Form 10-Q
January 06, 2005

# UNITED STATES <br> SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended November 27, 2004
OR
o
TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

# CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION 

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

06-1195422
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

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(Zip Code)
(763) 551-5000
(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

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 ý NO o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

YES $\mathbf{y} \quad$ NO $\quad \mathbf{0}$

As of December 24, 2004, 35,707,604 shares of the registrant s common stock were outstanding.

## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION

## FORM 10-Q QUARTERLY REPORT

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## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET

 (Unaudited)|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 27, } \\ 2004 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } 28, \\ 2004 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 29, } \\ 2003 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASSETS |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current assets: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | 24,313,228 | \$ | 34,955,015 | \$ | 21,157,278 |
| Short-term investments |  | 17,000,000 |  | 53,844,025 |  | 50,865,109 |
| Accounts receivable |  | 8,124,548 |  | 3,253,001 |  | 8,070,449 |
| Merchandise inventory, net |  | 48,324,674 |  | 31,300,016 |  | 40,229,494 |
| Other current assets |  | 8,017,336 |  | 2,990,053 |  | 2,179,932 |
| Total current assets |  | 105,779,786 |  | 126,342,110 |  | 122,502,262 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Property, equipment and improvements, net |  | 91,919,906 |  | 80,122,243 |  | 78,254,540 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other assets: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Goodwill |  | 3,587,052 |  |  |  |  |
| Intangible assets |  | 820,903 |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  | 147,186 |  | 82,275 |  | 85,198 |
| Total other assets |  | 4,555,141 |  | 82,275 |  | 85,198 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total assets | \$ | 202,254,833 | \$ | 206,546,628 | \$ | 200,842,000 |

## LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EOUITY

| Current liabilities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Accounts payable | \$ | 12,118,414 | \$ | 6,823,287 | \$ | 4,599,570 |
| Accrued salaries, wages and related expenses |  | 6,349,486 |  | 3,604,736 |  | 7,228,844 |
| Other accrued liabilities |  | 10,287,395 |  | 9,873,996 |  | 8,316,932 |
| Total current liabilities |  | 28,755,295 |  | 20,302,019 |  | 20,145,346 |
| Other liabilities |  | 10,369,598 |  | 8,442,627 |  | 4,997,159 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stockholders equity: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Preferred stock $\$ 0.01$ par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized, none outstanding |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Common stock $\$ 0.01$ par value, $74,000,000$ shares authorized, $42,492,340,42,217,943$ and $42,203,193$ shares issued and $35,707,604$, 37,521,443 and 37,800,693 shares outstanding at November 27, 2004, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| February 28, 2004 and November 29, 2003, respectively |  | 424,904 |  | 422,191 |  | 422,012 |
| Additional paid-in capital |  | 60,858,905 |  | 59,307,323 |  | 59,089,525 |
| Retained earnings |  | 162,422,225 |  | 143,265,406 |  | 136,462,183 |
| Common stock held in treasury, $6,784,736,4,696,500$ and $4,402,500$ shares at cost at November 27, 2004, February 28, 2004 and |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November 29, 2003, respectively |  | $(60,576,094)$ |  | (25,192,938) |  | (20,274,225) |
| Total stockholders equity |  | 163,129,940 |  | 177,801,982 |  | 175,699,495 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total liabilities and stockholders equity | \$ | 202,254,833 | \$ | 206,546,628 | \$ | 200,842,000 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements.

## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME

## (Unaudited)



The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements.

## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME <br> (Unaudited)



The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements.

## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

|  | Nine Months Ended |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 27, } \\ 2004 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 29, } \\ 2003 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Cash flows from operating activities: |  |  |  |  |
| Net income | \$ | 23,548,940 | \$ | 31,025,203 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |  |  |  |  |
| Depreciation and amortization |  | 9,881,813 |  | 8,491,613 |
| Income tax benefit on exercise of stock options |  | 366,479 |  | 3,235,248 |
| Deferred income taxes |  | 1,361,676 |  |  |
| Increase in other liabilities |  | 602,494 |  | 188,548 |
| Loss on disposals of furniture, fixtures and equipment |  | 12,386 |  | 41,190 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, exclusive of acquisition: |  |  |  |  |
| Increase in accounts receivable |  | $(4,788,184)$ |  | $(5,406,430)$ |
| Increase in merchandise inventory, net |  | $(15,435,525)$ |  | $(16,095,779)$ |
| (Increase) decrease in other current assets |  | $(4,942,880)$ |  | 3,820,748 |
| (Increase) decrease in other assets |  | $(64,911)$ |  | 217,950 |
| Increase (decrease) in accounts payable |  | 5,004,993 |  | $(431,045)$ |
| Increase in accrued liabilities |  | 3,066,222 |  | 2,013,852 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities |  | 18,613,503 |  | 27,101,098 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash flows from investing activities: |  |  |  |  |
| Purchases of property, equipment and improvements |  | $(20,087,298)$ |  | (17,311,373) |
| Proceeds from sale of furniture, fixtures and equipment |  | 1,300 |  | 1,551 |
| Acquistion, net of cash acquired |  | $(7,425,856)$ |  |  |
| Purchases of short-term investments |  | $(27,899,604)$ |  | (97,700,236) |
| Redemptions of short-term investments |  | 64,743,629 |  | 102,647,620 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities |  | 9,332,171 |  | $(12,362,438)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash flows from financing activities: |  |  |  |  |
| Exercise of stock options |  | 1,187,818 |  | 3,627,457 |
| Dividends paid |  | $(4,392,123)$ |  | $(1,507,661)$ |
| Acquisition of common stock held in treasury |  | $(35,383,156)$ |  | $(3,980,414)$ |
| Net cash used in financing activities |  | $(38,587,461)$ |  | $(1,860,618)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents |  | $(10,641,787)$ |  | 12,878,042 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period |  | 34,955,015 |  | 8,279,236 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ | 24,313,228 | \$ | 21,157,278 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Supplemental cash flow information: |  |  |  |  |
| Income taxes paid | \$ | 16,180,970 | \$ | 13,396,577 |
| Purchases of equipment and improvements included in accounts payable at end of period | \$ | 290,134 | \$ | 313,884 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements.

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## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION

 NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)
## NOTE 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION


#### Abstract

The unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements included in this Form 10-Q have been prepared by Christopher \& Banks Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company ) pursuant to the rules and regulations of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have been condensed, or omitted, pursuant to such rules and regulations. These unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and related notes included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2004.


The results of operations for the interim periods shown in this report are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the fiscal year. In the opinion of management, the information contained herein reflects all adjustments necessary to make the results of operations for the interim periods a fair statement of such operations. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature.

## NOTE 2 ACQUISITION OF ACORN STORES

On November 1, 2004, the Company acquired the assets and assumed certain liabilities of Gilmore Brothers Inc., a privately held women s specialty retailer operating stores under the name Acorn, for approximately $\$ 7.4$ million in cash. The Company funded the purchase from current cash balances and redemptions of short-term investments. Of the $\$ 7.4$ million, $\$ 2.3$ million was placed in escrow to satisfy certain obligations of Gilmore Brothers, Inc. not assumed by the Company. The Company plans to continue to operate Acorn as a division of Christopher \& Banks, Inc.

As of November 1, 2004, Acorn operated 21 stores in nine states that offer upscale women s fashions along with complementary jewelry and accessories under private and branded labels. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting and accordingly, the results of operations of Acorn have been consolidated in the Company s financial statements from the date of acquisition.

The total purchase price has been allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed from Gilmore Brothers, Inc., based on their respective estimated fair values as of the date of acquisition. The purchase price allocation resulted in excess consideration, over the estimated fair value of the net assets acquired, of approximately $\$ 3.6$ million, which has been assigned to goodwill. A summary of the allocation of the purchase price follows:

| Cash | $\$$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Accounts receivable | 6,300 |
| Merchandise inventory | $1,589,133$ |
| Other current assets | 121,601 |
| Property, equipment and improvements | $1,306,634$ |

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| Intangible assets | 830,000 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Goodwill | $3,587,052$ |
| Total assets acquired | $7,524,083$ |
| Accrued liabilities assumed | $\mathbf{( 9 1 , 9 2 7 )}$ |
| Net assets acquired | $\$$ |

The intangible assets acquired pertained to customer lists and other information relating to the Acorn Awards program, a preferred customer shopping program. The intangible assets will be amortized over their estimated useful lives, ranging from three to nine years. The resulting amortization expense has been included in depreciation and amortization in the consolidated statement of income.

