

CHILDRENS PLACE RETAIL STORES INC

Form 10-Q

December 05, 2007

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549







# FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended August 4, 2007

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

For the transition period from                      to

Commission file number 0-23071









**THE CHILDREN S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)



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**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or organization)

**31-1241495**

(I.R.S. employer  
identification number)

**915 Secaucus Road**

**Secaucus, New Jersey**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**07094**

(Zip Code)

**(201) 558-2400**

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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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 whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of an accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one).

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock with a par value of \$0.10 per share, as of October 6, 2007 was 29,083,916 shares.

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**THE CHILDREN S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED AUGUST 4, 2007**

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**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.**

## THE CHILDREN S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands)

|   | August 4,<br>2007<br>(Unaudited) | February 3,<br>2007 | July 29,<br>2006<br>(Unaudited) |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS:</b>  |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Current assets:   |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 84,569                        | \$ 116,991          | \$ 97,419                       |
| Short term investments  |                                  | 75,175              | 12,665                          |
| Accounts receivable   | 36,200                           | 35,173              | 34,853                          |
| Inventories   | 333,870                          | 239,039             | 254,626                         |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets   | 76,510                           | 42,817              | 65,245                          |
| Deferred income taxes   | 15,116                           | 16,410              | 7,400                           |
| Total current assets  | 546,265                          | 525,605             | 472,208                         |
| Long-term assets:   |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Property and equipment, net   | 402,108                          | 341,739             | 282,998                         |
| Deferred income taxes   | 84,780                           | 69,039              | 55,546                          |
| Other assets  | 3,119                            | 3,103               | 5,258                           |
| Total assets  | \$ 1,036,272                     | \$ 939,486          | \$ 816,010                      |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>  |                                  |                     |                                 |
| <b>LIABILITIES:</b>   |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Current liabilities:  |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Revolving loan  | \$ 72,225                        | \$                  | \$                              |
| Accounts payable  | 124,751                          | 82,970              | 101,580                         |
| Income taxes payable  | 6,670                            | 20,116              | 11,711                          |
| Accrued expenses, interest and other current liabilities  | 121,033                          | 138,770             | 108,768                         |
| Total current liabilities   | 324,679                          | 241,856             | 222,059                         |
| Long-term liabilities:  |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Deferred rent liabilities   | 126,315                          | 123,585             | 115,072                         |
| Deferred royalty  | 43,395                           | 45,941              | 36,398                          |
| Unrecognized tax benefits   | 21,809                           |                     |                                 |
| Other long-term liabilities   | 6,444                            | 6,317               | 7,011                           |
| Total liabilities   | 522,642                          | 417,699             | 380,540                         |
| <b>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</b>  |                                  |                     |                                 |
| <b>STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY:</b>   |                                  |                     |                                 |
| Common stock, \$0.10 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized;<br>29,083,916 shares, 29,083,916 shares and 29,029,607 shares issued and<br>outstanding at August 4, 2007, February 3, 2007 and July 29, 2006,<br>respectively |                                  |                     |                                 |
|   | 2,909                            | 2,909               | 2,903                           |
| Additional paid-in capital  | 193,724                          | 188,566             | 185,082                         |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income  | 11,013                           | 4,344               | 7,706                           |
| Retained earnings   | 305,984                          | 325,968             | 239,779                         |
| Total stockholders equity   | 513,630                          | 521,787             | 435,470                         |
| Total liabilities and stockholders equity   | \$ 1,036,272                     | \$ 939,486          | \$ 816,010                      |

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements



## THE CHILDREN S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

|   | Thirteen Weeks Ended |                  | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|---|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|   | August 4,<br>2007    | July 29,<br>2006 | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| Net sales   | \$ 424,297           | \$ 395,614       | \$ 903,160             | \$ 822,123          |
| Cost of sales   | 293,994              | 258,300          | 581,911                | 517,846             |
| Gross profit  | 130,303              | 137,314          | 321,249                | 304,277             |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                                    | 155,777              | 143,247          | 306,375                | 273,061             |
| Asset impairment charges  | 635                  |                  | 635                    |                     |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 18,569               | 15,858           | 36,304                 | 30,065              |
| Operating (loss) income   | (44,678)             | (21,791)         | (22,065)               | 1,151               |
| Interest income, net  | 566                  | 796              | 1,884                  | 1,673               |
| (Loss) income before income taxes   | (44,112)             | (20,995)         | (20,181)               | 2,824               |
| (Benefit from) provision for income taxes                                       | (16,021)             | (7,476)          | (6,804)                | 1,623               |
| Net (loss) income   | \$ (28,091)          | \$ (13,519)      | \$ (13,377)            | \$ 1,201            |
| Basic net (loss) income per common share  | \$ (0.97)            | \$ (0.47)        | \$ (0.46)              | \$ 0.04             |
| Basic weighted average common shares outstanding                                | 29,084               | 28,899           | 29,084                 | 28,571              |
| Diluted net (loss) income per common share                                      | \$ (0.97)            | \$ (0.47)        | \$ (0.46)              | \$ 0.04             |
| Diluted weighted average common shares and common share equivalents outstanding | 29,084               | 28,899           | 29,084                 | 29,729              |

(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements

## THE CHILDREN S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited) (In thousands)

|   | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
|   | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>                                |                        |                     |
| Net (loss) income   | \$ (13,377)            | \$ 1,201            |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities: |                        |                     |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 36,304                 | 30,065              |
| Deferred financing fee amortization   | 160                    | 175                 |
| Amortization of lease buyouts   | 117                    | 81                  |
| Loss on disposals of property and equipment                                 | 115                    | 711                 |
| Asset impairment charges  | 635                    |                     |
| Equity compensation expense   | 3,362                  | 1,229               |
| Stock-based compensation expense related to liability awards                | (568)                  |                     |
| Deferred royalty, net   | (863)                  | 9,236               |
| Deferred taxes  | (9,598)                | (7,389)             |
| Deferred rent and lease incentives  | (6,903)                | (6,059)             |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                |                        |                     |
| Accounts receivable   | (745)                  | (5,699)             |
| Inventories   | (91,527)               | (40,691)            |
| Prepaid income taxes  | (33,643)               | (25,601)            |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets                                   | 532                    | (580)               |
| Other assets  | (239)                  | (299)               |
| Accounts payable  | 38,870                 | 17,625              |
| Accrued expenses, interest and other current liabilities                    | (7,696)                | 12,587              |
| Income taxes payable  | (6,875)                | (40,998)            |
| Deferred rent liabilities   | 8,332                  | 15,129              |
| Other liabilities   | 2,448                  | 1,342               |
| Total adjustments   | (67,782)               | (39,136)            |
| Net cash used in operating activities                                       | (81,159)               | (37,935)            |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>                                |                        |                     |
| Property and equipment purchases, lease acquisition and software costs      | (100,988)              | (62,398)            |
| Purchase of investments   | (1,040,025)            | (725,576)           |
| Sale of investments   | 1,115,200              | 712,911             |
| Other investing activities  |                        | (24)                |
| Net cash used in investing activities                                       | (25,813)               | (75,087)            |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>                                |                        |                     |
| Exercise of stock options and employee stock purchases                      |                        | 25,971              |
| Excess tax benefit for stock option exercises                               |                        | 10,924              |
| Borrowings under revolving credit facility                                  | 200,275                | 109,103             |
| Repayments under revolving credit facility                                  | (128,050)              | (109,103)           |
| Net cash provided by financing activities                                   | 72,225                 | 36,895              |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash                                     | 2,325                  | 223                 |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents                                   | (32,422)               | (75,904)            |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period                              | 116,991                | 173,323             |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period                                    | \$ 84,569              | \$ 97,419           |

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements



**THE CHILDREN'S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)**  
**(Unaudited) (In thousands)**

|   | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
|   | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| <b>OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION:</b>   |                        |                     |
| Cash paid during the period for interest  | \$ 973                 | \$ 397              |
| Cash paid during the period for income taxes                                      | \$ 38,730              | \$ 64,664           |
| Accrued purchases of property and equipment, lease acquisition and software costs | \$ (8,724)             | \$ 2,299            |
| Land received for distribution center   | \$ 1,800               | \$                  |

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(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

See accompanying notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements



**THE CHILDREN S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(Unaudited)**

**1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ( U.S. GAAP ) for interim financial information and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ). Accordingly, certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in the annual consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP have been condensed or omitted.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring accruals) necessary to present fairly The Children s Place Retail Stores, Inc. s (the Company ) consolidated financial position as of August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006, the results of its consolidated operations for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006, respectively and its consolidated cash flows for the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006. Due to the seasonal nature of the Company s business, the results of operations for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006 are not necessarily indicative of operating results for a full fiscal year. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of February 3, 2007 has been taken from the audited consolidated financial statements as of that date. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007 included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2007 filed with the SEC. The consolidated statement of operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 contains information for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 that was restated in the Company s Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2007.

**2. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

The Company maintains several equity compensation plans and has granted stock options under its 1996 Stock Option Plan (the 1996 Plan ), its 1997 Stock Option Plan (the 1997 Plan ) and its 2005 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2005 Equity Plan ). The 2005 Equity Plan enabled the Compensation Committee (the Compensation Committee ) of the Company s Board of Directors (the Board ) to grant multiple forms of equity compensation such as stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, deferred stock awards and performance awards. In connection with the adoption of the 2005 Equity Plan, the Compensation Committee agreed not to issue any additional stock options under the 1996 Plan or the 1997 Plan and to limit the aggregate grant of awards under the 2005 Plan during fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007 to less than 2.5% of the aggregate number of shares of the Company s common stock outstanding on the last day of the 2005, 2006, and 2007 fiscal years, respectively. The Company also has an Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the ESPP ), in which participants purchase stock at 95% of fair market value, which is deemed to be non-compensatory.

The Company accounts for its equity compensation utilizing the guidance provided in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 123 (Revised 2004) ( SFAS 123(R) ), Accounting for Share-Based Payments. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option model, which requires extensive use of accounting judgment and financial estimates, including estimates of how long an associate will hold vested stock options before exercise, the estimated volatility of the Company s common stock over the expected term, and the number of options that will be forfeited prior to the completion of vesting requirements. Application of other assumptions could result in significantly different estimates of fair value of stock-based compensation and consequently, the related expense recognized in the Company s financial statements. The Company has

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applied the provisions of SFAS 123(R) to stock option grants made on or after January 29, 2006 and stock options outstanding, but not yet vested, as of January 29, 2006. Prior to the adoption of SFAS 123(R), the Company accounted for its equity compensation expense under the provisions of Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees.

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The following tables summarize the Company's equity compensation expense for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006 (in thousands):

|   | Thirteen Weeks Ended August 4, 2007 |                                   |          |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
|   | Cost of Goods Sold                  | Selling, General & Administrative | Total    |
| Stock option expense  | \$                                  | \$ 303                            | \$ 303   |
| Performance award expense (1)   |                                     |                                   |          |
| Stock compensation expense related to the issuance of liability awards (2)                          |                                     | 8                                 | 8        |
| Expense related to modification of previously issued stock options (i.e., tolling) (3)              | 8                                   | 1,890                             | 1,898    |
| Tolled stock options accounted for as liability awards and related fair market value adjustment (3) | (390)                               | (171)                             | (561)    |
| Total stock based compensation expense  | \$ (382)                            | \$ 2,030                          | \$ 1,648 |

|   | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended August 4, 2007 |                                   |          |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
|   | Cost of Goods Sold                    | Selling, General & Administrative | Total    |
| Stock option expense  | \$                                    | \$ 612                            | \$ 612   |
| Performance award expense (1)   |                                       |                                   |          |
| Stock compensation expense related to the issuance of liability awards (2)                          |                                       | 147                               | 147      |
| Expense related to modification of previously issued stock options (i.e., tolling) (3)              | 684                                   | 2,066                             | 2,750    |
| Tolled stock options accounted for as liability awards and related fair market value adjustment (3) | (508)                                 | (207)                             | (715)    |
| Total stock based compensation expense  | \$ 176                                | \$ 2,618                          | \$ 2,794 |

|  | Thirteen Weeks Ended July 29, 2006 |                                   |            |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
|  | Cost of Goods Sold                 | Selling, General & Administrative | Total      |
| Stock option expense                   | \$                                 | \$ 437                            | \$ 437     |
| Performance award expense (1)          | (875)                              | (1,395)                           | (2,270)    |
| Total stock based compensation expense | \$ (875)                           | \$ (958)                          | \$ (1,833) |

|  | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended July 29, 2006(4) |                                   |          |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|----------|
|  | Cost of Goods Sold                      | Selling, General & Administrative | Total    |
| Stock option expense                   | \$                                      | \$ 1,229                          | \$ 1,229 |
| Performance award expense (1)          |   |                                   |          |
| Total stock based compensation expense | \$                                      | \$ 1,229                          | \$ 1,229 |

(1) The Company determined that it is not probable that the Minimum Performance Target will be met. Accordingly, the Company has not recognized compensation expense related to Performance Awards (as defined below).

(2) Compensation expense for awards of restricted stock and stock options promised for which the Company has not completed the granting process due to the suspension of equity award grants. When the Company lifts the suspension of equity award grants, these awards will be reclassified as equity awards.

(3) Terminated employees have 90 days from date of termination to exercise their vested options. Due to the suspension of stock option exercises, the Company modified options held by terminated employees to extend their expiration dates until after the date the suspension is lifted (i.e., tolled stock options). After the suspension is lifted, terminated employees will have the same number of days to exercise their options as if the suspension had not occurred. Options that were tolled after the Company suspended option activity on September 14, 2006 were accounted for as liability awards because the option holders were no longer employees at the time of the modification and because of the Company's inability to provide shares upon exercise. When the Company lifts the suspension of stock option exercises, these awards will be reclassified as equity awards. Options that were tolled after September 14, 2006 were accounted for as equity awards because their options were tolled in conjunction with their termination.

(4) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

The Company recognized a tax benefit of approximately \$0.7 million and \$1.1 million for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, respectively. The Company recognized tax expense of approximately \$0.7 million related to equity compensation for the thirteen weeks ended July 29, 2006 due to the reversal of the accrual for Performance Awards (as defined below). The Company recognized a tax benefit of approximately \$0.5 million related to equity compensation expense for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006.

### Stock Option Plans

The fair value of issued stock options has been estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, incorporating the following assumptions(1):

|   | July 29, 2006      |
|---|--------------------|
| Dividend yield                              | 0%                 |
| Volatility factor(2)                        | 41.4%              |
| Weighted average risk-free interest rate(3) | 4.35%              |
| Expected life of options(4)                 | 4.8years           |
| Weighted average fair value on grant date   | \$ 19.37 per share |



- (1) Due to the Company's suspension of equity awards, no options were granted in the thirteen weeks ended August 4, 2007.
- (2) Expected volatility is based on a 50:50 blend of the historical and implied volatility with a two-year look back on the date of each grant.
- (3) The risk-free interest rate is based on the risk-free rate corresponding to the grant date and expected term.
- (4) The expected life used in the Black-Scholes calculation is based on a Monte Carlo simulation incorporating a forward-looking stock price model and a historical model of employee exercise and post-vest forfeiture behavior.

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Changes in the Company's stock options for the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 were as follows:

|   | Number of<br>Options<br>(in thousands) | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise Price | Weighted<br>Average Remaining<br>Contractual Life<br>(in years) | Aggregate<br>Intrinsic<br>Value<br>(in thousands) |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Options outstanding, beginning of fiscal year | 2,322                                  | \$ 30.36                              |   |   |
| Granted (1)                                   |  |                                       |   |   |
| Exercised (1)                                 |  |                                       |   |   |
| Forfeited                                     |  |                                       |   |   |
| Options outstanding, end of quarter           | 2,322                                  | \$ 30.36                              | 5.52  | \$ 4,067  |
| Options exercisable, end of quarter           | 2,178                                  | \$ 30.31                              | 5.40  | \$ 1,791  |

(1) Due to the Company's suspension of equity awards, no options were granted or exercised in the thirteen weeks ended August 4, 2007.

Changes in the Company's unvested stock options for the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 were as follows:

|  | Number of<br>Options<br>(in thousands) | Weighted Average<br>Grant Date<br>Fair Value |
|--|--|--|
| Unvested options, beginning of fiscal year | 150                                    | \$ 15.73                                     |
| Granted                                    |  |  |
| Vested                                     | (6)                                    | 13.86  |
| Forfeited                                  |  |  |
| Unvested options, end of quarter           | 144                                    | \$ 15.81                                     |

Total unrecognized equity compensation expense related to unvested stock options approximated \$1.5 million as of August 4, 2007, which will be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 1.4 years.

### Performance Awards

During fiscal 2006, the Company began awarding to key members of management selected by the Compensation Committee (the Participants) performance awards (Performance Awards). Performance Awards are shares of the Company's common stock (Performance Shares) to be issued to Participants if, among other conditions, the Company achieves a minimum earnings per share level in fiscal 2007 (the Threshold Target) and a minimum cumulative earnings per share level for fiscal 2005, 2006 and 2007 (together with the Threshold Target, the Minimum Performance Target). At the time the Performance Awards were granted, the fiscal 2005 earnings per share component of the Company's three year cumulative target was known.

