of investments in our stores (principally leasehold improvements and equipment) and other assets are reviewed for impairment on at least an annual basis in accordance with SFAS No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*. In prior years, we established reserves for stores which have been closed, and no other stores are contemplated for closure at this time.

During fiscal 2003, we decided to exit the Charlotte's Room concept and closed 10 Charlotte's Room stores. In accordance with SFAS No. 146, the Company recorded a liability of \$2.6 million and recognized an impairment charge of \$2.9 million for total store closing costs of \$5.5 million, before the effect of income taxes. The final settlement of charges is currently estimated to be \$4.6 million. As a result, \$600,000 was reversed into income during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003, and \$325,000 was reversed into income in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. The \$2.9 million impairment charge reflected the difference between the carrying value and fair value of Charlotte's Room assets. Fair value was based on estimated market valuations for those assets since their carrying value was not anticipated to be recoverable through future cash flows. These assets were disposed of during the third quarter of fiscal 2003 at approximately the estimated fair value.

## **RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENT**

The Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Interpretation No. 46 ( FIN 46 ), *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities*, in January 2003, and a revised interpretation of FIN 46 ( FIN 46-R ) was issued in December 2003. FIN 46 requires certain variable interest entities to be consolidated by the primary beneficiary of the entity if the equity investors in the entity do not have the characteristics of a controlling financial interest or do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. The provisions of FIN 46 are effective immediately for all arrangements after January 31, 2003. Since January 31, 2003, we have not invested in any entities it believes are variable interest entities for which we are the primary beneficiary. For all arrangements entered into after January 31, 2003, we were required to continue to apply FIN 46 through the end of the first quarter of fiscal 2004. We were required to adopt the provisions of FIN 46-R for those arrangements in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. For arrangements entered into prior to February 1, 2003, we were required to adopt the provisions of FIN 46-R in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. The adoption of FIN No. 46 did not have a significant impact on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

## **ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Our market risks relate primarily to changes in interest rates. We bear this risk in two specific ways. First, our revolving credit facility carries a variable interest rate that is tied to market indices and, therefore, our statement of income and our cash flows will be exposed to changes in interest rates. As of March 27, 2004, we had no borrowings against our credit facility. However, we may borrow additional funds under our revolving credit facility as needed.



**Table of Contents**

The second component of interest rate risk involves the short-term investment of excess cash in short-term, investment-grade interest-bearing securities. These investments are considered to be cash equivalents and are shown that way on our balance sheet. If there are changes in interest rates, those changes would affect the investment income we earn on these investments and, therefore, impact our cash flows and results of operations.

We believe our market risk exposure is immaterial.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Based upon an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our Disclosure Committee and management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(b) and 15d-15(b) the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the end of the three month period ended March 27, 2004, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

During the three month period ended March 27, 2004, there were no significant changes in our internal controls over financial reporting or in other factors that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, internal controls over financial reporting, nor were there any corrective actions required with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

**Table of Contents****PART II OTHER INFORMATION****ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time, we may be involved in litigation relating to claims arising out of its operations. As of the date of this filing, we are not engaged in any legal proceedings that are expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

**ITEM 2. CHANGES IN SECURITIES****Unregistered Sales of Securities**

None.

**Dividends**

We have never declared nor paid dividends on our common stock and we do not intend to pay any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain earnings to finance future operations and expansion. Moreover, under the terms of the revolving credit facility and amendment, stock dividends and distributions are prohibited. Cash dividends and capital stock redemptions are not permitted.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSIONS OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

We held our Annual Meeting on February 10, 2004. At the Annual Meeting, seven directors were elected to the Board of Directors with 19,327,974 votes tendered or 89.9% of shares outstanding. There were 1,213,084 shares not voted with no abstentions or broker non-votes.

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Withheld</u>
Bernard Zeichner	16,754,659	3,540,227
Mark A. Hoffman	16,940,863	3,354,023
Paul R. Del Rossi	19,167,199	1,127,687
W. Thomas Gould	19,022,399	1,272,487

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Allan W. Karp	17,701,178	2,593,708
Leonard H. Mogil	19,022,399	1,272,487
David J. Oddi	17,715,178	2,579,708

**ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K**

(a) Exhibits:

- 31.1 Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*
- 31.2 Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*
- 32.1 Certification Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*
- 32.2 Certification Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