## NOTE 3 SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments consisted of the following at November 27, 2004 and November 29, 2003:

| Description | Maturity Dates |  | November 27, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | November 29, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Corporate debt securities | Within one year | $\$$ |  | $\$$ |
| U.S. Government debt securities | Two to three years, callable within one year |  | $17,000,000$ | $33,865,109$ |
|  |  | $\$$ | $17,000,000$ | $\$$ |
|  |  | $50,865,109$ |  |  |

## NOTE 4 MERCHANDISE INVENTORY, NET

Merchandise inventory, net consisted of the following at November 27, 2004 and November 29, 2003:

| Description | November 27, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | November 29, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Merchandise inventory - in store | $\$$ | $39,173,777$ | $\$$ |
| Merchandise inventory - in transit |  | $9,744,399$ | $31,276,046$ |
| Allowance for permanent markdowns |  | $(593,502)$ | $(185,296$ |
|  | $\$$ | $48,324,674$ | $\$$ |

## NOTE 5 PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT, AND IMPROVEMENTS, NET

Property, equipment and improvements, net consisted of the following at November 27, 2004 and November 29, 2003:
$\left.\begin{array}{lcccc}\text { Description } & \text { Estimated Useful Life }\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}\text { November 27, } \\ \mathbf{2 0 0 4}\end{array}\right)$

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| Computer hardware and software | Three to five years | $3,526,249$ | $2,71,609$ |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Construction in progress | $10,916,855$ | $7,020,223$ |  |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | $139,815,961$ | $115,274,604$ |  |
| Net property, equipment and improvements | $\$$ | $(47,896,055)$ | $(37,020,064)$ |
|  | $91,919,906$ | $\$$ | $78,254,540$ |

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## NOTE 6 GOODWILL

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the nine months ended November 27, 2004, are as follows:

| Balance as of February 29, 2004 <br> Goodwill acquired during the year related to the acquisition of <br> Acorn | $\$$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Balance as of November 27, 2004 | $\$$ | $3,587,052$ |

The Company recognizes the excess cost of an acquired entity over the net amount assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed as goodwill. Goodwill will be tested for impairment on an annual basis in the fourth quarter and between annual tests whenever impairment is indicated. Fair values are calculated based on an estimate of future cash flows, compared to the corresponding carrying value of the acquired entity, including goodwill. Impairment losses will be recognized whenever the implied fair value is less than the carrying value of the related asset.

## NOTE 7 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Acquired intangible assets consisted of the following at November 27, 2004:

| Amortized Intangible Assets | Gross Carrying <br> Amount | Accumulated <br> Amortization |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Customer Lists - Acorn Awards Program | $\$$ | 830,000 | $\$$ |

Aggregate amortization expense for the nine months ended November 27, 2004 totaled $\$ 9,097$. Estimated aggregate amortization expense for fiscal 2005 and the next five fiscal years is as follows:

| Fiscal 2005 | $\$$ | 36,389 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Fiscal 2006 | $\$$ | 109,167 |
| Fiscal 2007 | $\$$ | 109,167 |
| Fiscal 2008 | $\$$ | 107,153 |
| Fiscal 2009 | $\$$ | 82,500 |
| Fiscal 2010 | $\$$ | 82,500 |

The above amortization expense forecast is an estimate. Actual amounts may differ from the estimated amounts due to additional intangible asset acquisitions, potential impairment, accelerated amortization or other events. Impairment losses are recognized if the carrying amount of an intangible asset subject to amortization is not recoverable from expected future cash flows and exceeds its fair value.

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## NOTE 8 ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Other accrued liabilities consisted of the following at November 27, 2004 and November 29, 2003:

| Description | November 27, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | November 29, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Gift card, certificate and store credit liability | $\$$ | $4,275,179$ | $\$$ | $3,087,230$ |
| Accrued occupancy related expenses |  | $1,265,721$ | $1,147,767$ |  |
| Other accrued liabilities | $4,746,495$ | $4,081,935$ |  |  |
|  | $\$$ | $10,287,395$ | $\$$ | $8,316,932$ |

## NOTE 9 LONG-TERM DEBT

The Company maintains an Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Security Agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (the
Wells Fargo Revolver ) which expires on June 30, 2006. The Wells Fargo Revolver provides the Company with revolving credit loans and letters of credit of up to $\$ 40.0$ million, subject to a borrowing base formula based on inventory levels.