Based on the Company's estimate of the level of performance targets for which attainment is probable, Performance Awards are expensed on a straight line basis as follows:



The first 50% of the awards are expensed over a two year vesting period from fiscal 2006 to fiscal 2007 and are earned based on the Company meeting the Minimum Performance Target; and

The remaining 50% of the awards are expensed over a three year vesting period from fiscal 2006 through fiscal 2008 based on the Participant's continued service to the Company through that period.

The shares automatically vest on a pro-rata basis if there is a change in control (as defined in the 2005 Equity Plan) of the Company prior to the end of fiscal 2007. The Company determined that it is not probable that the Minimum Performance Target will be met. Accordingly, the Company has not recognized compensation expense related to the Performance Awards. The remaining unvested shares will be automatically canceled at the end of fiscal 2007, assuming there is not a change in control of the Company.

Changes in the Company's unvested Performance Awards for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 were as follows:

|  | <b>Thirteen Weeks Ended August 4, 2007</b> | <b>Weighted Average</b> | <b>Twenty-Six Weeks Ended August 4, 2007</b> | <b>Weighted Average</b> |
|--|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
|  | <b>Number of</b>                           | <b>Grant Date</b>       | <b>Number of</b>                             | <b>Grant Date</b>       |
|  | <b>Performance</b>                         | <b>Fair Value</b>       | <b>Performance</b>                           | <b>Fair Value</b>       |
|  | <b>Awards</b>                              |                         | <b>Awards</b>                                |                         |
|  | <b>(in thousands)</b>                      |                         | <b>(in thousands)</b>                        |                         |
| Unvested Performance Awards, beginning of period | 531  | \$ 46.42                | 544  | \$ 46.70                |
| Granted  |  |                         |  |                         |
| Vested   |  |                         |  |                         |
| Forfeited (1)                                    | (6)  | 42.99                   | (19)   | 45.46                   |
| Unvested Performance Awards, end of period       | 525  | \$ 46.30                | 525  | \$ 46.30                |

(1) Includes the forfeiture of 6,180 shares for a terminated Participant and subsequently modified by the Compensation Committee as part of the Participant's severance agreement.

### 3. LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH DISNEY

The Company acquired, through two wholly-owned subsidiaries, certain assets used to operate the Disney Store retail chain in North America (the "Disney Store business") from affiliates of The Walt Disney Company ("Disney"). As a result of the acquisition, these subsidiaries acquired 313 Disney Stores, consisting of all existing Disney Stores in the United States and Canada, other than "flagship" stores and stores located at Disney theme parks and other Disney properties, along with certain other assets used in the Disney Store business. In addition, the lease obligations for all 313 stores and other legal obligations became obligations of the Company's subsidiaries. Subsequently, the Company's subsidiaries acquired two Disney Store flagship stores, one in Chicago, Illinois and the other in San Francisco, California as well as certain Disney Store outlet stores. The Company's subsidiaries that operate the Disney Store business are referred to herein interchangeably and collectively as "Hoop".

#### Royalty Payments

Concurrently, the Company entered into a License and Conduct of Business Agreement with Disney (the "License Agreement"). Under the License Agreement, Hoop has the right to use certain Disney intellectual property, subject to Disney approval, in the Disney Store business in exchange for ongoing royalty payments. Pursuant to the terms of the License Agreement, Hoop operates retail stores in North America using the "Disney Store" name and contracts to manufacture, source, offer, and sell merchandise featuring Disney-branded characters, past, present and future. The initial term of the License Agreement is 15 years and, if certain financial performance and other conditions are satisfied, the License Agreement may be extended at the Company's option for up to three additional ten-year terms. Hoop began making royalty payments to Disney in November 2006 equal to 5% of net sales at physical Disney Store retail locations, subject to a royalty holiday with respect to a limited number of stores (the "Non-Core Stores").

Beginning in fiscal 2007, under the License Agreement, the royalty payments also became subject to minimum royalties. The minimum royalty payment is computed as the greater of:

60% of the royalty that would have been payable under the terms of the License Agreement for acquired stores in the base year, which was the year ended October 2, 2004, as if the License Agreement had been in effect in that year, increased at the rate of the Consumer Price Index, or

80% of the average of the royalty amount payable in the previous two years.

Following a two-year royalty abatement, the Company commenced royalty payments under the License Agreement in November 2006 and paid \$6.0 million and \$11.4 million in royalties during the thirteen and twenty-six

weeks ended August 4, 2007, respectively. Due to the royalty abatement discussed above, there were no royalty amounts due or paid under the License Agreement during the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. During the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, the Company recorded \$5.5 million and \$10.6 million for royalty expense, as compared to \$5.2 million and \$9.2 million during the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. The Company had an accrued liability on its balance sheet of \$43.4 million as of August 4, 2007 and \$36.4 million as of July 29, 2006.

### **Liquidity Restrictions**

The License Agreement limits Hoop's ability to make cash dividends or other distributions. Hoop's independent directors must approve payment of any dividends or other distributions, other than payments of:

Amounts due under the terms of the tax sharing and intercompany services agreements;

Approximately \$61.9 million which represents a portion of the purchase price paid by the Company to Disney (limited to cumulative cash flows, as defined, since the date of the acquisition); and

Certain other dividend payments, subject to satisfaction of additional operating conditions, and limited to 50% of cumulative cash flows up to \$90 million, and 90% of cumulative cash flows thereafter (provided that at least \$90 million of cash and cash equivalents is maintained at Hoop).

In the normal course of business, Hoop has reimbursed the Company for intercompany services but has not paid any dividends or made other distributions. Under the License Agreement, Hoop cannot incur indebtedness or guarantee indebtedness without written approval from TDS Franchising LLC ( "TDSF" ), an affiliate of The Walt Disney Company, except in permitted circumstances as outlined by the License Agreement. The License Agreement provides that trade letters of credit to fund inventory purchases are permitted without limitation; borrowings under all term and revolving loans are limited to \$35.0 million, with a maximum of \$7.5 million for term loan borrowings; and the aggregate amount outstanding under all term and revolving loans must be reduced to \$10.0 million or less at least once annually.

### **Business Review and Approvals**

The License Agreement includes provisions regarding the manner in which Hoop will operate the Disney Store business and requires that approvals be obtained from a Disney affiliate for certain matters, including all uses of the intellectual property of Disney and its affiliates and the opening or closing of Disney Stores beyond certain parameters set forth in the License Agreement.

The License Agreement also entitles Disney to designate a representative to attend meetings of the Board as an observer. Upon the occurrence of certain specified events, including an uncured royalty breach and other repeated material breaches by Hoop of the terms of the License

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Agreement, certain material breaches by the Company of the terms of the Guaranty and Commitment, and certain changes in ownership or control of the Company or Hoop, Disney will have the right to terminate the License Agreement, in which event Disney may require the Company to sell the Disney Store business to Disney or one of its affiliates or to a third party at a price to be determined by appraisal or, in the absence of such sale, to wind down the Disney Store business in an orderly manner.

### **Internet Commerce Operations**

Beginning in July 2007, the Company's subsidiaries commenced Internet commerce operations through an alliance with a Disney affiliate in which certain Disney Store merchandise is sold on the disneyshopping.com website. Disney Store merchandise is accessible through either www.disneystore.com or www.disneyshopping.com. The Company anticipates entering into a formal amendment to the License Agreement relating to this Internet business. It is anticipated that this amendment to the License Agreement will supersede the Company's obligation to launch its own Disney Store Internet store, which pursuant to the License Agreement, as modified by certain letter agreements, the Company is required to launch by January 31, 2008.

### **June Letter Agreement**

The Company, Hoop and TDSF entered into a letter agreement on June 7, 2007 (dated as of June 6, 2007) (the "June Letter Agreement"), addressing issues that had been raised by TDSF, as previously disclosed by the Company, relating to the compliance by Hoop with certain provisions of the Disney License Agreement. The June Letter

Agreement set forth TDSF's position that Hoop has committed 120 uncured material breaches of the License Agreement, primarily relating to Hoop's obligations with respect to store remodeling and store maintenance. TDSF asserted that the existence of these breaches would permit TDSF to exercise its rights and remedies under the License Agreement, which could include termination of the License Agreement.

The June Letter Agreement, among other things, suspended the remodel obligations in the License Agreement for the approximately 4.5 year term of the June Letter Agreement and, in lieu of those provisions, imposed new obligations on the Company with respect to the renovation and maintenance of numerous stores in the Disney Store chain between fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2011 and, for the stores to be remodeled in fiscal 2007, set forth a detailed timetable for submission of plans and completion dates.

In August 2007, the Company and Disney entered into an agreement which modified certain provisions of the License Agreement and created certain additional obligations on the part of the Company (the Refurbishment Amendment). The Refurbishment Amendment, among other things, ended the royalty abatement at certain locations identified in the original License Agreement.

Refer to Note 14 Subsequent Events for additional information regarding the Refurbishment Amendment.

#### 4. NET (LOSS) INCOME PER COMMON SHARE

In accordance with SFAS No. 128, Earnings Per Share, the following table reconciles net income and share amounts utilized to calculate basic and diluted net loss per common share (in thousands):

|                                  | Thirteen Weeks Ended |                  | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|                                  | August 4,<br>2007    | July 29,<br>2006 | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| Net (loss) income                | \$ (28,091)          | \$ (13,519)      | \$ (13,377)            | \$ 1,201            |
| Basic shares                     | 29,084               | 28,899           | 29,084                 | 28,571              |
| Dilutive effect of stock options |                      |                  |                        | 1,158               |
| Dilutive shares                  | 29,084               | 28,899           | 29,084                 | 29,729              |
| Anti-dilutive options            | 901                  | 1,059            | 943                    | 20                  |

(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

The net loss per share presented in the condensed consolidated statements of operations for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, as well as the thirteen weeks ended July 29, 2006, excludes the dilutive effect of stock options, which would have been anti-dilutive as a

result of the net loss.

## 5. COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME

The following table presents the Company's comprehensive loss (in thousands):

|                             | Thirteen Weeks Ended |                  | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|                             | August 4,<br>2007    | July 29,<br>2006 | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| Net (loss) income           | \$ (28,091)          | \$ (13,519)      | \$ (13,377)            | \$ 1,201            |
| Translation adjustments     | 3,045                | (198)            | 6,669                  | 495                 |
| Comprehensive (loss) income | \$ (25,046)          | \$ (13,717)      | \$ (6,708)             | \$ 1,696            |

(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

## 6. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consist of the following (in thousands):

|  | August 4,<br>2007 | February 3,<br>2007 | July 29,<br>2006 |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Property and equipment:                        |                   |                     |                  |
| Land and land improvements                     | \$ 3,403          | \$                  | \$               |
| Leasehold improvements                         | 336,199           | 321,019             | 287,314          |
| Store fixtures and equipment                   | 244,878           | 229,880             | 205,772          |
| Capitalized software                           | 46,650            | 43,116              | 40,187           |
| Construction in progress                       | 118,849           | 58,529              | 29,225           |
|  | 749,979           | 652,544             | 562,498          |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | (347,871)         | (310,805)           | (279,500)        |
| Property and equipment, net                    | \$ 402,108        | \$ 341,739          | \$ 282,998       |

The Company received approximately 125 acres of land as a donation from DeKalb County, Alabama in exchange for a commitment by the Company to build a distribution center in Fort Payne, Alabama. Construction of the distribution center is complete and the Company began operations during the thirteen weeks ended August 4, 2007. The Company recorded the land at its fair value of approximately \$1.8 million.

The Company impaired certain assets in fiscal 2006. Accordingly, the Company has recognized approximately \$0.9 million and approximately \$1.8 million in accelerated depreciation in the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 due to the change in estimate of the assets' estimated useful life.

## 7. INVESTMENTS

Investments are classified in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities. The Company's short-term investments are principally composed of Variable Rate Demand Notes (VRDN). The Company had short-term investment balances of \$0 million, \$75.2 million and \$12.7 million as of August 4, 2007, February 3, 2007 and July 29, 2006, respectively. VRDN are classified as available-for-sale and are stated at fair value. Interest rates reset periodically and the investments typically are settled within 35 days. As a result, there are no cumulative gross unrealized holding gains or losses related to these securities. All income from these investments is recorded as interest income.

## 8. CREDIT FACILITIES

### 2007 Amended Loan Agreement; Letter of Credit Agreement



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In June 2007, the Company entered into a Fifth Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the "2007 Amended Loan Agreement") and a new letter of credit agreement (the "Letter of Credit Agreement") with Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC ("Wells Fargo") as senior lender and administrative and syndicated agent, and the Company's other senior lenders for the purpose of better supporting the Company's capital needs and reducing the fees associated with its credit facility borrowings.

The 2007 Amended Loan Agreement provides a facility maximum of \$100 million for borrowings and letters of credit, with a \$30 million accordion feature that enables the Company, at its option, to increase the facility to an aggregate amount of \$130 million. There is also a seasonal over-advance feature that enables the Company to borrow up to an additional \$20 million from July 1 through October 31, subject to satisfying certain conditions, including a condition relating to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") on a trailing 12 month basis based upon the most recent financial statements furnished to Wells Fargo and the Company's estimate of projected pro forma EBITDA for the over-advance period. The term of the facility ends on November 1, 2010. If the Company terminates the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement during the first year there is a termination fee of 0.5% of the \$100 million facility maximum (\$130 million if the accordion feature is in use) plus any seasonal over-advance amounts in effect. The LIBOR margin is 1.00% to 1.50%, depending on the Company's average excess availability, and the unused line fee is 0.25%.

Prior to the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement, the Company borrowed under a 2004 Amended Loan Agreement, which contained substantially similar covenants as the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement, except the 2004 Amended Loan Agreement: (i) permitted borrowings up to \$130 million (including a sublimit for letters of credit of \$100 million), (ii) provided for amounts outstanding to bear interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate or, at the Company's option, a LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined margin of 1.50% to 3.00%, and (iii) contained an unused line fee of 0.38%.

Credit extended under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement is secured by a first priority security interest in substantially all of the Company's assets, other than assets in Canada and Puerto Rico and assets owned by Hoop. The amount that can be borrowed under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement depends on levels of inventory and accounts receivable relating to The Children's Place business. The 2007 Amended Loan Agreement also contains covenants, which include limitations on annual capital expenditures, maintenance of certain levels of excess collateral, and a prohibition on the payment of dividends. The 2007 Amended Loan Agreement also contains covenants limiting the amount of funds the Company can invest in Hoop to \$20 million, \$55 million, \$36 million and \$52 million in fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, not to exceed a maximum aggregate of \$175 million over the term of the credit facility.

Under the Letter of Credit Agreement, the Company can issue letters of credit for inventory purposes for up to \$60 million to support The Children's Place business. The Letter of Credit Agreement can be terminated at any time by either the Company or Wells Fargo. Interest is paid at the rate of 0.75% on the aggregate undrawn amount of all letters of credit outstanding. The Company's obligations under the Letter of Credit Agreement are secured by a security interest in substantially all of the assets of The Children's Place business, other than assets in Canada and Puerto Rico, and assets of Hoop. Upon any termination of the Letter of Credit Agreement, the Company would be required to fully collateralize all outstanding letters of credit issued thereunder and, if the Company failed to do so, its outstanding liability under the letter of credit agreement would reduce its borrowing capacity under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement.

As of August 4, 2007, the Company has not used its accordion feature, but had access to its seasonal over-advance feature, expanding its line of credit to \$120 million. As of August 4, 2007, February 3, 2007 and July 29, 2006 the Company had outstanding borrowings of \$72.2 million, \$0 million and \$0 million, respectively. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, various letters of credit were issued and the Company had letters of credit outstanding of \$63.7 million (\$51.5 million in merchandise letters of credit under the 2007 Letter of Credit Agreement, and \$12.2 million in standby letters of credit under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement). The average loan balance during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was approximately \$10.5 million and the average interest rate was 7.89%. The maximum outstanding letters of credit were \$87.2 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007. Availability under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement (as defined in the agreement) as of August 4, 2007 was \$35.6 million.

Primarily as a result of the Company's restatement and the delay in completion of its financial statements caused by the stock option investigation, the Company was not in compliance with the financial reporting covenants under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement as of August 4, 2007 or thereafter. However, the Company obtained waivers from its lenders for such noncompliance. There were no fees associated with obtaining these waivers through August 30, 2007; however, the Company was required to pay a fee of \$102,000 to extend the waiver from August 30, 2007 through the date this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q was filed with the SEC.

Refer to Note 14 Subsequent Events for discussion of the Company's November 2007 amendment to its 2007 Amended Loan Agreement.