In October 2004, the Wells Fargo Revolver was amended to allow, among other things, the formation of a new subsidiary, Christopher \& Banks Services Company, in conjunction with the acquisition of Acorn.

Loans under the Wells Fargo Revolver bear interest at Wells Fargo s base rate, 5\% as of November 27, 2004, plus 0.25\%. Interest is payable monthly in arrears. The Wells Fargo Revolver carries a facility fee of $0.25 \%$ based on the unused portion as defined in the agreement. Facility fees totaled $\$ 3,963$ for the nine months ended November 27, 2004. The credit facility is collateralized by the Company s equipment, general intangibles, inventory, inventory letters of credit and letter of credit rights. The Company had no revolving credit loan borrowings under the Wells Fargo Revolver during the first nine months of fiscal 2005. Historically, the Wells Fargo Revolver has been utilized by the Company only to open letters of credit to facilitate the import of merchandise. The borrowing base at November 27, 2004 was $\$ 35.5$ million. As of November 27, 2004, the Company had outstanding letters of credit in the amount of $\$ 17.6$ million. Accordingly, the availability of revolving credit loans under the Wells Fargo Revolver was $\$ 17.9$ million at November 27, 2004.

The Wells Fargo Revolver contains certain restrictive covenants including restrictions on incurring additional indebtedness and limitations on certain types of investments, as well as requiring the maintenance of certain financial covenants. As of November 27, 2004, the most recent measurement date, the Company was in compliance with all covenants of the Wells Fargo Revolver.

## NOTE 10 STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

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In September 2003, the Company s Board of Directors declared an on-going cash dividend of $\$ 0.04$ per share to be paid quarterly, subject to Board approval. In the first nine months of fiscal 2005, quarterly dividends were paid on April 6, 2004, July 6, 2004 and October 5, 2004 to shareholders of record as of March 19, 2004, June 18, 2004 and September 20, 2004, respectively. On December 2, 2004, the Company declared another quarterly dividend of $\$ 0.04$ per share to be paid January 4, 2005 to shareholders of record as of December 17, 2004.

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The Company s Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program in February 2004 enabling the Company to purchase up to $\$ 25.0$ million of its common stock, subject to market conditions. On June 28, 2004, the Company announced its Board of Directors authorized an increase in the stock repurchase program to $\$ 40.0$ million. As of November 27, 2004, the Company had repurchased $2,367,400$ shares of its common stock for a total cost of approximately $\$ 40.0$ million, effectively completing the repurchase program.

The common stock repurchased under the Company s most recent authorization is being held in treasury and reduced the number of shares of the Company s common stock outstanding by approximately $6 \%$. All of the Company s share repurchases were executed in the open market, and no shares were repurchased from related parties. In addition, all of the Company s share repurchases were executed in accordance with the safe harbor provisions of Rule 10b-18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Depending on market conditions and the Company s cash position, the Company may participate in additional stock repurchase programs in the future.

## NOTE 11 NET INCOME PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share ( EPS ) is computed based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the applicable periods, while diluted EPS is computed based on the weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares (dilutive stock options) outstanding.

The following is a reconciliation of the number of shares and per share amounts used in the basic and diluted EPS computations:

|  | Three Months Ended |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | November 27, 2004 |  |  | November 29, 2003 |  |  |
|  | Shares | Net Income |  | Shares | Net Income |  |
| Basic EPS | 35,679,893 | \$ | 0.22 | 37,746,842 | \$ | 0.30 |
| Effect of dilutive stock options | 481,536 |  | 0.00 | 958,224 |  | (0.01) |
| Diluted EPS | 36,161,429 | \$ | 0.22 | 38,705,066 | \$ | 0.29 |


|  | Nine Months Ended |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | November 27, 2004 |  |  | November 29, 2003 |  |  |
|  |  | Net Income |  |  | Net Income |  |
|  | Shares |  |  | Shares |  |  |
| Basic EPS | 36,526,270 | \$ | 0.64 | 37,471,820 | \$ | 0.83 |
| Effect of dilutive stock options | 539,733 |  | 0.00 | 926,020 |  | (0.02) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diluted EPS | 37,066,003 | \$ | 0.64 | 38,397,840 | \$ | 0.81 |

Stock options of $1,513,349$ and $1,489,349$ were excluded from the shares used in the computation of diluted EPS for the three and nine months ended November 27, 2004 as they were anti-dilutive. Stock options of 12,000 and 286,348 were excluded from the shares used in the computation of diluted EPS for the three and nine months ended November 29, 2003 as they were anti-dilutive.

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## NOTE 12 STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company discloses stock-based compensation information in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 ( SFAS No. 123 ), Accounting for Stock Based Compensation, and No. 148 ( SFAS No. 148 ), Accounting for Stock Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure. SFAS No. 148, an amendment of SFAS No. 123, does not amend the provisions of SFAS No. 123 that permit entities to account for stock-based compensation under the intrinsic value method set forth by Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25 ( APB No. 25 ), Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. The Company has elected to continue to recognize compensation cost for its stock-based compensation plans in accordance with APB No. 25. Generally, no compensation expense is recognized for stock options with exercise prices equal to the market value of the underlying shares of stock at the date of grant.

If stock-based compensation cost had been determined based on the fair value methodology prescribed by SFAS No. 123 and SFAS No. 148, the Company s net earnings and earnings per share would have been reduced to the pro forma amounts indicated in the following table.

|  | Three Months Ended |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | November 27,$2004$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 29, } \\ 2003 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Net income as reported | \$ | 7,794,295 | \$ | 11,390,047 |
| Add stock-based compensation expense included in net income, net of related tax effects |  |  |  |  |
| Less total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value method, net of related tax effects |  | 843,551 |  | 890,719 |
| Net income pro forma | \$ | 6,950,744 | \$ | 10,499,328 |
| Basic earnings per common share: |  |  |  |  |
| As reported | \$ | 0.22 | \$ | 0.30 |
| Pro forma | \$ | 0.19 | \$ | 0.28 |
| Diluted earnings per common share: |  |  |  |  |
| As reported | \$ | 0.22 | \$ | 0.29 |
| Pro forma | \$ | 0.19 | \$ | 0.27 |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 27, } \\ 2004 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 29, } \\ 2003 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Net income-as reported | \$ | 23,548,940 | \$ | 31,025,203 |
| Add stock-based compensation expense included in net income, net of related tax effects |  |  |  |  |
| Less total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value method, net of related tax effects |  | 2,484,072 |  | 2,298,855 |
| Net income pro forma | \$ | 21,064,868 | \$ | 28,726,348 |
| Basic earnings per common share: |  |  |  |  |
| As reported | \$ | 0.64 | \$ | 0.83 |
| Pro forma | \$ | 0.58 | \$ | 0.77 |
| Diluted earnings per common share: |  |  |  |  |
| As reported | \$ | 0.64 | \$ | 0.81 |
| Pro forma | \$ | 0.57 | \$ | 0.75 |

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The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Option valuation models require the input of highly subjective assumptions, including the expected stock price volatility. As the Company s employee stock options have characteristics significantly different from those of traded options, and because changes in the subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimate, in management $s$ opinion the existing models do not necessarily provide a reliable single measure of the fair value of its employee stock options.

## NOTE 13 RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which replaces SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. SFAS No. 123(R) requires all share-based payment transactions, including stock options, restricted stock plans, performance-based awards, share appreciation rights and employee stock purchase plans, to be recognized as compensation expense in the financial statements. The cost will be measured based on the fair value of the equity or liability instruments issued. SFAS No. 123(R) is effective for the first interim or annual reporting period beginning after June 15, 2005. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this statement will have on its financial statements and anticipates adopting SFAS No. 123(R) during the third quarter of fiscal 2006.

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 152, Accounting for Real Estate Time-Sharing Transactions. SFAS No. 152 amends SFAS No 66, Accounting for Sales of Real Estate, and No. 67, Accounting for Costs and Initial Rental Operations of Real Estate Projects, to state that the guidance for (a) incidental operations and (b) costs incurred to sell real estate projects does not apply to real estate time-sharing transactions. Statement No. 152 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2005. The adoption of SFAS No. 152 is expected to have no impact on the Company s financial position or results of operations.

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 153, Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets, an amendment of APB Opinion No. 29, Accounting for Nonmonetary Transactions. SFAS No. 153 addresses the measurement of exchanges of nonmonetary assets and redefines the scope of transactions which should be measured based on the fair value of the assets exchanged. Statement No. 153 is effective for nonmonetary asset exchanges occurring in fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2005. The adoption of SFAS No. 153 is expected to have no impact on the Company s financial position or results of operations.