#### **Amendments to Hoop Loan Agreement**

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In June 2007, concurrently with the execution of the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement, and in August 2007, the Company entered into Second and Third Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement, both with Wells Fargo, as senior lender and administrative and syndicated agent, and the other lenders (collectively, the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement ) to reduce the interest rates charged on outstanding borrowings and letters of credits. The Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement provide a facility maximum of \$75 million for borrowings and provides for a \$25 million accordion feature that enables the Company to increase the facility to an aggregate amount of \$100 million. The accordion feature is available at the Company's option, subject to the amount of eligible inventory and accounts receivable of the domestic Hoop entity. The term of the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement ends on

November 21, 2010. Amounts outstanding under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement bear interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate or, at Hoop's option, the LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined margin. Depending on the domestic Hoop entity's level of excess availability, the LIBOR margin is 1.50% or 1.75%, commercial letter of credit fees are 0.75% or 1.00%, and standby letter of credit fees are 1.25% or 1.50%. The unused line fee is 0.25%.

Prior to the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement, the Company borrowed under a Loan and Security Agreement (the Hoop Loan Agreement). Covenants under the Hoop Loan Agreement were substantially similar to those under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement, except that the Hoop Loan Agreement: (i) permitted borrowings up to \$100 million (including a sublimit for letters of credit of \$90 million), (ii) provided for amounts outstanding to bear interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate plus a margin of 0.25% or, at Hoop's option, the LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined margin of 2.00% or 2.25%, depending on the domestic Hoop entity's level of excess availability, and (iii) contained an unused line fee of 0.30%.

Credit extended under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement is secured by a first priority security interest in substantially all the assets of the domestic Hoop entity as well as a pledge of a portion of the equity interests in Hoop Canada. The Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement also contain covenants, including limitations on indebtedness, maintenance of certain levels of excess collateral and restrictions on the payment of dividends and indebtedness.

The Company had no outstanding borrowings as of August 4, 2007. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, various letters of credit were issued, but there were no borrowings other than letters of credit that cleared after business hours. The average balance during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was approximately \$0.2 million and the average interest rate was 8.49%. The maximum outstanding letters of credit were \$38.3 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007. Letters of credit outstanding as of August 4, 2007 were \$36.0 million and availability as of August 4, 2007 was \$39.0 million. The interest rate charged was 8.25% as of August 4, 2007.

Primarily as a result of the delay in completion of the Company's financial statements caused by the stock option investigation and its discussions with Disney regarding breaches of the License Agreement, the Company was not in compliance as of August 4, 2007 or thereafter with the financial reporting covenants under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement or the provision requiring Hoop to comply with the License Agreement. However, the Company obtained waivers from its lenders for such noncompliance. There were no fees associated with obtaining these waivers through August 30, 2007. However, the Company was required to pay a fee of \$48,000 to extend the waiver from August 30, 2007 through the date this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q was filed with the SEC.

#### **Letter of Credit Fees**

Letter of credit fees approximated \$0.4 million in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006. Letter of credit fees are included in cost of sales.

## **9. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS**

The Company is involved in various legal proceedings arising in the normal course of its business and reserves for litigation settlements and contingencies when it can determine the probability of outcome and can estimate losses. Estimates are adjusted as facts and circumstances

require. In the opinion of management, any ultimate liability arising out of such proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

## **Matters Related to Stock Option Practices**

### ***SEC and U.S. Attorney Investigations***

On September 29, 2006, the Division of Enforcement of the SEC informed the Company that it had initiated an informal investigation into the Company's stock option granting practices. In addition, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey advised the Company that it had commenced an investigation into the same matter. The Company has cooperated fully with these investigations and has briefed both authorities on the results of the investigation conducted by a two-member committee of independent directors of the Company's Board (Special Committee). There have been no developments in these matters since that time.

### ***Shareholder Derivative Litigation***

On January 17, 2007, a stockholder derivative action was filed in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey against certain current members of the Board of Directors and certain current and former senior executives. The Company has been named as a nominal defendant. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers and directors (i) breached their fiduciary duties to the Company and its stockholders and were unjustly enriched by improperly backdating certain grants of stock options to officers and directors of the Company, (ii) caused the Company to file false and misleading reports with the SEC, (iii) violated the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) and common law, (iv) caused the Company to issue false and misleading public statements and (v) were negligent and abdicated their responsibilities to the Company and its stockholders. The complaint seeks money damages, an accounting by the defendants for the proceeds of sales of any allegedly backdated stock options, and the costs and disbursements of the lawsuit, as well as equitable relief. The defendants have moved to dismiss the action, and on or about June 15, 2007, the plaintiff filed an amended complaint adding, among other things, a claim for securities fraud under SEC rule 10b-5. The outcome of this litigation is uncertain; while the Company believes there are valid defenses to the claims and will defend itself vigorously, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of this litigation. The litigation could distract our management and directors from the Company's affairs, the costs and expenses of the litigation could unfavorably affect our net earnings and an unfavorable outcome could adversely affect the reputation of the Company.

### ***Nasdaq Proceedings***

As the Company did not timely file its Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended July 29, 2006 and October 28, 2006, its Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2006, and its Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended May 5, 2007 and August 4, 2007 (collectively, the Required Reports), the Company was out of compliance with the reporting requirements of the SEC and the Nasdaq Global Select Market (Nasdaq) for more than one year.

The Company has received determination letters from the Staff of the Nasdaq stating that because it was not in compliance with Nasdaq listing requirements, its common stock is subject to delisting. Since September 2006 the Company has been in contact with the Nasdaq Listing Qualifications Panel, Nasdaq's Listing and Hearing Review council, and the Board of Directors of the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (the Nasdaq Board) regarding the Company's inability to comply with Nasdaq's listing requirements and when the Company might be able to again become compliant. The last communication the Company received from Nasdaq was from the Nasdaq Board on November 9, 2007 stating that that the Company had until January 9, 2008 to file all of the Required Reports in order to regain compliance with Nasdaq's listing requirements. With this filing, the Company is current with its Required Reports and believes it has regained compliance with Nasdaq's listing requirements.

In addition, Nasdaq listing rules require that all issuers solicit proxies and hold an annual meeting of its shareholders within 12 months of the end of the issuer's fiscal year end. In order for the Company to comply with this rule, it must hold its annual meeting of shareholders for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007, no later than February 3, 2008. In addition, the Company must be current in its SEC filings before it can solicit proxies for such annual meeting of its shareholders. Accordingly, if the Company is unable to become current in its SEC filings in sufficient time for us to solicit proxies for an annual meeting of the Company's shareholders by February 3, 2008, or if it otherwise fails to hold such meeting by February 3, 2008, the Company's shares could be delisted from Nasdaq.

#### **Other Litigation**

On or about February 15, 2005, Michael Scott Smith, a former co-sales manager for The Children's Place in the San Diego district, filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

The lawsuit alleges violations of the California Labor Code and California Business and Professions Code and seeks class action on behalf of Mr. Smith and other individuals similarly situated. On October 19, 2007, the Company entered into a class action settlement with the plaintiff's counsel and signed a memorandum of understanding providing for, among other things, a maximum total payment of \$2.1 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, service payments to the class representative, and administration costs, in exchange for a full release of all claims and dismissal of the lawsuit. The Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement on November 29, 2007. The settlement was recorded in the thirteen weeks ended July 29, 2006.

On or about July 12, 2006, Joy Fong, a former Disney Store manager in the San Francisco district, filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The lawsuit alleges violations of the California Labor Code and California Business and Professions Code and seeks class action status on behalf of Ms. Fong and other individuals similarly situated. The Company filed its answer on August 11, 2006 denying any and all liability, and on January 14, 2007, Ms. Fong filed an amended complaint, adding Disney as a defendant. The parties are currently conducting discovery in this matter. The Company believes it has meritorious defenses to the claims. The claims asserted are not covered by the Company's employment practices liability insurance, and at this time, the Company cannot reasonably estimate the amount of loss or range of loss that might be incurred as a result of this matter.

Refer to Note 14 Subsequent Events for further discussion of the Company's pending legal matters.

## 10. INCOME TAXES

The Company computes income taxes using the liability method. This method requires recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities, measured by enacted rates, attributable to temporary differences between financial statement and income tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are comprised largely of book tax differences relating to depreciation, rent expense, inventory and various accruals and reserves.

The Company's effective tax rate for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was 36.3% and 33.7%, respectively. For the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006, the Company's effective tax rates were 35.6% and 57.5%, respectively. The Company's effective tax rate during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 was impacted by an additional provision of approximately \$0.6 million, resulting primarily from tax law changes in certain states.

The Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes An Interpretation of FASB Statement 109 (FIN 48) on February 4, 2007. FIN 48 clarifies the accounting and reporting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an entity's financial statements in accordance with FASB Statement No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, and prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement criteria for financial statement disclosure of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return. Under FIN 48, the impact of an uncertain income tax position on the income tax return must be recognized at the largest amount that is more-likely-than-not to be sustained upon audit by the relevant taxing authority. An uncertain income tax position will not be recognized if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. Additionally, FIN 48 provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition.



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The cumulative effect of adopting FIN 48 was an approximate \$6.6 million decrease to beginning retained earnings as of February 4, 2007. Consistent with the provisions of FIN 48, the Company reclassified approximately \$6.2 million of income tax liabilities from current to non-current liabilities because payment of cash is not anticipated within one year of the balance sheet date and increased its tax reserves approximately \$15.1 million. The total amount of unrecognized tax benefits as of the date of adoption was approximately \$21.3 million. Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits on February 4, 2007, is a net amount of approximately \$12.8 million that, if recognized, would favorably affect the Company's effective tax rate and a balance of approximately \$8.5 million relating to offsetting tax benefits associated with the federal tax benefit from state income taxes, the federal and state tax benefit of interest, and timing adjustments. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, the Company recognized approximately \$0.5 million of additional interest expense related to its unrecognized tax benefits.

The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized income tax liabilities in income tax expense. The total amount of interest and penalties included in the FIN 48 liability at adoption is approximately \$3.3 million and \$1.9 million, respectively.

The Company is subject to taxation in the U.S. and various states and foreign jurisdictions. With limited exception, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state, local or non-U.S. income tax audits by taxing authorities for years through 2002. The Company does not anticipate a significant change to the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits within the next 12 months. During the Second Quarter 2007, the Internal Revenue Service initiated an audit of the Company's U.S. Federal Consolidated Returns for fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2005.

## 11. INTEREST INCOME, NET

The following table presents the components of the Company's interest income, net (in thousands):

|   | Thirteen Weeks Ended |                  | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|---|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|   | August 4,<br>2007    | July 29,<br>2006 | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| Interest income                         | \$ 784               | \$ 437           | \$ 1,400               | \$ 794              |
| Tax-exempt income                       | 420                  | 689              | 1,436                  | 1,517               |
| Total interest income                   | 1,204                | 1,126            | 2,836                  | 2,311               |
| Less:                                   |                      |                  |                        |                     |
| Interest expense - credit facilities    | 410                  | 20               | 424                    | 34                  |
| Capitalized interest                    | (360)                |                  | (360)                  |                     |
| Unused line fee                         | 80                   | 115              | 203                    | 240                 |
| Amortization of deferred financing fees | 80                   | 80               | 160                    | 175                 |
| Other fees                              | 428                  | 115              | 525                    | 189                 |
| Interest income, net                    | \$ 566               | \$ 796           | \$ 1,884               | \$ 1,673            |

(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

## 12. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company reports segment data based on management responsibility: The Children's Place stores, Disney Stores and Shared Services. The Company measures its segment profitability based on operating profit, defined by the Company as earnings before the allocation of shared services and before interest and taxes. Shared services are not allocated and principally include executive management, finance, real estate, human resources, legal, and information technology services. Direct administrative expenses are recorded by each segment. Certain centrally managed functions such as distribution center expenses are allocated to each segment based upon management's estimate of usage or other contractual means. The Company periodically reviews these allocations and adjusts them based upon changes in business circumstances.

Shared service assets principally represent capitalized software and computer equipment. All other administrative assets are allocated between the two operating segments.

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The following tables provide segment level financial information for the thirteen weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006 (dollars in millions):

|   | Thirteen Weeks Ended August 4, 2007 |              |                 |               |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
|   | The Children's Place                | Disney Store | Shared Services | Total Company |
| Net sales   | \$ 290.5                            | \$ 133.8     | \$              | \$ 424.3      |
| Operating (loss)                                  | (11.3)                              | (9.5)        | (23.9)          | (44.7)        |
| Operating profit (loss) as a percent of net sales | (3.9)%                              | (7.1)%       | N/A             | (10.5)%       |

## Thirteen Weeks Ended July 29, 2006

|   | The<br>Children's<br>Place | Disney<br>Store | Shared<br>Services | Total<br>Company |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Net sales   | \$ 269.4                   | \$ 126.2        | \$                 | \$ 395.6         |
| Operating profit (loss)                           | 2.3                        | (3.6)           | (20.5)             | (21.8)           |
| Operating profit (loss) as a percent of net sales | 0.9%                       | (2.9)%          | N/A                | (5.5)%           |

## Twenty-Six Weeks Ended August 4, 2007

|   | The<br>Children's<br>Place | Disney<br>Store | Shared<br>Services | Total<br>Company |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Net sales   | \$ 646.5                   | \$ 256.7        | \$                 | \$ 903.2         |
| Operating profit (loss)                           | 43.2                       | (13.9)          | (51.4)             | (22.1)           |
| Operating profit (loss) as a percent of net sales | 6.7%                       | (5.4)%          | N/A                | (2.4)%           |
| Total assets                                      | \$ 798.2                   | \$ 218.8        | 19.3               | \$ 1,036.3       |
| Capital expenditures                              | 91.6                       | 5.2             | 4.2                | 101.0            |

## Twenty-Six Weeks Ended July 29, 2006(1)

|   | The<br>Children's<br>Place | Disney<br>Store | Shared<br>Services | Total<br>Company |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Net sales   | \$ 591.4                   | \$ 230.7        | \$                 | \$ 822.1         |
| Operating profit (loss)                           | 53.8                       | (10.2)          | (42.4)             | 1.2              |
| Operating profit (loss) as a percent of net sales | 9.1%                       | (4.4)%          | N/A                | 0.1%             |
| Total assets                                      | \$ 587.2                   | \$ 209.4        | \$ 19.4            | \$ 816.0         |
| Capital expenditures                              | 36.2                       | 26.2            |                    | 62.4             |

(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.

### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

#### Merchandise for Re-Sale



During the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, the Company purchased approximately \$2.7 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, of footwear from Nina Footwear Corporation as compared to approximately \$1.3 million and \$2.0 million purchased in the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Stanley Silverstein, who is a member of the Board and the father-in-law of Ezra Dabah, former Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ) and also a member of the Board, owns Nina Footwear Corporation with his brother.

## 14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

### Modifications of Disney License Agreement

Subsequent to the execution of the June Letter Agreement, the Company was unable to meet several of the deadlines set forth in the June Letter Agreement. In addition, the Company determined that there were upcoming deadlines during the third and fourth quarters of fiscal 2007 specified in the June Letter Agreement that the Company would likely not meet. Accordingly, the Company and Disney engaged in further discussions during August 2007 and, based on these discussions, agreed upon changes to the requirements of the June Letter Agreement that would postpone the due dates of certain remodel obligations until later in fiscal 2007 or fiscal 2008. In connection with these postponements, the Company agreed to remodel two additional Disney Stores during fiscal 2009 and agreed upon changes to the original License Agreement to modify restrictions on Disney's ability to relocate its flagship retail store in Manhattan and to narrow the restrictions on Disney's ability to grant direct licenses to other specialty

retailers so that these restrictions would apply only with respect to specialty retail stores focusing primarily on the sale of children's merchandise.

During August 2007, the Company and Disney amended the License Agreement by executing the Refurbishment Amendment, which incorporated the terms of the June Letter Agreement, as modified by mutual agreement during August, and the aforementioned changes to the License Agreement. The Refurbishment Amendment by its terms superseded the June Letter Agreement and took effect retroactively as of June 6, 2007, the original effective date of the June Letter Agreement. Like the June Letter Agreement, the Refurbishment Amendment states that, if the Company fully complies with its terms, Disney will forbear from exercising any rights or remedies it would have under the License Agreement based on the breaches of the License Agreement that were asserted by Disney and were the subject of the Refurbishment Amendment. However, under the Refurbishment Amendment, if the Company violates any of its provisions, Disney will have the right to terminate its forbearance under the Refurbishment Amendment, in which case Disney would be free to exercise any or all of its rights and remedies under the License Agreement, including possibly terminating the Company's license to operate the Disney Stores based on the occurrence of numerous material breaches and claiming breach fees, as if the Refurbishment Amendment had not been executed. The Refurbishment Amendment also states that, if the Company breaches any of the provisions of the Refurbishment Amendment on three or more occasions and Disney has not previously exercised its right to terminate the Refurbishment Amendment, a payment of \$18.0 million to Disney becomes immediately due and payable with respect to the breach fees called for by the License Agreement. If the Company violates any of the provisions of the Refurbishment Amendment on five or more occasions, Disney will have the right to immediately terminate the License Agreement, without any right by the Company to defend, counterclaim, protest or cure. The Refurbishment Amendment addresses only those breaches specifically enumerated therein. Disney continues to retain all its other rights and remedies under the License Agreement with respect to any other breaches.