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## ITEM 2. <br> MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

## Overview

Christopher \& Banks Corporation is a Minneapolis-based retailer of women s specialty apparel, which operates stores through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Christopher \& Banks, Inc., Christopher \& Banks Company and Christopher \& Banks Services Company, collectively referred to as the Company. As of December 24, 2004, the Company operated 648 stores in 44 states including 472 Christopher \& Banks stores, 155 C.J. Banks stores and 21 Acorn stores. The Company s Christopher \& Banks stores offer distinctive fashions featuring exclusively designed, coordinated assortments of sportswear and sweaters in sizes four to 16 . The Company s C.J. Banks stores offer similar assortments of women s specialty apparel in sizes 14 W and up. Acorn stores offer upscale women s fashions along with complementary jewelry and accessories under private and branded labels.

On November 1, 2004, the Company acquired the assets and assumed certain liabilities of Gilmore Brothers Inc., a privately held women s specialty retailer operating stores under the name Acorn, for approximately $\$ 7.4$ million in cash. The Company funded the purchase from current cash balances and short-term investments. Of the $\$ 7.4$ million, $\$ 2.3$ million was placed in escrow to satisfy certain obligations of Gilmore Brothers, Inc. not assumed by the Company. The Company plans to continue to operate Acorn as a division of Christopher \& Banks, Inc.

As of December 24, 2004, Acorn operated 21 stores in nine states that offer upscale women s fashions along with complementary jewelry and accessories under private and branded labels. The Company believes the acquisition will provide a differentiated yet complementary third retail concept to its business, which will enhance strategic growth plans by allowing the Company to reach a more upscale customer. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting and accordingly, the results of operations of Acorn have been consolidated in the Company s financial statements from the date of acquisition.

In the first nine months of fiscal 2005, the Company opened 60 new Christopher \& Banks stores and 34 new C.J. Banks stores. The Company closed one store during the first nine months of fiscal 2005. The Company currently intends to open in excess of 100 new stores in fiscal 2006. However, in light of the Acorn acquisition and recent sales trends, the Company plans to review the number of stores it will open in fiscal 2006 during February 2005.

The Company s Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program in February 2004 enabling the Company to purchase up to $\$ 25.0$ million of its common stock, subject to market conditions. On June 28, 2004, the Company announced its Board of Directors authorized an increase in the stock repurchase program to $\$ 40.0$ million. As of November 27, 2004, the Company had repurchased $2,367,400$ shares of its common stock for a total cost, including commissions, of approximately $\$ 40.0$ million, effectively completing the repurchase program.

The common stock repurchased under the Company s most recent authorization is being held in treasury and reduced the number of shares of the Company s common stock outstanding by approximately $6 \%$. All of the Company s share repurchases were executed in the open market and no shares were repurchased from related parties. In addition, all of the Company s share repurchases were executed in accordance with the safe harbor provisions of Rule 10b-18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Depending on market conditions and the Company s cash position, the Company may participate in additional stock repurchase programs in the future.

Although the Company has not met revenue, gross margin or same-store sales growth targets consistent with the past, overall cash flows remain very strong. This has provided the Company the ability to continue to fund growth, including the Acorn acquisition, and to complete its stock repurchase program from cash flows from operations and current cash and short-term investment balances.

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## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates


#### Abstract

The Company s critical accounting policies are more fully described in Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained within the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K. Management s discussion and analysis of the Company sfinancial condition and results of operations are based upon the Company s Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.


#### Abstract

On an ongoing basis, the Company evaluates its estimates, including those related to customer product returns, inventories, income taxes, insurance claims and contingencies. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. There have been no material changes in the Company s critical accounting policies during the quarter or nine months ended November 27, 2004.


## Results of Operations

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, certain items from the Company s statement of income expressed as a percentage of net sales:

|  | Three Months Ended <br> November 27, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | November 29, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ | Nine Months Ended <br> November 29, <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net sales | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ |
| Cost of sales | 62.7 | 58.0 | 60.7 | 56.4 |
| Gross profit | 37.3 | 42.0 | 39.3 | 43.6 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 24.1 | 22.0 | 24.4 | 23.5 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Operating income | 10.4 | 17.2 | 11.8 | 17.2 |
| Interest income | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Income before income taxes | 10.6 | 17.3 | 12.0 | 17.4 |
| Income tax provision | 4.1 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 6.7 |
| Net income | $6.5 \%$ | $10.6 \%$ | $7.4 \%$ | $10.7 \%$ |

Three Months Ended November 27, 2004
Compared to Three Months Ended November 29, 2003

Net Sales. Net sales for the three months ended November 27, 2004 were $\$ 120.6$ million, an increase of $\$ 13.3$ million or $12.4 \%$, from $\$ 107.3$ million for the three months ended November 29, 2003. The increase in net sales resulted from an increase in the number of stores operated by the Company, partially offset by a $1 \%$ decline in same-store sales. The Company operated 648 stores at November 27, 2004, compared to 535 stores at November 29, 2003. The decline in same-store sales was primarily attributable to weakness in the Company s sweater business and a challenging retail

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## environment.

The Company s same-store sales data is calculated based on the change in net sales for stores that have been open for more than 13 full months and includes stores, if any, that have been relocated within the same mall. The Company typically does not expand or relocate stores within a mall. Stores where the square footage has changed by more than 25 percent are excluded from the same-store sales calculation. Stores closed during the year are included in the calculation of same-store sales only for the full months of the year that the stores were open.

Sales from the 21 Acorn stores acquired by the Company on November 1, 2004 will be excluded from the calculation of same-store sales until the Company has operated these stores for 13 full months.

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Gross Profit. Gross profit, which is net sales less the cost of merchandise, buying expenses and occupancy costs, was $\$ 45.0$ million, or $37.3 \%$ of net sales, during the third quarter of fiscal 2005 , compared to $\$ 45.1$ million, or $42.0 \%$ of net sales, during the same period in fiscal 2004. The decline in gross margin as a percent of net sales was mainly the result of a decrease in merchandise margins primarily due to higher markdowns, combined with negative leveraging of store rent expense. The negative leveraging of store rent expense resulted from a $1 \%$ decline in same-store sales combined with operating more stores in the third quarter of fiscal 2005 which were still in the buildup phase of their sales curve.

The Company s gross profit may not be comparable to that of other entities as some entities, such as the Company, include all costs related to their distribution network in cost of sales, while other entities exclude a portion of these expenses from cost of sales and include them in selling, general and administrative expenses.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses for the three months ended November 27, 2004 were $\$ 29.0$ million, or $24.1 \%$ of net sales, compared to $\$ 23.6$ million, or $22.0 \%$ of net sales, for the three months ended November 29, 2003. The increase in selling, general and administrative expenses as a percent of net sales was primarily the result of increases in store salaries expense, self-insured medical costs, and other expenses, which had negative leverage due to the Company s $1 \%$ decline in same-store sales.

Depreciation and Amortization. Depreciation and amortization was $\$ 3.5$ million, or $2.8 \%$ of net sales, in the third quarter of fiscal 2005, compared to $\$ 3.0$ million, or $2.8 \%$ of net sales, in the third quarter of fiscal 2004 . The increase in depreciation and amortization expense was a result of capital expenditures made during the past year. The Company opened 94 new stores and acquired 21 Acorn stores during the nine months ended November 27, 2004.

Operating Income. As a result of the foregoing factors, operating income for the quarter ended November 27, 2004 was $\$ 12.5$ million, or $10.4 \%$ of net sales, compared to operating income of $\$ 18.4$ million, or $17.2 \%$ of net sales, for the three months ended November 29, 2003.

Interest Income. For the three months ended November 27, 2004, interest income increased to \$189,629 from $\$ 149,747$ for the three months ended November 29, 2003. The increase was a result of higher interest rates on short-term investments in the third quarter of fiscal 2005 compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2004, offset by a lower average balance of short-term investments in the third quarter of fiscal 2005.

Income Taxes. Income tax expense in the third quarter of fiscal 2005 was $\$ 4.9$ million, with an effective tax rate of $38.6 \%$, compared to $\$ 7.2$ million, with an effective tax rate of $38.6 \%$, in the third quarter of fiscal 2004.

Net Income. As a result of the foregoing factors, net income for the three months ended November 27, 2004 was $\$ 7.8$ million, or $6.5 \%$ of net sales and $\$ 0.22$ per diluted share, compared to $\$ 11.4$ million, or $10.6 \%$ of net sales and $\$ 0.29$ per diluted share, for the three months ended November 29, 2003.