The Refurbishment Amendment sets forth specific requirements regarding the Disney Stores to be remodeled and otherwise refreshed over the period the Refurbishment Amendment is in effect and obligates the parent company, The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc., among other things, to commit \$175 million to remodel and refresh these stores through fiscal 2011. While the original provisions of the License Agreement obligated Hoop to remodel Disney Stores under certain circumstances and at certain times, the original License Agreement did not establish a specific dollar commitment for this obligation. Although the original License Agreement generally required Hoop to maintain the physical appearance of the Disney Stores in accordance with the highest standards prevailing in specialty retailing, the maintenance and refresh program under the Refurbishment Amendment imposes specific requirements for timing, numbers of stores and the type of work to be performed. This maintenance and refresh program was considered necessary to upgrade the quality of the Disney Stores to the standard required under the License Agreement and is incremental to the original License Agreement. The maintenance and refresh program is expected to cost approximately \$16 million over the 12 month period. Some of the stores required to be refreshed under this program will also be remodeled at a later date in accordance with the Refurbishment Amendment. The Refurbishment Amendment commits the Company to a capital commitment of \$175 million to remodel, refresh and maintain the Disney Stores and to open 18 new stores which will cost approximately \$11.7 million. The Company expects to fund these amounts through cash flow from operations of the Disney Store business, borrowings and availability under the Company's credit facilities and capital contributions from The Children's Place business to the Disney Store business.

The following reflects additional information regarding the Refurbishment Amendment and certain additional obligations on the part of the Company and Hoop:

1. Hoop developed a new store prototype for Disney Store and for Disney Store outlets and obtained TDSF's approval of these new store prototypes. The Refurbishment Amendment requires Hoop to convert seven existing Disney Stores identified in the Refurbishment Amendment to the new store prototype by December 31, 2007, based upon a detailed timeline for each of these stores. In addition, under the Refurbishment Amendment, by the end of fiscal 2008, Hoop is required to convert at least 49 additional existing Disney Stores identified in the Refurbishment Amendment to the new store prototype and to open at least 18 new Disney Stores using the new prototype. Hoop is required to convert to the new prototype at least 60 additional existing stores by the end of fiscal 2009, at least 70 additional existing stores by the end of fiscal 2010, and at least 50 additional existing stores by the end of fiscal 2011. In addition to the 18 new stores to be opened by the end of fiscal 2008 using the new store prototype, Hoop has the

right to open up to a specified number of additional new stores using the new store prototype during each fiscal year.

2. Hoop conducted a review of all existing Disney Stores bearing the Mickey store design (excluding those Mickey stores that are to be converted to the new store prototype), as well as all existing Disney Stores



bearing the Castle design that were constructed after November 2004, and delivered to TDSF a written report on this review, along with an enhanced maintenance and remodel plan for these stores and a detailed timeline for implementation of this plan. Hoop is required to implement this plan at a minimum of five existing stores by December 31, 2007, at a minimum of 14 additional stores by March 31, 2008, and at all remaining stores bearing these store designs by June 30, 2008.

3. Similarly, Hoop conducted a review of all existing Disney Stores bearing the pink and green store design, as well as all existing Disney Stores bearing the Castle design that were constructed prior to November 2004, and delivered to TDSF an enhanced maintenance and remodel plan for these stores and a detailed timeline for implementation of this plan. Hoop is required to implement this plan at one-half of these store locations by March 31, 2008 and at the remaining stores bearing these store designs by June 30, 2008.

4. Hoop also agreed to prepare a refresh and enhancement plan for the Disney Store flagship location on Michigan Avenue in Chicago and to expend at least \$200,000 on this store by October 31, 2007. The refresh and enhancement of this store was completed on September 12, 2007.

5. As required by both the June Letter Agreement and the Refurbishment Amendment, the Company's Board of Directors approved the Refurbishment Amendment and committed \$175 million over the period between June 6, 2007 and January 31, 2012 to implement the renovation and maintenance plans called for by the Refurbishment Amendment. The following table summarizes the Company's remodel and maintenance refresh obligations under the terms of the Refurbishment Amendment (amounts in thousands):

| Fiscal Year | Store Remodel |                      | Mickey Retrofit |                      | Maintenance Refresh |                      | Contingency (\$ ) | Total Estimated Cost (\$ ) |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
|             | Stores (#)    | Estimated Cost (\$ ) | Stores (#)      | Estimated Cost (\$ ) | Stores (#)          | Estimated Cost (\$ ) |                   |                            |
| 2007        | 7             | \$ 4,250             | 7               | \$ 1,050             | 6                   | \$ 950               | \$ 1,245          | \$ 7,495                   |
| 2008        | 49            | 31,650               | 28              | 4,200                | 129                 | 9,675                | 1,245             | 46,770                     |
| 2009        | 60            | 39,000               |                 |                      |                     |                      | 1,245             | 40,245                     |
| 2010        | 70            | 45,500               |                 |                      |                     |                      | 1,245             | 46,745                     |
| 2011        | 50            | 32,500               |                 |                      |                     |                      | 1,245             | 33,745                     |
| 2007 - 2011 | 236           | \$ 152,900           | 35              | \$ 5,250             | 135                 | \$ 10,625            | \$ 6,225          | \$ 175,000                 |

6. The Refurbishment Amendment states that the maintenance and store renovation requirements of the Refurbishment Amendment supersede the store renovation provisions in Section 9.3.5(b)(i) and (ii) of the original License Agreement through January 31, 2012, so long as the Refurbishment Amendment remains in effect and is not terminated by TDSF in accordance with its terms. Following January 31, 2012 (or a termination of the Refurbishment Amendment), the store renovation provisions in Section 9.3.5(b)(i) and (ii) of the original License Agreement will become effective again.

7. Hoop also agreed in the Refurbishment Amendment that, with respect to those Disney Stores that were identified as Non-Core Stores for purposes of the original License Agreement, for which Hoop was entitled to an extended royalty abatement under the License Agreement, to the extent that the lease for any such store was or is renewed but the store is not remodeled within a specified time period after such lease renewal, Hoop will no longer be entitled to the royalty abatement for these stores.

8. The parties also agreed in the Refurbishment Amendment to amend the License Agreement in order to reduce certain of the restrictions on TDSF's ability to grant direct merchandising licenses to other specialty retail store chains.

9. Hoop agreed to conduct consumer research regarding the need for a differentiated merchandising plan for Disney Store outlets and, if requested by TDSF based on such research and mutually agreed upon, to develop and implement such a plan during fiscal 2008.

10. Finally, TDSF and Hoop agreed to certain modifications of the provisions of the License Agreement establishing standards for Disney Store merchandise based upon Disney merchandise available through other retailers and to modify the provisions that would apply to a potential wind-down of the Disney Store business following any termination of the License Agreement.

**The table above reflects the requirements of the Refurbishment Amendment, under which the Company must complete a maintenance and refresh in approximately 170 Disney Stores (which includes the Mickey retrofits) by June 30, 2008 and then remodel certain of those stores at a later date. However, in the event the Company were to remodel or close any such store prior to when it is due for a maintenance refresh, the Company would no longer be obligated to refresh that store. Accordingly, the Company anticipates that not all of the 170 stores reflected in the table will need to be refreshed, and at the time the Refurbishment Amendment was executed, the Company estimated that 165 stores would be refreshed.**



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As mentioned above, in addition to the remodel and maintenance costs shown in the above table, the Refurbishment Amendment obligates the Company to open a total of 18 new Disney Stores by January 31, 2009, which the Company estimates will cost approximately \$11.7 million in capital expenses. The majority of these costs will be incurred in fiscal 2007 and are included in the Company's capital expenditure plans.

The following table represents the Company's store opening, remodeling and maintenance commitments for the Disney Store business for the remainder of the initial term of the License Agreement taking into account the requirements of the Refurbishment Amendment that apply through fiscal 2011:

| (dollars in thousands)   | Total      | Payments Due By Period |             |             |                      |
|--|------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
|  |            | 1 year or<br>less      | 1 - 3 years | 3 - 5 years | More than<br>5 years |
| Disney Store new store capital expenditure, remodeling and maintenance and refresh obligations | \$ 341,296 | \$ 17,245              | \$ 88,965   | \$ 80,490   | \$ 154,596           |

Beginning in July 2007, the Company's Hoop subsidiaries commenced Internet commerce operations through an alliance with a Disney affiliate in which certain Disney Store merchandise is sold on the disneyshopping.com website. Disney Store merchandise is accessible through either www.disneystore.com or www.disneyshopping.com. The Company anticipates entering into a formal amendment to the License Agreement relating to this Internet business. It is anticipated that this amendment to the License Agreement will supersede the Company's obligation to launch its own Disney Store Internet store, which pursuant to the License Agreement, as modified by certain letter agreements, the Company is required to launch by January 31, 2008.

### Amendment to 2007 Restated and Amended Loan Agreement

On November 2, 2007, the Company entered into an amendment of the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement (the "First Amendment"), extending the period of the over-advance feature of the credit facility until November 30 for fiscal 2007. The Company paid a fee of \$30,000 in connection with this amendment.

### Class Action Litigation

On September 21, 2007 a second stockholder class action was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York against the Company and certain of its current and former senior executives. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers made statements to the investing public which misrepresented material facts about the business and operations of the Company, or omitted to state material facts required in order for the statements made by them not to be misleading, causing the price of the Company's stock to be artificially inflated in violation of provisions of the Exchange Act, as amended. It alleges that more recent disclosures establish the misleading nature of these earlier disclosures. The complaint seeks money damages plus interest as well as costs and disbursements of the lawsuit.

On October 10, 2007, a third stockholder class action was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, against the Company and certain of its current and former senior executives. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers made statements to the investing public which misrepresented material facts about the business and operations of the Company, or omitted to state material facts required in order for the statements made by them not to be misleading, thereby causing the price of the Company's stock to be artificially inflated in violation of provisions of the Exchange Act, as amended. According to the complaint, more recent disclosures establish the misleading nature of these earlier disclosures. The complaint seeks, among other relief, class certification of the

lawsuit, compensatory damages plus interest, and costs and expenses of the lawsuit, including counsel and expert fees.

On or about September 28, 2007, Meghan Ruggiero filed a complaint against the Company and its subsidiary, Hoop Retail Stores, LLC, in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio on behalf of herself and other

similarly situated individuals. The lawsuit alleges violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ( FACTA ) and seeks class certification, an award of statutory and punitive damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and injunctive relief.

The outcome of these litigations is uncertain; while we believe there are valid defenses to the claims and we will defend ourselves vigorously, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these matters. The litigations could distract our management and directors from the Company's affairs, the costs and expenses of the litigations could unfavorably affect our net earnings and an unfavorable outcome could adversely affect the reputation of the Company.

### **Changes in Senior Management**

On September 24, 2007, Mr. Ezra Dabah, CEO, resigned from the Company effective immediately. Upon his resignation, Mr. Charles Crovitz, a member of the Company's Board of Directors, assumed the responsibilities of CEO on an interim basis. The Company estimates it will record approximately \$4.0 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2007 in severance and benefit related expenses.

On November 20, 2007, in connection with his election as Interim CEO, the Company entered into an employment agreement term sheet (the Term Sheet ) with Mr. Crovitz outlining the compensatory arrangements that he shall receive for serving as Interim CEO. The Term Sheet provides that Mr. Crovitz will serve as Interim CEO commencing as of October 1, 2007 until the earlier of (i) the end of fiscal 2008 or (ii) the selection and commencement of service of a permanent CEO. Pursuant to the Term Sheet, Mr. Crovitz shall receive an annual salary of \$1.0 million, payable in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices. The Term Sheet also provides for Mr. Crovitz's continued employment as a consultant for two months following the commencement of service of a permanent CEO to assist in transitioning his responsibilities.

As soon as practicable after the Company is legally able to resume making equity awards, and whether or not Mr. Crovitz's employment has then terminated, Mr. Crovitz is entitled to receive a restricted stock grant of the number of shares then having a fair market value of \$1.0 million. Mr. Crovitz will be entitled to participate in all executive benefit plans, and will be provided substantially the same benefits and perquisites, from time to time maintained by the Company for senior executives. Mr. Crovitz's employment agreement also provides that he is entitled to monthly housing, furniture rental and travel allowances. It is expected that the Company and Mr. Crovitz will promptly enter into definitive employment and equity award agreements reflecting terms consistent with the Term Sheet, at which time such agreements shall supersede the Term Sheet.

### **Board of Directors Review of Strategic Alternatives**

Consistent with its fiduciary duties, the Company's Board has engaged an investment banking firm to act as its financial advisor in undertaking a review of strategic alternatives to improve operations and enhance shareholder value. As part of this review, the Company's Board and management are assessing a wide variety of options to improve our business and competitive position, including, but not limited to, opportunities for organizational and operational improvement, a possible recapitalization, or other transactions. The Board has not set any specific timeline for the completion of this strategic review, and there is no assurance that as a result of this review, the Board will decide to change the Company's course of action or engage in any specific transaction.





**Item 2. MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

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*This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of federal securities laws, which are intended to be covered by the safe harbors created thereby. Those statements include, but may not be limited to, the discussions of the Company's operating and growth strategy. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties including, without limitation, those set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" in the Business section of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2007. Although the Company believes that the assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements contained herein are reasonable, any of the assumptions could prove to be inaccurate, and therefore, there can be no assurance that the forward-looking statements included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q will prove to be accurate. In light of the significant uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking statements included herein, the inclusion of such information should not be regarded as a representation by the Company or any other person that the objectives and plans of the Company will be achieved. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release any revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect events and circumstances occurring after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.*

*The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the Company's unaudited financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the annual audited financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2007.*

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **License Agreement with Disney**



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In connection with our acquisition of the Disney Store business in 2004, Hoop entered into a License Agreement with an affiliate of Disney under which our subsidiaries have the right to use certain Disney intellectual property to operate the Disney Store retail chain in exchange for ongoing royalty payments. The agreement allows our subsidiaries to operate retail stores in the United States and Canada using the Disney Store name and to contract, manufacture, source, offer and sell merchandise featuring Disney-branded characters, past, present and future. In accordance with the License Agreement, following a two year royalty abatement, our subsidiaries began making royalty payments to Disney in November 2006 equal to 5% of net sales from physical Disney Store locations, subject to an additional royalty holiday period with respect to the Non-Core Stores. The initial term of the License Agreement continues through January 2020, unless terminated sooner in accordance with the License Agreement, and if certain financial performance and other conditions are satisfied, the term of the License Agreement may be extended at our option for up to three additional ten-year terms.

Concurrently, we also entered into a Guaranty and Commitment dated as of November 21, 2004, in favor of Hoop and Disney. As required by the Guaranty and Commitment, we invested \$50 million in Hoop concurrently with the consummation of the acquisition, and we agreed to invest up to an additional \$50 million from time to time to enable Hoop to comply with its obligations under the License Agreement and otherwise fund Hoop's operations. The Guaranty and Commitment provides that our \$50 million additional commitment is subject to increase if certain distributions are made by Hoop to The Children's Place. To date, we have not invested any portion of the additional \$50 million in Hoop. We also agreed in the Guaranty and Commitment to guarantee the payment and performance by Hoop of its royalty payment and other obligations to Disney under the License Agreement, subject to a maximum guaranty liability of \$25 million, plus expenses.

The License Agreement obligates us to maintain the quality, appearance and presentation standards of the Disney Store chain in accordance with the highest standards prevailing in the specialty retail industry. In addition, the License Agreement, as amended in April 2006, requires us to:

Completely remodel each store within a specified period of time following expiration or termination of the initial term of the lease for such store, if such lease is renewed or extended on a long-term basis upon or following such expiration or termination;

Completely remodel each store at least once every 12 years; and

Completely remodel a minimum of approximately 160 of the 313 acquired stores by January 1, 2009.

During fiscal 2006, we suspended the store renovation program because of dissatisfaction with our Mickey store prototype from a brand, design and construction standpoint. As of February 3, 2007, we had remodeled a total of 45 Disney Stores since our acquisition. Pursuant to the provisions of the License Agreement, as amended in 2006, relating to required remodeling following lease renewals and required remodeling of stores at least once every 12

years, we were required to remodel a total of 145 stores as of February 3, 2007. As of February 3, 2007, we had remodeled 32 of these required stores, with the result that 113 of the store remodels required by that date under the terms of the License Agreement had not been completed by that date. The remaining 13 store remodels we had completed were not required pursuant to the provisions of the License Agreement.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2006, we received a letter and subsequent follow-up communications from Disney identifying various ways in which we had not complied with the store renovation and certain other requirements of the License Agreement. In response, during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2006, we commenced discussions with Disney regarding potential modifications to certain terms of the License Agreement to address our remodeling commitments as well as other concerns that had been raised by Disney in various communications with us. During the first quarter of fiscal 2007, Disney notified us that Disney viewed our failure to comply with these requirements of the License Agreement as constituting numerous material breaches of the License Agreement, entitling Disney to exercise its rights and remedies under the License Agreement.

Following discussions with Disney, in June 2007, we entered into a June Letter Agreement with Disney which modified and superseded certain provisions of the License Agreement, including the remodeling requirements, through fiscal 2011 and created additional obligations for us and Hoop with respect to the remodeling of Disney Stores. The June Letter Agreement was entered into to address Disney's assertion that through the date of the June Letter Agreement we had committed 120 material breaches of the License Agreement. The June Letter Agreement stated that if we fully complied with its terms, Disney would forbear from exercising any rights or remedies that it would have under the License Agreement based on the breaches of the License Agreement that were asserted by Disney and were the subject of the June Letter Agreement. However, if we were to violate any of the provisions of the June Letter Agreement, Disney would have the right to terminate its forbearance under the June Letter Agreement, in which case Disney would be free to exercise any or all of its rights and remedies under the License Agreement, including possibly terminating our license to operate the Disney Stores based on numerous material breaches and claiming breach fees, as if the June Letter Agreement had not been executed. The June Letter Agreement also stated that, if we were to breach any of its provisions on three or more occasions and Disney had not previously exercised its right to terminate the June Letter Agreement, a payment of \$18.0 million to Disney would become immediately due and payable with respect to the breach fees called for by the License Agreement. If we were to violate any of the provisions of the June Letter Agreement on five or more occasions, Disney would have the right to immediately terminate the License Agreement, without any right on our part to defend, counterclaim, protest or cure. The June Letter Agreement stated that its terms would take effect immediately but that the parties anticipated the June Letter Agreement would later be replaced by a formal amendment to the License Agreement incorporating the terms of the June Letter Agreement.

The June Letter Agreement, among other things, suspended the remodel obligations in the License Agreement for the approximately 4.5 year term of the June Letter Agreement and, in lieu of those provisions, imposed new obligations on the Company with respect to the renovation and maintenance of numerous stores in the Disney Store chain between fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2011 and, for the stores to be remodeled in fiscal 2007, set forth a detailed timetable for submission of plans and completion dates.

Subsequent to the execution of the June Letter Agreement, we were unable to meet several deadlines set forth in the June Letter Agreement. In addition, we determined that there were upcoming deadlines during the third and fourth quarters of fiscal 2007 specified in the June Letter Agreement that we would likely not meet. Accordingly, we and Disney engaged in further discussions during August 2007 and, based on these discussions, agreed upon changes to the requirements of the June Letter Agreement that would postpone the due dates of certain of our remodel obligations until later in fiscal 2007 or fiscal 2008. In connection with these postponements, we agreed to remodel two additional Disney Stores during fiscal 2009 and agreed upon changes to the original License Agreement to modify restrictions on Disney's ability to relocate its flagship retail store in Manhattan and to narrow the restrictions on Disney's ability to grant direct licenses to other specialty retailers so that these restrictions would apply only with respect to specialty retail stores focusing primarily on the sale of children's merchandise.

During August 2007, we and Disney modified the License Agreement by executing the Refurbishment Amendment, which incorporated the terms of the June Letter Agreement, as modified by our mutual agreement during August, and the aforementioned changes to the License Agreement. The Refurbishment Amendment by its terms superseded the June Letter Agreement and took effect retroactively as of June 6, 2007,

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the original effective date of the June Letter Agreement. The Refurbishment Amendment provides that our compliance in full with its terms will constitute a cure of the breaches identified in the Refurbishment Amendment and will result in Disney's forbearance from exercising any rights or remedies that it would have under the License Agreement based on the breaches identified in the Refurbishment Amendment.

The Refurbishment Amendment suspends the remodel obligations in the License Agreement for the approximately 4.5 year term of the Refurbishment Amendment, and, in lieu of those provisions, commits us to remodel by the end of fiscal 2011 a total of 236 existing Disney Stores into a new store prototype we have developed:

of which the first seven remodels are required to be completed by specifically agreed upon dates in fiscal 2007;

an additional 49 stores are required to be remodeled by the end of fiscal 2008;

an additional 60 stores are required to be remodeled by the end of fiscal 2009;

an additional 70 stores are required to be remodeled by the end of fiscal 2010; and

an additional 50 stores are required to be remodeled by the end of fiscal 2011.

Under the Refurbishment Amendment, we also have agreed to open at least 18 new Disney Stores using the new store prototype by the end of fiscal 2008. Our prior obligations under the License Agreement did not require us to open a specified number of new stores.

In addition, the Refurbishment Amendment requires us to complete a maintenance and refresh program (which includes the Mickey retrofits) in approximately 165 Disney Stores by June 30, 2008, including the flagship store located on Michigan Avenue in Chicago, which must be completed by October 31, 2007. Some of the stores that are refreshed will subsequently be remodeled into the new store prototype. The Refurbishment Amendment obligates us to complete the remodel and refresh program described above and, as required by the Refurbishment Amendment, we have committed \$175 million, on a consolidated basis, to fund such programs through the end of fiscal 2011.

We expect that the Disney Stores will fund the \$175 million commitment primarily from cash flow from operations and borrowings under its secured credit facility. Over the next 12 months, we expect that The Children's Place business will need to provide additional capital to the Disney Stores to remain in compliance with the store remodel requirements under the License Agreement as modified by the Refurbishment Amendment.

In the Refurbishment Amendment, we also agreed with Disney to make certain other modifications to the provisions of the License Agreement, including:

Limiting the number of new Disney Stores to be opened per year during the remodeling period (we may open up to 25 new stores in any given year after fiscal 2007, with a rollover each year of up to five new stores from prior years);

Eliminating the extended royalty abatement for some of the Disney Stores that were identified as Non-Core Stores in the License Agreement;

Requiring the potential implementation of a differentiated merchandise plan for the Disney Store outlets; and

Modifying the provisions of the License Agreement that would apply to a potential wind-down of the Disney Store business following any termination of the License Agreement.

**The following table summarizes our remodel and maintenance refresh obligations under the terms of the Refurbishment Amendment (amounts in thousands):**



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| Fiscal Year | Store Remodel |                      | Mickey Retrofit |                      | Maintenance Refresh |                      | Contingency (\$ ) | Total Estimated Cost (\$ ) |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
|             | Stores (#)    | Estimated Cost (\$ ) | Stores (#)      | Estimated Cost (\$ ) | Stores (#)          | Estimated Cost (\$ ) |                   |                            |
| 2007        | 7             | \$ 4,250             | 7               | \$ 1,050             | 6                   | \$ 950               | \$ 1,245          | \$ 7,495                   |
| 2008        | 49            | 31,650               | 28              | 4,200                | 129                 | 9,675                | 1,245             | 46,770                     |
| 2009        | 60            | 39,000               |                 |                      |                     |                      | 1,245             | 40,245                     |
| 2010        | 70            | 45,500               |                 |                      |                     |                      | 1,245             | 46,745                     |
| 2011        | 50            | 32,500               |                 |                      |                     |                      | 1,245             | 33,745                     |
| 2007 - 2011 | 236           | \$ 152,900           | 35              | \$ 5,250             | 135                 | \$ 10,625            | \$ 6,225          | \$ 175,000                 |

Like the June Letter Agreement, the Refurbishment Amendment states that, if we fully comply with its terms, Disney will forbear from exercising any rights or remedies that it would have under the License Agreement based on the breaches of the License Agreement that were asserted by Disney and were the subject of the Refurbishment Amendment. However, under the terms of the Refurbishment Amendment, if we violate any of its provisions, Disney will have the right to terminate its forbearance under the Refurbishment Amendment, in which case Disney would be free to exercise any or all of its rights and remedies under the License Agreement, including possibly terminating our license to operate the Disney Stores based on numerous material breaches and claiming breach fees, as if the

Refurbishment Amendment had not been executed. The Refurbishment Amendment also states that, if we breach any of its provisions on three or more occasions and Disney has not previously exercised its right to terminate the Refurbishment Amendment, a payment of \$18.0 million to Disney becomes immediately due and payable with respect to the breach fees called for by the License Agreement. If we violate any of the provisions of the Refurbishment Amendment on five or more occasions, Disney will have the right to immediately terminate the License Agreement, without any right on our part to defend, counterclaim, protest or cure. It should be noted that the Refurbishment Amendment addresses only those breaches specifically enumerated therein. Disney continues to retain all its other rights and remedies under the License Agreement with respect to any other breaches.

We believe that we will be able to perform our obligations under the Refurbishment Amendment as and when required. However, because our ability to meet these obligations will depend on numerous factors, some of which are beyond our control, there can be no assurance that we will be able to fully comply. Like the June Letter Agreement, the Refurbishment Amendment does not excuse us from compliance with these requirements should there be events or developments beyond our control, such as contractor delays, delays in landlord or regulatory approval, delays in receiving required approvals from Disney, natural disasters or acts of war or terrorism. Our diligent efforts may not be adequate to enable us to comply with every requirement or meet every deadline imposed on us under the Refurbishment Amendment. In the event we are unable to comply with any of our obligations when required, we would be in breach of our agreements with Disney, entitling Disney to exercise its remedies under the Refurbishment Amendment and the License Agreement. In the event such breaches occur, there can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain waivers or other relief from Disney, if needed, to avoid the \$18.0 million payment to Disney and prevent a termination of the Refurbishment Amendment or the License Agreement. In addition, any breach by us of our agreements with Disney would constitute a cross-default under the secured loan agreement for the Disney Store chain, entitling the lenders to exercise their contractual remedies. There can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain waivers, if needed, from our lenders in the event of any future breaches of the Refurbishment Amendment or the License Agreement.

Where Disney would have the right to terminate the License Agreement and compel us to rapidly wind down the Disney Store business in accordance with the wind-down provisions of the License Agreement as a result of our breach or breaches thereof, our subsidiaries that operate the Disney Store business may be unable to comply with all of their obligations to landlords and other third parties, in which case these subsidiaries might have no alternative but to seek bankruptcy protection.

Beginning in July 2007, our Hoop subsidiaries commenced Internet commerce operations through an alliance with a Disney affiliate in which select Disney Store merchandise is sold on the [disneyshopping.com](http://disneyshopping.com) website. Customers can find our Disney Store merchandise at [www.disneystore.com](http://www.disneystore.com) or [www.disneyshopping.com](http://www.disneyshopping.com). We anticipate entering into a formal amendment to the License Agreement relating to this Internet business. It is anticipated that this amendment to the License Agreement will supersede our obligation to launch our own Disney Store internet store, which pursuant to the License Agreement, as modified by certain letter agreements, we are required to launch by January 31, 2008.

Refer to Note 14 Subsequent Events in the accompanying consolidated financial statements for additional information regarding the Refurbishment Amendment.

### **Class Action Litigation**

On September 21, 2007 a second stockholder class action was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York against the Company and certain of its current and former senior executives. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers made statements to the investing public which misrepresented material facts about the business and operations of the Company, or omitted to state material facts required in order for the statements made by them not to be misleading, causing the price of the Company's stock to be artificially inflated in violation of provisions of the Exchange Act, as amended. It alleges that more recent disclosures

establish the misleading nature of these earlier disclosures. The complaint seeks money damages plus interest as well as costs and disbursements of the lawsuit.

On October 10, 2007, a third stockholder class action was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, against the Company and certain of its current and former senior executives. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers made statements to the investing public which misrepresented material facts about the business and operations of the Company, or omitted to state material facts required in order for the statements made by them not to be misleading, thereby causing the price of the Company's stock to be artificially inflated in violation of provisions of the Exchange Act, as amended. According to the complaint, more recent disclosures establish the misleading nature of these earlier disclosures. The

complaint seeks, among other relief, class certification of the lawsuit, compensatory damages plus interest, and costs and expenses of the lawsuit, including counsel and expert fees.

On or about September 28, 2007, Meghan Ruggiero filed a complaint against the Company and its subsidiary, Hoop Retail Stores, LLC, in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio on behalf of herself and other similarly situated individuals. The lawsuit alleges violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ( FACTA ) and seeks class certification, an award of statutory and punitive damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and injunctive relief. The outcome of this litigation is uncertain; while we believe there are valid defenses to the claims and will defend ourselves vigorously, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of this litigation.

The outcome of these litigations is uncertain; while we believe there are valid defenses to the claims and we will defend ourselves vigorously, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these matters. The litigations could distract our management and directors from the Company's affairs, the costs and expenses of the litigations could unfavorably affect our net earnings and an unfavorable outcome could adversely affect the reputation of the Company.

#### **Changes in Senior Management**

On September 24, 2007, Mr. Ezra Dabah, CEO, resigned from the Company effective immediately. Upon his resignation, Mr. Charles Crovitz, a member of our Board, assumed the responsibilities of CEO on an interim basis. We estimate we will record approximately \$4.0 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2007 in severance and related expenses.

#### **Strategic Review of the Company**

Consistent with its fiduciary duties, our Board has engaged an investment banking firm to act as its financial advisor in undertaking a review of strategic alternatives to improve operations and enhance shareholder value. As part of this review, our Board and management are assessing a wide variety of options to improve our business and competitive position, including, but not limited to, opportunities for organizational and operational improvement, a possible recapitalization, or other transactions. The Board has not set any specific timeline for the completion of this strategic review, and there is no assurance that as a result of this review, the Board will decide to change the Company's course of action or engage in any specific transaction.

#### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**



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The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported revenues and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from our estimates. The accounting policies that we believe are the most critical to aid in fully understanding and evaluating reported financial results include the following:

**Revenue Recognition** Sales are recognized upon purchase by customers at our retail stores or when received by the customer if the product was purchased via the Internet, net of coupon redemptions and anticipated sales returns. Actual sales return rates have historically been within our expectations and the allowance established. However, in the event that the actual rate of sales returns by customers increased significantly, our operational results could be adversely affected.

For the Disney Store, we act as an agent on behalf of a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company for sale of Walt Disney World® Resort and Disneyland® Resort tickets, and our net sales include only the 7% commission we receive from a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company on such ticket sales.

Our policy with respect to gift cards is to record revenue as gift cards are redeemed for merchandise. Prior to their redemption, unredeemed gift cards for The Children's Place business are recorded as a liability, included within accrued expenses and other current liabilities. We recognize income from gift cards that are not expected to be redeemed based upon an extended period of dormancy where statutorily permitted. For the Disney Store, we act as an agent on behalf of a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company for gift cards sold to customers. Therefore, we do not record a customer gift card liability for the Disney Store. However, we recognize a trade payable to Disney for the net purchase of Disney gift cards.

We offer a private label credit card to our The Children's Place customers that provides a discount on future purchases once a minimum annual purchase threshold has been exceeded. We estimate the future discounts to be provided based on history, the number of customers who have earned or are likely to earn the discount and current year sales trends on the private label credit card. We defer a proportionate amount of revenue from customers based

on an estimated value of future discounts. We recognize such deferred revenue as future discounts are taken on sales above the minimum. This is done by utilizing estimates based upon sales trends and the number of customers who have earned the discount privilege. Our private label customers must earn the discount privilege on an annual basis and this privilege expires at our fiscal year end. Accordingly, all deferred revenue is recognized by the end of the fiscal year.

**Inventory Valuation** Merchandise inventories are stated at the lower of average cost or market, using the retail inventory method. Under the retail inventory method, the valuation of inventories at cost and the resulting gross margins are calculated by applying a cost-to-retail ratio by merchandise department to the retail value of inventories. At any one time, inventories include items that have been marked down to our best estimate of their fair market value and an estimate of our inventory shrinkage.

We base our decision to mark down merchandise upon its current rate of sale, the season, and the age and sell-through of the item. To the extent that our markdown estimates are not adequate, additional markdowns may have to be recorded, which could reduce our gross margins and operating results. Our success is largely dependent upon our ability to gauge the fashion taste of our customers, including the popularity and relevancy of the Disney characters, and to provide a well-balanced merchandise assortment that satisfies customer demand. Any inability to provide the proper quantity of appropriate merchandise in a timely manner could increase future markdown rates.

We adjust our inventory balance based on an annual physical inventory and shrinkage is estimated in interim periods based on the historical results of physical inventories in the context of current year facts and circumstances. To the extent our shrinkage estimate is not adequate, we would be required to reduce our gross profits and operating results.

**Equity Compensation** Effective January 29, 2006, we adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R) using the modified prospective transition method. In applying SFAS 123(R), we use the Black-Scholes option pricing model based on a Monte Carlo simulation, which requires extensive use of accounting judgment and financial estimates, including estimates of how long employees will hold their vested stock options before exercise, the estimated volatility of the Company's common stock over the expected term, and the number of options that will be forfeited prior to the completion of vesting requirements. Application of other assumptions could result in significantly different estimates of fair value of stock-based compensation and consequently, the related expense recognized in our financial statements.

**Accounting for Royalties** In exchange for the right to use certain Disney intellectual property, we are required to pay a Disney subsidiary royalty payments pursuant to the License Agreement. Minimum royalty commitments are recorded on a straight-line basis over the life of the initial 15 year term of the License Agreement. During each period, amounts due in excess of the minimum royalty commitment are recorded as an expense if we expect to surpass the minimum royalty commitment on an annual basis, even if the contingency threshold has not been surpassed in that particular period. The amortization of the estimated value of the royalty holiday is recognized on a straight-line basis as a reduction of royalty expense over the term of the License Agreement. Royalty expense, and the associated amortization of the royalty holiday, is recorded in selling, general and administrative expenses. The royalty percentage does not increase over the term of the License Agreement.

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In accordance with the License Agreement, following a two-year royalty abatement, our subsidiaries began making royalty payments to Disney in November 2006 equal to 5% of net sales from physical Disney Store locations, subject to an additional royalty holiday period with respect to a limited number of stores. The initial term of the License Agreement is through January 2020, and if certain financial performance and other conditions are satisfied, it may be extended at our option for up to three additional ten-year terms.

**Insurance and Self-Insurance Liabilities** Based on our assessment of risk and cost efficiency, we self-insure and purchase insurance policies to provide for workers' compensation, general liability, property losses, director's and officer's liability, vehicle liability and employee medical benefits. We estimate risks and record a liability based upon historical claim experience, insurance deductibles, severity factors and other actuarial assumptions. While we believe that our risk assessments are appropriate, to the extent that future occurrences and claims differ from our historical experience, additional charges for insurance may be recorded in future periods.

**Impairment of Assets** We periodically evaluate each store's performance and compare the carrying value of each location's fixed assets, principally leasehold improvements and fixtures, to its projected cash flows. An impairment loss is recorded if the projected future cash flows are insufficient to recapture the net book value of their assets. To the extent our estimates of future cash flows are incorrect, additional impairment charges may be recorded in future periods.





**Income Taxes** We compute income taxes using the liability method. This method requires recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities, measured by enacted rates, attributable to temporary differences between financial statement and income tax basis of assets and liabilities. Temporary differences result primarily from depreciation and amortization differences between book and tax and the non-deductibility of certain reserves and accruals in the current tax period for tax purposes.



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During the ordinary course of business, there are many transactions and calculations for which the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. As a result, we recognize tax liabilities based on estimates of whether additional taxes and interest will be due. These tax liabilities are recognized when, despite our belief that our tax positions are supportable, we believe that certain positions are likely to be challenged and may not be fully sustained upon review by tax authorities. We believe that our accruals for tax liabilities are adequate for all open audit years based on our assessment of many factors including past experience and interpretations of tax law. This assessment relies on estimates and assumptions and may involve a series of complex judgments about future events. To the extent that the final tax outcome of these matters is different than the amounts recorded, such differences will impact income tax expense in the period in which such determination is made.

We adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* An Interpretation of FASB Statement 109 ( FIN 48 ) on February 4, 2007. FIN 48 clarifies the accounting and reporting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an entity's financial statements in accordance with FASB Statement No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, and prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement criteria for financial statement disclosure of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return. Under FIN 48, the impact of an uncertain income tax position on the income tax return must be recognized at the largest amount that is more-likely-than-not to be sustained upon audit by the relevant taxing authority. An uncertain income tax position will not be recognized if it has less than a 50% likelihood of being sustained. Additionally, FIN 48 provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006.

### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, selected income statement data expressed as a percentage of net sales. We primarily evaluate the results of our operations as a percentage of net sales rather than in terms of absolute dollar increases or decreases by analyzing the year over year change in our business expressed as a percentage of net sales (i.e. basis points). For example, our selling, general and administrative expenses increased approximately 50 basis points to 36.7% of net sales during the thirteen weeks ended August 4, 2007 from 36.2% during the thirteen weeks ended July 29, 2006. Accordingly, to the extent that our sales have increased at a faster rate than our costs (i.e. leveraging), the more efficiently we have utilized the investments we have made in our business. Conversely, if our sales decrease or if our costs grow at a faster pace than our sales (i.e. de-leveraging), we have less efficiently utilized the investments we have made in our business.

|  | Thirteen Weeks Ended |                  | Twenty-Six Weeks Ended |                     |
|--|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|  | August 4,<br>2007    | July 29,<br>2006 | August 4,<br>2007      | July 29,<br>2006(1) |
| Net sales                                    | 100.0%               | 100.0%           | 100.0%                 | 100.0%              |
| Cost of sales                                | 69.3                 | 65.3             | 64.4                   | 63.0                |
| Gross profit                                 | 30.7                 | 34.7             | 35.6                   | 37.0                |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 36.7                 | 36.2             | 33.9                   | 33.2                |
| Asset impairment charges                     | 0.1                  |                  | 0.1                    |                     |
| Depreciation and amortization                | 4.4                  | 4.0              | 4.0                    | 3.7                 |
| Operating (loss) income                      | (10.5)               | (5.5)            | (2.4)                  | 0.1                 |
| Interest income, net                         | 0.1                  | 0.2              | 0.2                    | 0.2                 |
| (Loss) income before income taxes            | (10.4)               | (5.3)            | (2.2)                  | 0.3                 |
| (Benefit from) provision for income taxes    | (3.8)                | (1.9)            | (0.8)                  | .2                  |
| Net (loss) income                            | (6.6)%               | (3.4)%           | (1.5)%                 | 0.1%                |
| Number of stores, end of period              | 1,211                | 1,142            | 1,211                  | 1,142               |

*Table may not add due to rounding.*

(1) The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 includes information that was restated for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 in our Annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007.



**Thirteen Weeks Ended August 4, 2007 (the Second Quarter 2007 ) Compared to Thirteen Weeks Ended July 29, 2006 (the Second Quarter 2006 )**

Net sales increased by \$28.7 million, or 7%, to \$424.3 million during the Second Quarter 2007 from \$395.6 million during the Second Quarter 2006. Net sales included \$290.5 million in net sales from The Children's Place business, which represented an 8% increase over the \$269.4 million in net sales reported in the Second Quarter 2006, and \$133.8 million in net sales from the Disney Store business, which represented a 6% increase over the \$126.2 million in net sales reported in the Second Quarter 2006. Our Second Quarter 2007 sales increase resulted from a \$27.6 million increase in sales from new stores, as well as other stores that did not qualify as comparable stores, a \$2.7 million increase from our consolidated comparable store sales (on a reported basis), partially offset by the impact of closed stores which represented \$1.6 million. We define comparable store sales as net sales from stores that have been open at least 14 full months and that have not been substantially remodeled during that time. During the Second Quarter 2007, we opened 16 The Children's Place stores and closed one The Children's Place store.

Consolidated comparable store sales decreased 1% during the Second Quarter 2007. Due to the 53<sup>rd</sup> week in fiscal 2006, comparable store sales are compared to the thirteen week period ended August 5, 2006. Comparable store sales decreased 1% for The Children's Place business as compared to a 13% comparable store sales increase in the Second Quarter 2006. Disney Stores comparable store sales were flat as compared to a 14% comparable store sales increase in the Second Quarter 2006.

Our 1% comparable store sales decrease for The Children's Place business was primarily the result of a decrease in the number of comparable store sales transactions. Our average dollar transactions were comparable with Second Quarter 2006. While we sold more units per transaction during the Second Quarter 2007, this increase was offset by a lower average unit retail price which reflected our clearance of summer merchandise. During the Second Quarter 2007, we reported our largest comparable same store sales decreases for The Children's Place business in the Southeast, Southwest and West, which were partially offset by comparable store sales increases in Canada and Metro New York. We believe that our comparable store sales were unfavorably impacted by the timing of tax-free weeks in several states, particularly Texas and Florida, which moved their tax-free back-to-school shopping week from July to August in 2007. By department, comparable same store sales were weakest in our Newborn and Big Girls departments, partially offset by a low single digit same store sales increase in the Boys department. By store type, we experienced comparable same store sales decreases in our B and C malls as well as in our outlets, while we experienced low to mid-single digit comparable store sales increases in our street locations and A malls.

For the Disney Store, our comparable store sales were flat to the Second Quarter 2006. Our 1% decrease in the number of comparable store sales transactions was offset by a 1% increase in our average dollar transaction size. Our increase in dollar transaction size was primarily driven by an increase in the number of units sold in each transaction offset by a lower average unit retail price of merchandise sold during the Second Quarter 2007. By geographical region, we reported comparable store increases in Canada and in the Northeast and low single digit declines in our other regions. By store type, we reported comparable store increases in our outlet and street locations, which were offset by low single digit declines in our mall locations. Guest traffic, which the Disney Store is particularly dependent upon was down 6% in the Second Quarter 2007, which was consistent with national mall traffic declines. By department, the hardlines and softlines achieved the strongest comparable store sales increases with media reporting a double digit comparable store sales decrease. In the Second Quarter 2007, there were no new DVD releases as compared to the release of *High School Musical* during the Second Quarter 2006.

Our sales for the thirteen week period ended November 3, 2007 were \$587.4 million, as compared to \$550.4 million during the thirteen week period end October 28, 2006. Due to the seasonality of our business, our annual profitability is highly dependent on sales and gross margin during the third and fourth quarters, which is when the majority of our back-to-school and holiday sales occur. Because our sales and margins did not meet our expectations during the third quarter ending November 3, 2007, and because we anticipate that those trends will continue into the fourth quarter, we anticipate that sales will be below our previous projections during those periods, which would result in a disproportionate decrease in our net income versus last year.

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Gross profit decreased by \$7.0 million to \$130.3 million during the Second Quarter 2007 from \$137.3 million during the Second Quarter 2006. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit decreased approximately 400 basis points to 30.7% of net sales during the Second Quarter 2007 from 34.7% of net sales during the Second Quarter 2006. The decrease in consolidated gross profit, as a percentage of net sales, resulted primarily from higher markdowns of approximately 350 basis points, higher distribution and occupancy costs of approximately 80 basis points and higher production and design costs of approximately 40 basis points, partially offset by a higher initial markup of approximately 70 basis points. Our decrease in gross margin as a percentage of net sales was driven by higher markdowns in both of our businesses. Markdowns were higher in both our businesses to clear summer merchandise

and to generate sales. At The Children's Place business, higher markdowns, a lower initial markup and the de-leveraging of occupancy and production and design costs were partially offset by lower distribution and buying costs. At the Disney Store, our gross margin, as a percentage of net sales, was lower in the Second Quarter 2007 than the Second Quarter 2006 due to higher markdowns, higher production and design costs, the de-leveraging of occupancy and distribution costs partially offset by a higher initial markup and lower buying costs.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$12.6 million to \$155.8 million during the Second Quarter 2007 from \$143.2 million during the Second Quarter 2006. As a percentage of net sales, selling, general and administrative expenses increased approximately 50 basis points to 36.7% of net sales during the Second Quarter 2007 from 36.2% of net sales during the Second Quarter 2006. Our increase in selling, general and administrative expenses in the Second Quarter 2007 resulted primarily from:

Higher store and administrative payroll of approximately 80 basis points, or approximately \$7.8 million, resulting from our investment in customer service and in our administrative infrastructure,

Higher store variable expenses of approximately 80 basis points, or approximately \$4.8 million, driven primarily by higher store repairs and maintenance costs (which includes approximately \$0.7 million in Disney Store refresh expenses), supplies and other store variable costs,

Stock option investigation costs of approximately 80 basis points, or approximately \$3.5 million, which include legal, forensic accounting and other professional fees of approximately \$1.8 million, and non-cash compensation expense associated with option terms that were extended due to the suspension of option exercises of approximately \$1.7 million, and

Higher equity compensation expense of approximately 30 basis points, or approximately \$1.3 million, primarily due to our decision to reverse our accrual of Performance Award expense in the Second Quarter 2006 because we determined that we would not meet the Minimum Performance Target for the awards.

These increases were partially offset by:

Lower store incentive and management bonuses in the Second Quarter 2007 which approximated 100 basis points, and were approximately \$3.8 million lower than the Second Quarter 2006;

Lower legal settlements in the Second Quarter 2007 of approximately \$1.8 million or approximately 50 basis points due to the settlement of a class action suit in Second Quarter 2006;



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Lower marketing costs of approximately 50 basis points, or approximately \$0.9 million; and

Lower remodeling and reopening costs of approximately 20 basis points, or approximately \$0.3 million.

The remaining increase in our selling, general and administrative expenses was primarily due to leveraging of expenses to support the growth of our business.

Depreciation and amortization amounted to \$18.6 million, or 4.4% of net sales, during the Second Quarter 2007, as compared to \$15.9 million, or 4.0% of net sales, during the Second Quarter 2006. Depreciation expense increased \$2.7 million during the Second Quarter 2007 due primarily to our new stores, investments in our administrative office facilities, and accelerated depreciation related to the change in estimate of useful lives of certain assets.

During the Second Quarter 2007, we recorded asset impairment charges of approximately \$0.6 million, or 0.1% of net sales, for one underperforming The Children's Place store.

Interest income, net amounted to \$0.6 million, or 0.1% of net sales, during the Second Quarter 2007, as compared to \$0.8 million, or 0.2% of net sales, during the Second Quarter 2006. The decrease in interest income, net during the Second Quarter 2007 was primarily due to the Company's utilization of its cash on hand and investments during the Second Quarter 2007 to support its working capital needs. During the Second Quarter 2007, The Children's Place business began to borrow under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement to support its working capital needs and incurred approximately \$0.4 million of interest expense. This interest was capitalized during the Second Quarter 2007 due to the construction in progress related to our Fort Payne, Alabama distribution center and Emerson Lane administrative offices.

Our benefit from income taxes was \$16.0 million and \$7.5 million during the Second Quarter 2007 and the Second Quarter 2006, respectively. Our benefit from income taxes increased during the Second Quarter 2007 as a result of our higher loss before income taxes in the Second Quarter 2007 as compared to the Second Quarter 2006.

Our effective tax rate was 36.3% and 35.6% during the Second Quarter 2007 and the Second Quarter 2006, respectively. The increase in our effective tax rate in the Second Quarter 2007 was caused by the seasonality of our earnings as well as a discrete charge for interest expense recognized on FIN 48 liabilities during the Second Quarter 2007 of approximately \$0.3 million, compared to a discrete charge of \$0.6 million during the Second Quarter 2006 related to certain state tax law changes.

Our net loss in the Second Quarter 2007 was \$28.1 million as compared to a net loss of \$13.5 million during the Second Quarter 2006, due to the factors discussed above.

### **Twenty-Six Weeks Ended August 4, 2007 Compared to Twenty-Six Weeks Ended July 29, 2006**

Net sales increased by \$81.1 million, or 10%, to \$903.2 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 from \$822.1 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Net sales included \$646.5 million in net sales from The Children's Place business, which represented a 9% increase over the \$591.4 million in net sales reported in the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006, and \$256.7 million in net sales from the Disney Store business, which represented an 11% increase over the \$230.7 million in net sales reported in the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Our sales increase for the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 resulted from a \$61.9 million increase in sales from new stores, as well as other stores that did not qualify as comparable stores, by our consolidated comparable store sales increase of 2%, which increased sales by \$21.5 million, partially offset by the impact of closed stores which reduced our sales by approximately \$2.3 million. Due to the 53<sup>rd</sup> week in fiscal 2006, comparable store sales are compared to the twenty-six week period ended August 5, 2006. Consolidated comparable store sales increased 13% during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006.

Comparable store sales increased 1% for The Children's Place business as compared to a 12% comparable store sales increase during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Disney Stores comparable store sales increased 3% as compared to a 16% comparable store sales increase during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006.

During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, we opened 22 The Children's Place stores and closed 5 The Children's Place stores.

Our 1% comparable store sales increase for The Children's Place business was primarily the result of an increase in the number of comparable store sales transactions. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, our average dollar transaction was flat to the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. By geographical area during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, our comparable store sales increase for The Children's Place business was driven by our Canada, Metro New York and West regions, which were partially offset by comparable store sales decreases in our other geographical regions. By department, our comparable store sales increases were strongest in our Boys and Accessories departments which reported mid single digit increases, which were offset partially by comparable store sales decreases in our Newborn and Big Girls departments. By store type, we experienced comparable store sales increases in all store types except for a low single digit decrease in our C malls.

For the Disney Store, our comparable store sales increased 3% during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 due primarily to an increase in our average dollar transaction size. Our increase in average dollar transaction size was driven by an increase in the number of units sold in each transaction partially offset by a lower average unit retail price of merchandise sold during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007. Our number of comparable store sales transactions during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was in line with the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. All geographical regions and store types experienced comparable store sales increases. Our strongest comparable store sales increases were reported by our Canadian region.

Gross profit increased by \$16.9 million to \$321.2 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 from \$304.3 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit decreased approximately 140 basis points to 35.6% of net sales during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 from 37.0% of net sales during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. The decrease in consolidated gross profit, as a percentage of net sales, resulted from higher markdowns of approximately 220 basis points and production and design costs of approximately 30 basis points, offset by a higher initial markup of approximately 100 basis points and the leveraging of occupancy costs by 10 basis points. Our decrease in gross margin as a percentage of net sales was primarily driven by The Children's Place. For The Children's Place business, our gross margin in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, as a percentage of net sales, was lower than in the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 due to higher markdowns partially offset by a higher initial markup. At the Disney Store, our gross margin, as a percentage of net sales, was lower in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 than the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 due to higher markdowns and production and design costs partially offset by a higher initial markup, and the leveraging of occupancy and distribution costs.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$33.3 million to \$306.4 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 from \$273.1 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. As a percentage of net sales, selling, general and administrative expenses increased approximately 70 basis points to 33.9% of net sales during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 from 33.2% of net sales during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Our increase in selling, general and administrative expenses, relative to net sales, in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 resulted primarily from:

Stock option investigation costs of approximately 60 basis points, or approximately \$5.3 million, which include legal, forensic accounting and other professional fees, non-cash compensation expense associated with option terms that were extended due to the suspension of option exercises during the investigation;

Higher store and administrative payroll of approximately 60 basis points, or approximately \$16.4 million, resulting from our investment in customer service and in our administrative infrastructure;

Higher store variable expenses of approximately 30 basis points, or approximately \$10.5 million, driven primarily by higher supplies and store repairs and maintenance costs;

Higher benefits costs of approximately 20 basis points, or approximately \$3.0 million, primarily driven by higher medical costs; and

Increased marketing to promote our brand awareness of approximately 10 basis points, or approximately \$3.2 million.

These increases were partially offset by:

Lower store incentive and management bonuses in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 which approximated 70 basis points, and were approximately \$5.4 million lower than the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006;

Lower legal settlement expenses of approximately 30 basis points or approximately \$2.0 million in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 as compared to the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006; and

Lower store remodel and reopening expenses which approximated 20 basis points and were approximately \$0.9 million lower than the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Our store remodel and reopening costs were

lower in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 due to the timing of our remodels and new store openings as well as the development of a new store prototype for the Disney Stores.

Depreciation and amortization amounted to \$36.3 million, or 4.0% of net sales, during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, as compared to \$30.1 million, or 3.7% of net sales, during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Depreciation expense increased \$6.2 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 due primarily to our new stores, investments in our administrative office facilities, and accelerated depreciation related to the change in estimate of useful lives of certain assets.

Interest income, net amounted to \$1.9 million, or 0.2% of net sales, during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, as compared to \$1.7 million, or 0.2% of net sales, during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006.

Our benefit from income taxes was \$6.8 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 as compared to a provision for income taxes of \$1.6 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Our benefit from income taxes increased during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 as a result of a loss before income taxes in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 as compared to income before taxes during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Our effective tax rates were 33.7% and 57.5% during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006, respectively. The decrease in our effective tax rate in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 reflects a discrete charge for interest expense recognized on FIN 48 liabilities for the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 of approximately \$0.5 million, as compared to a discrete charge of \$0.6 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 related to certain state tax law changes. Due to our low pre-tax income of approximately \$2.8 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006, this discrete charge had a larger impact on our effective tax rate.

Our net loss in the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was \$13.4 million as compared to net income of \$1.2 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006, due to the factors discussed above.

## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

### **Debt Service/Liquidity**

Our working capital requirements follow a seasonal pattern, peaking during the second and third quarters when inventory is purchased for the back-to-school and holiday selling seasons. Our primary uses of cash are financing new store openings and providing working capital, principally used for inventory purchases. As of August 4, 2007, we had short-term borrowings of \$72.2 million. Our ability to meet our capital requirements will depend on our ability to generate cash flows from operations and borrowings under our credit facilities. Traditionally, we have been able to meet our cash needs principally by using cash on hand, cash flows from operations and seasonal borrowings under our credit facilities and we believe that this will be sufficient to fund our capital and other cash flow requirements for at least the next 12 months.

The terms of the License Agreement and our credit facilities, among other things, restrict the commingling of funds between The Children's Place and Hoop and limit borrowings by Hoop from The Children's Place as well as distributions from Hoop to The Children's Place, other than payment for the allocated costs of shared services. Therefore, we have segregated all cash receipts and disbursements, investments, and credit facility borrowings and letter of credit activity. This segregation could lead to a liquidity need in one business even while there is adequate liquidity in the other business. We believe that cash flow from operations and availability and borrowings under our amended credit facilities will be adequate to fund the growth needs and operations of each division. During the next 12 months, it is probable that The Children's Place business will provide additional capital to the Disney Store business for that business to meet its growth objectives or operating commitments (including our obligations under the Refurbishment Amendment). Further, we anticipate that The Children's Place business might need to provide additional capital to the Disney Stores thereafter to support the Company's commitment in the Refurbishment Amendment to remodel and maintain the Disney Stores over the next five years. We expect such additional capital would come from available cash on hand or additional borrowings.

We entered into a Guaranty and Commitment (the "Guaranty and Commitment") dated as of November 21, 2004, in favor of Hoop and Disney. As required by the Guaranty and Commitment, we invested \$50 million in Hoop concurrently with the consummation of the acquisition and agreed to invest up to an additional \$50 million to enable Hoop to comply with its obligations under the License Agreement and otherwise fund Hoop's operations. The Guaranty and Commitment provides that our additional \$50 million additional commitment is subject to increase if certain distributions are made by Hoop to the Children's Place. To date, we have not invested any portion of the additional \$50 million in Hoop. We also agreed in the Guaranty and Commitment to guarantee the payment and performance of Hoop (for its royalty payment and other obligations to Disney), subject to a maximum guaranty liability of \$25 million, plus expenses.

In connection with our acquisition of the Disney Store business, we entered into a License Agreement under which Hoop has the right to use certain Disney intellectual property in the Disney Store business in exchange for ongoing royalty payments. The License Agreement limits Hoop's ability to make cash dividends or other distributions. Hoop's independent directors must approve payment of any dividends or other distributions, other than payments of:

Amounts due under terms of the tax sharing and intercompany services agreements;

Approximately \$61.9 million which represents a portion of the purchase price paid by the Company to Disney (limited to cumulative cash flows since the date of the acquisition); and

Certain other dividend payments, subject to satisfaction of certain additional operating conditions and limited to 50% of cumulative cash flows up to \$90 million, and 90% of cumulative cash flows thereafter (provided that at least \$90 million of cash and cash equivalents is maintained at Hoop).

In the normal course of business, Hoop has reimbursed intercompany services but has not paid any dividends or made other distributions. We do not expect Hoop to pay dividends or reimburse all or a portion of the \$61.9 million described above to the Company during the next 12 months. Hoop's cash on hand and cash generated from operations will be utilized to finance store remodels and provide working capital.

Under the License Agreement, Hoop may not incur indebtedness or guarantee indebtedness without written approval from TDSF, except in permitted circumstances as outlined by the License Agreement. The License Agreement provides that trade letters of credit to fund inventory purchases are permitted without limitation; borrowings under all term and revolving loans are limited to \$35.0 million, with a maximum of \$7.5 million for term

loan borrowings; and the aggregate amount outstanding under all term and revolving loans must be reduced to \$10.0 million or less at least once annually.

### **2007 Amended Loan Agreement; Letter of Credit Agreement**

In June 2007, we entered into a Fifth Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement ) and a new letter of credit agreement (the Letter of Credit Agreement ) with Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC ( Wells Fargo ) as syndicated agent, and our other senior lenders for the purpose of better supporting our capital needs and reducing the fees associated with our credit facility borrowings.

The 2007 Amended Loan Agreement provides a facility maximum of \$100 million for borrowings and letters of credit, with a \$30 million accordion feature that enables us, at our option, to increase the facility to an aggregate amount of \$130 million. There is also a seasonal over-advance feature that enables us to borrow up to an additional \$20 million from July 1 through October 31, subject to satisfying certain conditions, including a condition relating to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ( EBITDA ) on a trailing 12 month basis based upon the most recent financial statements furnished to Wells Fargo and our estimate of projected pro forma EBITDA for the over-advance period. The term of the facility ends on November 1, 2010. If we terminate the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement during the first year, there is a termination fee of 0.5% of the \$100 million facility maximum (\$130 million if the accordion feature is in use) plus any seasonal over-advance amounts in effect. The LIBOR margin is 1.00% to 1.50%, depending on our average excess availability, and the unused line fee is 0.25%.

Prior to the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement, we borrowed under a 2004 Amended Loan Agreement, which contained substantially similar covenants as the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement, except the 2004 Amended Loan Agreement: (i) permitted borrowings up to \$130 million (including a sublimit for letters of credit of \$100 million), (ii) provided for amounts outstanding to bear interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate or, at our option, a LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined margin of 1.50% to 3.00%, and (iii) contained an unused line fee of 0.38%.

Credit extended under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement is secured by a first priority security interest in substantially all of the Company's assets, other than assets in Canada and Puerto Rico and assets owned by Hoop. The amount that can be borrowed under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement depends on levels of inventory and accounts receivable relating to The Children's Place business. The 2007 Amended Loan Agreement contains covenants, which include limitations on annual capital expenditures, maintenance of certain levels of excess collateral, and a prohibition on the payment of dividends. The 2007 Amended Loan Agreement also contains covenants limiting the amount of funds we can invest in Hoop to \$20 million, \$55 million, \$36 million and \$52 million in fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, not to exceed a maximum aggregate of \$175 million over the term of the credit facility.

Under the Letter of Credit Agreement, we can issue letters of credit for inventory purposes for up to \$60 million to support The Children's Place business. The Letter of Credit Agreement can be terminated at any time by either us or Wells Fargo. Interest is paid at the rate of 0.75% on the aggregate undrawn amount of all letters of credit outstanding. Our obligations under the Letter of Credit Agreement are secured by a security interest in substantially all of the assets of The Children's Place business, other than assets in Canada and Puerto Rico, and assets of Hoop. Upon any termination of the Letter of Credit Agreement, we would be required to fully collateralize all outstanding letters of credit issued thereunder and, if we failed to do so, our outstanding liability under the Letter of Credit Agreement would reduce our borrowing capacity under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement.

As of August 4, 2007 we have not used the accordion feature, but we had access to our seasonal over-advance feature, expanding our line of credit to \$120 million. As of August 4, 2007 we had outstanding borrowings of \$72.2 million. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, various letters of credit were issued and we had letters of credit outstanding of \$63.7 million (\$51.5 million in merchandise letters of credit



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under the 2007 Letter of Credit Agreement, and \$12.2 million in standby letters of credit under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement). The average loan balance during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was approximately \$10.5 million and the average interest rate was 7.89%. The maximum outstanding letters of credit were \$87.2 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007. Availability under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement (as defined in the agreement) as of August 4, 2007 was \$35.6 million.

### **Amendment to 2007 Restated and Amended Loan Agreement**

On November 2, 2007, we entered into an amendment of the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement (the *First Amendment*), extending the period of the over-advance feature of the credit facility until November 30 for fiscal 2007 only. We were required to pay a fee of \$30,000 in connection with this amendment.

Primarily as a result of our financial restatement and the delay in completion of our financial statements caused by the stock option investigation, we were not in compliance with the financial reporting covenants under the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement as of August 4, 2007 or thereafter. However, we obtained waivers from our lenders for

such noncompliance. There were no fees associated with obtaining these waivers through August 30, 2007. However, we were required to pay a fee of \$102,000 to extend the waiver from August 30, 2007 through the date this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q was filed with the SEC.

### **Amendments to Hoop Loan Agreement**

In June 2007, concurrently with the execution of the 2007 Amended Loan Agreement, and in August 2007, we entered into Second and Third Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement, both with Wells Fargo and the other senior lenders (collectively, the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement) to reduce the interest rates charged on outstanding borrowings and letters of credit. The Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement provide a facility maximum of \$75 million for borrowings and provides for a \$25 million accordion feature that enables us to increase the facility to an aggregate amount of \$100 million. The accordion feature is available at our option, subject to the amount of eligible inventory and accounts receivable of the domestic Hoop entity. The term of the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement ends on November 21, 2010. Amounts outstanding under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement bear interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate or, at Hoop's option, the LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined margin. Depending on the domestic Hoop entity's level of excess availability, the LIBOR margin is 1.50% or 1.75%, commercial letter of credit fees are 0.75% or 1.00%, and standby letter of credit fees are 1.25% or 1.50%. The unused line fee is 0.25%.

Prior to the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement, we borrowed under a Loan and Security Agreement (the Hoop Loan Agreement). Covenants under the Hoop Loan Agreement were substantially similar to those under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement, except that the Hoop Loan Agreement: (i) permitted borrowings up to \$100 million (including a sublimit for letters of credit of \$90 million), (ii) provided for amounts outstanding to bear interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate plus a margin of 0.25% or, at Hoop's option, the LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined margin of 2.00% or 2.25%, depending on the domestic Hoop entity's level of excess availability, and (iii) contained an unused line fee of 0.30%.

Credit extended under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement is secured by a first priority security interest in substantially all the assets of the domestic Hoop entity as well as a pledge of a portion of the equity interests in Hoop Canada. The Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement also contain covenants, including limitations on indebtedness, maintenance of certain levels of excess collateral and restrictions on the payment of dividends and indebtedness.

The Company had no outstanding borrowings as of August 4, 2007. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, letters of credit were issued, but there were no borrowings other than letters of credit that cleared after business hours. The average balance during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 was approximately \$0.2 million and the average interest rate was 8.49%. The maximum outstanding letters of credit were \$38.3 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007. Letters of credit outstanding as of August 4, 2007 were \$36.0 million and availability as of August 4, 2007 was \$39.0 million. The interest rate charged was 8.25% as of August 4, 2007.

Primarily as a result of the delay in completion of our financial statements caused by our stock option investigation and our discussions with Disney regarding breaches of the License Agreement, we were not in compliance as of August 4, 2007 or thereafter with the financial reporting covenants under the Amendments to the Hoop Loan Agreement or the provision requiring Hoop to comply with the License Agreement. However, we obtained waivers from our lenders for such noncompliance. There were no fees associated with obtaining these waivers through August 30, 2007. However, we were required to pay a fee of \$48,000 to have the waiver extended from August 30, 2007 through the date this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q was filed with the SEC.

### **Cash Flows/Capital Expenditures**

Cash flows used in operating activities were \$81.2 million and \$37.9 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006, respectively. Cash flow used by operating activities increased during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 primarily due to a seasonal increase in inventory, lower operating earnings, and a decrease in accrued expenses offset partially by lower income tax payments and an increase in accounts payable.

Cash flows used in investing activities were \$25.8 million and \$75.1 million during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006, respectively. The \$49.3 million decrease in cash flows used in investing activities primarily resulted from a net sale of investments during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 of \$75.2 million as compared to a net purchase of investments of \$12.7 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006, offset by a \$38.6 million increase in capital expenditures during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007. Capital expenditures during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 were also made to support our new stores as well as capital

expenditures made for our new distribution center in Fort Payne, Alabama and our new office facility in Secaucus, New Jersey. During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 and July 29, 2006, we opened 22 stores and 27 stores and remodeled 9 stores and 20 stores, respectively.

We anticipate that total capital expenditures will approximate \$200 million in fiscal 2007. We also anticipate receiving approximately \$20 million in lease incentives in fiscal 2007. The capital expenditures will provide for the opening of approximately 60 The Children's Place stores and approximately 15 Disney Stores, and the remodeling of approximately 21 The Children's Place stores and seven Disney Stores. During fiscal 2007, a significant portion of our capital expenditures were used to open our distribution center in Ft. Payne, Alabama, to commence construction on our new office facilities in Secaucus, New Jersey and to make information technology infrastructure investments. The total project cost of our Ft. Payne distribution center was approximately \$68.0 million, of which approximately \$14.6 million was expended in fiscal 2006, with the remaining approximately \$53.4 million spent in fiscal 2007. Our Ft. Payne distribution center may be leased or used as collateral for financing in the future.

For our Emerson Lane administrative offices in Secaucus, New Jersey, we had originally estimated the total project would cost approximately \$65.0 million, of which approximately \$4.7 million was expended in fiscal 2006, approximately \$11.7 million has been spent to date in fiscal 2007, with the remaining approximately \$48.6 million expected to be expended in fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2009. We are currently reviewing the project to determine a more cost effective plan to construct this new facility.

During the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007, cash flows of \$72.2 million were provided by financing activities as compared with cash flows provided by financing activities of \$36.9 million during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006. Cash flows provided by financing activities during the twenty-six weeks ended August 4, 2007 represented net borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Cash flows provided by financing activities during the twenty-six weeks ended July 29, 2006 represented funds received and the tax benefit from the exercise of employee stock options and employee stock purchases.

We believe that cash generated from operations and funds available under our amended credit facilities will be sufficient to fund our capital and other cash flow requirements for at least the next 12 months. Our ability to meet our capital requirements will depend on our ability to generate cash from operations. In addition, we will consider additional sources of financing to fund our long-term growth.

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.**

In the normal course of business, the Company's financial position and results of operations are routinely subject to market risk associated with interest rate movements on borrowings and investments and currency rate movements on non-U.S. dollar denominated assets, liabilities and income. The Company utilizes cash from operations and short-term borrowings to fund its working capital and investment needs.

Cash, cash equivalents and investments are normally invested in financial instruments that will be used in operations within a year of the balance sheet date. Because of the short-term nature of these investments, changes in interest rates would not materially affect the fair value of these financial instruments.

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The Company's credit facilities with Wells Fargo provide a source of financing for its working capital requirements. The Company's credit facilities bear interest at either a floating rate equal to the prime rate or a floating rate equal to the prime rate plus a pre-determined spread. At the Company's option, it could also borrow at a LIBOR rate plus a pre-determined spread. As of August 4, 2007, the Company had no borrowings outstanding under its credit facilities.

Assets and liabilities outside the United States are primarily located in Canada and Hong Kong. The Company's investment in foreign subsidiaries with a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar are generally considered long-term. The Company generally does not hedge these net investments. As of August 4, 2007, the Company is not a party to any derivative financial instruments.

As of August 4, 2007, the Company had approximately \$59.7 million of its cash and investment balances held in foreign countries, of which approximately \$23.4 million was in Canada and approximately \$36.3 million in Hong Kong. While the Company does not have substantial financial assets in China, it imports a large percentage of its merchandise from that country. Consequently, any significant or sudden change in China's political, foreign trade, financial, banking or currency policies and practices could have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In addition to the Company's Asian operations, the Company has a growing business in Canada. While currency rates with the Canadian dollar have generally moved in the Company's favor, there can be no guarantee that this will

continue or that the exchange rate will not move against the Company. Foreign currency fluctuations could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

The Company is sensitive to customers' spending patterns which are subject to prevailing regional and national economic conditions such as consumer confidence, recession, interest rates, energy prices, taxation, and unemployment to name a few. The Company is, and will continue to be, susceptible to changes in weather conditions, national and regional economic conditions, raw material costs, demographic and population characteristics, hourly wage legislation, consumer preferences and other regional factors.

As is the case with many retailers, the Company experiences seasonal fluctuations in net sales and net income. Net sales and net income are generally weakest during the first two fiscal quarters, and are lower during the second fiscal quarter than during the first fiscal quarter. First quarter results at The Children's Place are heavily dependent upon sales leading up to the Easter holiday. Third quarter results are heavily dependent on back-to-school sales at The Children's Place stores and the Disney Store is heavily dependent on Halloween sales. Fourth quarter results are heavily dependent upon sales during the holiday season. Weak sales during any of these periods could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

The Company's quarterly results of operations may also fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter as a result of a variety of other factors, including:

- increases or decreases in comparable stores sales;
- changes in our merchandise mix or pricing strategy;
- weather conditions;
- overall macro-economic conditions;
- the timing of new store openings and related pre-opening and other start-up costs;
- net sales contributed by new stores; and
- shifts in the timing of certain holidays.

Moreover, a significant portion of Disney Store net sales are generated during the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year, which may, therefore, make the seasonality of the total Company more heavily weighted to those quarters. Any failure to meet the Company's business plans for, in particular, the third and fourth quarter of any fiscal year would have a material adverse effect on earnings, which in all likelihood would not be offset by satisfactory results achieved in other quarters of the same fiscal year. In addition, because the Company's expense levels are based in part on expectations of future sales levels, a shortfall in expected sales could result in a disproportionate decrease in net income.

Under the provisions of SFAS 123(R), the Company is required to record compensation costs for its various equity plans for employees and directors. Under the measurement provisions of SFAS 123(R), interest rates, the Company's stock price and the volatility of the Company's stock price each have a significant impact on the determination of equity value; changes in these factors could have a material adverse impact on the

determination of equity compensation costs, and therefore, impact future results of operations. The Company's risk mitigation for these factors is to limit or cease its equity compensation plans, which the Company does not feel is reasonable given the competition for highly talented and qualified employees.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures.**

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Management, including our principal executive officers (our interim CEO and our Executive Vice President Finance and Administration, who is also our interim CFO), evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act as of the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2007. Based on this review, our principal executive officers concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of August 4, 2007 because of three material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting identified by management. One material weakness involves our controls over the granting of stock options and related documentation, one involves our maintenance of a fully effective control environment, and one involves the period-end financial close and reporting process. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007, which is being filed concurrently with this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, contains additional information related to these material weaknesses in Management's Report on Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting in Item 9A Controls and Procedures.

(b) Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have been no significant changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our second fiscal quarter ended August 4, 2007 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. However, on or about September 14, 2006, the Company suspended the granting of stock options or other equity awards to employees and directors and the exercise of outstanding options until it implements new practices for equity awards and becomes current in its periodic reporting to the SEC. This suspension continues currently.

To address the material weaknesses we have identified in our internal control over financial reporting, management and the Board have developed and implemented initiatives to improve our governance, internal controls and option granting practices. Through the date of this report, the following governance and management changes were implemented:

The positions of Chair of the Board and CEO have been separated. Our Lead Director will continue in such position and serve as acting Chair until a permanent Chair is selected.

The new position of Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration has been established, reporting to the CEO and the Board. Our former Senior Vice President and CFO has been elected to this position and currently also serves on an interim basis as our principal financial and accounting officer. Responsibilities of this position include supervising our finance, treasury, accounting, legal and human resource functions and serving along with our CEO as a principal executive officer for purposes of certifying our SEC reports and similar matters.

At our Board's request, our former Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Secretary resigned from such positions. However, he continued as a Senior Vice President with supervisory responsibility for our real estate, construction and facilities, store design, and non-merchandise purchasing until he mutually agreed with the Company to resign such position in July 2007.

We have hired a new Senior Vice President, Finance, who is expected to become CFO shortly after this filing, and have hired a new General Counsel.

The following additional measures have been implemented or are in process:

Our Board is conducting a search for at least two new independent directors. It is anticipated that, after this expansion of our Board, an independent director will be selected to serve as our Chair of the Board on an ongoing basis.





Our Board has commenced a comprehensive review, with the assistance of independent counsel, of our governance system and processes and the Company's internal controls. As a result, amendments to several committee charters and to our Corporate Governance Guidelines were adopted. In addition, improvements in our internal policies and procedures were instituted, including amendments to the Code of Business Conduct, Insider Trading Policy and Related Party Transaction Control procedures. Additional improvements are under review.

We are also instituting more rigorous policies, procedures and practices governing the granting of stock options and other equity incentive awards and related accounting and internal controls. The Board in June 2007 adopted a formal Policy Regarding Awards of Equity-Based Incentives to Executive Officers and Other Employees and, consistent with that policy, procedures to the following effect will generally be applied to all such grants:

Grants will be dated on the date that all required approvals have been obtained or a future date, not later than one month after the approval date, specified when approval is given. The exercise price for each option granted will not be less than the closing price of our stock on the date of grant.

Equity grants will generally be approved only at duly convened, regularly scheduled meetings of our Compensation Committee or pursuant to a formal, limited delegation by the committee of grant-making authority to a committee of specified senior officers, as discussed below. Minutes of such meetings will be kept which shall reflect the specifics of any equity grants approved at the meeting. If in extenuating circumstances grants are to be made by written consent of the Compensation Committee, the grant date will be no earlier than the date the last member signs the consent and consent is received by the Company. We will no longer use as of dating for written consents approving equity grants.

All grants made to executive officers will be specifically approved by our Compensation Committee as will grants to employees in other positions designated by the committee.

If the making of any grants to non-executives is to be delegated to a committee of senior officers, the overall terms of such grants will be approved in advance by the Committee. Terms will include annual limits as to the number of shares subject to all such delegated grants including a limit as to the number of shares available for grant to any particular employee and may include guidelines for grants that may be made to specified levels of employees. Actions taken pursuant to delegated authority will be required to be in writing, dated and signed by the executive delegated authority to make the grant and will be regularly reported to the Committee.

Annual grants will be considered and approved by our Compensation Committee at its meeting most closely preceding or following the first meeting of the Board following the filing of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. The same grant date will apply to annual grants made to executive officers and other employees.

Designated members of our legal and accounting staffs will oversee the documentation, accounting and disclosure of all equity awards. Standard forms will be established and used for grant documentation (e.g., option agreements and award notices).

Recipients will be advised of awards within a reasonable time period after the grant date.

There will be no changes to grants after approval, other than to withdraw a grant to an individual in its entirety to reflect changes in circumstances between approval and issuance. Any other changes will require approval in accordance with the requirements for making new grants.

No further equity grants will be made until the new policies, procedures and controls are instituted.

Significant to our identification of a material weakness in our maintenance of a fully effective control environment were separate violations of our Code of Business Conduct during 2006 by the then Chief Creative Officer of The Children's Place Division and our former CEO. These violations were identified and investigated in the summer of 2007 and the following actions were taken:

The Board imposed significant sanctions on the former Chief Creative Officer for expense report improprieties, including requiring refund of amounts erroneously charged to the Company,

changing her position so that she will no longer be an officer of the Company and requiring reimbursement of the Company's out-of-pocket costs incurred in connection with its investigation of the matter. In addition, management is reassigning certain control-related functions from this individual and developing new procedures with regard to the processing of expense reimbursements in her department, including improved personnel training. Although our investigation indicated that the problems which arose were limited to circumstances peculiar to that department, we will also review the practices utilized in other departments to determine if any changes are needed in their procedures.

The Board imposed significant sanctions on the former CEO for violations of our internal securities transaction reporting and approval policies, including imposing new requirements pertaining to his securities transactions and requiring that he reimburse the Company for its out-of-pocket costs in investigating the violations. In addition, his outside counsel was required to review all securities transactions in which this individual has engaged in recent years to ensure proper reporting thereof by the individual.

In addition, as directed by the Board, the Company is instituting a formal training program for management and all corporate personnel regarding compliance with the Company's Code of Business Conduct.

With regard to the material weakness in the financial closing and reporting function, the Company has hired a Senior Vice President, Finance, who is expected to become the CFO shortly after this filing, and has filled substantially all open positions in the accounting department, which the Company expects will help to remediate this material weakness. In addition, the Company's management and its Audit Committee are taking steps to:

Conduct a review of accounting processes to incorporate technology enhancements and strengthen the design and operation of controls;

Formalize the process, analytics and documentation around the monthly analysis of actual results against forecasts conducted within the finance department;

Document and communicate a detailed comprehensive financial reporting timeline and checklist process to assist in the timely gathering and review of financial information;

Improve quality control reviews within the accounting function to ensure reconciliations are completed accurately, in a timely manner and with proper management review;

Reinforce the thresholds required for management review and approval of account reconciliations and journal entries; and

Formalize and expand the documentation of certain of the Company's procedures with respect to review and oversight of financial reporting.

These remediation steps are currently being implemented.

**Part II - Other Information**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

We are involved in various legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business and reserve for litigation settlements and contingencies when we can determine the probability of outcome and can estimate losses. Estimates are adjusted as facts and circumstances require. In the opinion of management, any ultimate liability arising out of such proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

On September 29, 2006, the Division of Enforcement of the SEC informed us that it had initiated an informal investigation into our stock option granting practices. In addition, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey advised us that it had commenced an investigation into the same matter. We have cooperated fully with these investigations and have briefed both authorities on the results of the Special Committee's investigation. There have been no developments in these matters since that time.

On January 17, 2007, a stockholder derivative action was filed in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey against certain current members of the Board of Directors and certain current and former senior executives. The Company has been named as a nominal defendant. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of our current and former officers and directors (i) breached their fiduciary duties to the Company and its stockholders and were unjustly enriched by improperly backdating certain grants of stock options to officers and directors of the Company, (ii) caused the Company to file false and misleading reports with the SEC, (iii) violated the Exchange Act and common law, (iv) caused the Company to issue false and misleading public statements and (v) were negligent and abdicated their responsibilities to the Company and its stockholders. The complaint seeks money damages, an accounting by the defendants for the proceeds of sales of any allegedly backdated stock options, and the costs and disbursements of the lawsuit, as well as equitable relief. The defendants have moved to dismiss the action and on or about June 15, 2007, the plaintiff filed an amended complaint adding, among other things, a claim for securities fraud under SEC rule 10b-5.

On September 21, 2007 another stockholder class action was filed against the Company and certain of its current and former senior executives in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers made statements to the investing public which misrepresented material facts about the business and operations of the Company, or omitted to state material facts required in order for the statements made by them not to be misleading, causing the price of the Company's stock to be artificially inflated in violation of provisions of the Exchange Act, as amended. It alleges that more recent disclosures establish the misleading nature of these earlier disclosures. The complaint seeks money damages plus interest as well as costs and disbursements of the lawsuit.

On October 10, 2007, a third stockholder class action was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, against the Company and certain of its current and former senior executives. The complaint alleges, among other things, that certain of the Company's current and former officers made statements to the investing public which misrepresented material facts about the business and operations of the Company, or omitted to state material facts required in order for the statements made by them not to be misleading, thereby causing the price of the Company's stock to be artificially inflated in violation of provisions of the Exchange Act, as amended. According to the complaint, more recent disclosures establish the misleading nature of these earlier disclosures. The complaint seeks, among other relief, class certification of the lawsuit, compensatory damages plus interest, and costs and expenses of the lawsuit, including counsel and expert fees.

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On or about July 12, 2006, Joy Fong, a former Disney Store manager in the San Francisco district, filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The lawsuit alleges violations of the California Labor Code and California Business and Professions Code and seeks class action status on behalf of Ms. Fong and other individuals similarly situated. We filed our Answer on August 11, 2006 denying any and all liability, and on January 14, 2007, Ms. Fong filed an amended complaint, adding Disney as a defendant. The parties are currently conducting discovery in this matter.

On or about September 28, 2007, Meghan Ruggiero filed a complaint against the Company and its subsidiary, Hoop Retail Stores, LLC, in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio on behalf of herself and other similarly situated individuals. The lawsuit alleges violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ( FACTA ) and seeks class certification, an award of statutory and punitive damages, attorneys fees and costs, and injunctive relief.

The outcome of these litigations is uncertain; while we believe there are valid defenses to the claims and we will defend ourselves vigorously, no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these matters. The litigations could distract our management and directors from the Company's affairs, the costs and expenses of the litigations could unfavorably affect our net earnings and an unfavorable outcome could adversely affect the reputation of the Company.

On or about February 15, 2005, Michael Scott Smith, a former co-sales manager for The Children's Place in the San Diego district, filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The lawsuit alleges violations of the California Labor Code and California Business and Professions Code and seeks class action on behalf of Mr. Smith and other individuals similarly situated. On October 19, 2007, the Company entered into a class action settlement with the plaintiff's counsel and signed a memorandum of understanding providing for, among other things, a maximum total payment of \$2.1 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, service payments to the class representative and administration costs, in exchange for a full release of all claims and dismissal of the lawsuit. The Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement on November 29, 2007. The settlement was recorded in the thirteen weeks ended July 29, 2006.

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.**

None.

**Item 6. Exhibits.**

**Exhibits**

**Exhibit No.**

**Description of Document**

- 10.1 Fifth Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated June 28, 2007 by and among The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. and each of its subsidiaries that are signatories thereto as borrowers, the financial institutions named therein, and Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC, as agent filed as Exhibit 10.29 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.2 Letter of Credit Agreement dated June 28, 2007 by and among The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. and each of its subsidiaries that are signatories thereto as borrowers, the financial institutions named therein, and Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC, as agent filed as Exhibit 10.30 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.3 Second Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement dated as of June 28, 2007 between Hoop Retail Stores, LLC, as borrower; Hoop Canada Holdings, Inc., as guarantor; Hoop Canada, Inc., as secondary guarantor; the financial institutions named therein; and Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC, as agent filed as Exhibit 10.33 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.4 Severance agreement and release dated July 9, 2007 with Steven Balasiano filed as Exhibit 10.35 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.





- 10.5(\*) Third Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement dated as of August 9, 2007 between Hoop Retail Stores, LLC, as borrower; Hoop Canada Holdings, Inc., as guarantor; Hoop Canada, Inc., as secondary guarantor; the financial institutions named therein; and Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC, as agent filed as Exhibit 10.45 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.6 Refurbishment Amendment to License and Conduct of Business Agreement dated as of August 29, 2007 between The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc., its subsidiaries Hoop Retail Stores, LLC and Hoop Canada, Inc. and TDS Franchising LLC, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, filed as Exhibit 10.46 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.
- 10.7 First Amendment to Fifth Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated November 2, 2007 by and among The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. and each of its subsidiaries that are signatories thereto as borrowers, the financial institutions named therein, and Wells Fargo Retail Finance, LLC, as agent filed as Exhibit 10.47 to registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended February 3, 2007 is incorporated by reference herein.
- 31 Section 302 Certifications
- 32 Section 906 Certifications

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(\*) Compensation Arrangement

**SIGNATURES**

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

THE CHILDREN S PLACE  
RETAIL STORES, INC.

Date: December 5, 2007

By: /S/ CHARLES CROVITZ  
CHARLES CROVITZ  
*Interim Chief Executive Officer*  
*(A Principal Executive Officer)*

Date: December 5, 2007

By: /S/ SUSAN RILEY  
SUSAN RILEY  
*Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration*  
*and Interim Chief Financial Officer*  
*(A Principal Executive Officer and*  
*Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)*