In the third quarter of fiscal 2005, diluted earnings of approximately $\$ 0.01$ per share can be attributed to the Company s repurchase of $2,367,400$ shares of its common stock in February 2004 and the first nine months of fiscal 2005.

Nine Months Ended November 27, 2004
Compared to Nine Months Ended November 29, 2003

Net Sales. Net sales for the nine months ended November 27, 2004 were $\$ 319.6$ million, an increase of $\$ 29.2$ million or $10 \%$, from $\$ 290.4$ million for the nine months ended November 29, 2003. The increase in net sales resulted from an increase in the number of stores operated by the Company, partially offset by a $4 \%$ decline in same-store sales. The Company operated 648 stores at November 27, 2004, compared to 535 stores at November 29, 2003. The $4 \%$ decline in same-store sales was primarily attributable to weakness in the Company s sweater business and a challenging retail environment.

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The Company s same-store sales data is calculated based on the change in net sales for stores that have been open for more than 13 full months and includes stores, if any, that have been relocated within the same mall. The Company typically does not expand or relocate stores within a mall. Stores where the square footage has changed by more than 25 percent are excluded from the same-store sales calculation. Stores closed during the year are included in the calculation of same-store sales only for the full months of the year that the stores were open.

Sales from the 21 Acorn stores acquired by the Company on November 1, 2004 will be excluded from the calculation of same-store sales until the Company has operated these stores for 13 full months.

Gross Profit. Gross profit, which is net sales less the cost of merchandise, buying expenses and occupancy costs, was $\$ 125.7$ million, or $39.3 \%$ of net sales, during the first nine months of fiscal 2005, compared to $\$ 126.6$ million, or $43.6 \%$ of net sales, during the same period in fiscal 2004. The decline in gross margin as a percent of net sales was mainly the result of negative leveraging of store rent expense, combined with a decrease in merchandise margins primarily due to higher markdowns. The negative leveraging of store rent expense resulted from a $4 \%$ decline in same-store sales combined with operating more stores in the first three quarters of fiscal 2005 which were still in the buildup phase of their sales curve.

The Company s gross profit may not be comparable to that of other entities as some entities, such as the Company, include all costs related to their distribution network in cost of sales, while other entities exclude a portion of these expenses from cost of sales and include them in selling, general and administrative expenses.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended November 27, 2004 were $\$ 78.1$ million, or $24.4 \%$ of net sales, compared to $\$ 68.1$ million, or $23.5 \%$ of net sales, for the nine months ended November 29, 2003. The increase in selling, general and administrative expenses as a percent of net sales was primarily the result of an increase in store salaries expense which had negative leverage due to the Company s $4 \%$ decline in same-store sales. Additionally, increases in self-insured medical costs and other expenses, partially offset by a decrease in bonus expense, contributed to negative leveraging of selling, general and administrative expense.

Depreciation and Amortization. Depreciation and amortization was $\$ 9.9$ million, or $3.1 \%$ of net sales, in the first nine months of fiscal 2005, compared to $\$ 8.5$ million, or $2.9 \%$ of net sales, in the first nine months of fiscal 2004. The increase in depreciation and amortization expense was a result of capital expenditures made during the past year. The Company opened 94 new stores and acquired 21 Acorn stores during the nine months ended November 27, 2004.

Operating Income. As a result of the foregoing factors, operating income for the nine months ended November 27, 2004 was $\$ 37.7$ million, or $11.8 \%$ of net sales, compared to operating income of $\$ 50.0$ million, or $17.2 \%$ of net sales, for the nine months ended November 29, 2003.

Interest Income. For the nine months ended November 27, 2004, interest income increased to $\$ 689,585$ from $\$ 548,357$ for the nine months ended November 29, 2003. The increase was due to slightly higher interest rates in the first nine months of fiscal 2005 compared to the first nine months of fiscal 2004.

Income Taxes. Income tax expense in the first nine months of fiscal 2005 was $\$ 14.8$ million, with an effective tax rate of $38.6 \%$, compared to $\$ 19.5$ million, with an effective tax rate of $38.6 \%$, in the first nine months of fiscal 2004.

Net Income. As a result of the foregoing factors, net income for the nine months ended November 27, 2004 was $\$ 23.5$ million, or $7.4 \%$ of net sales and $\$ 0.64$ per diluted share, compared to $\$ 31.0$ million, or $10.7 \%$ of net sales and $\$ 0.81$ per diluted share, for the nine months ended November 29, 2003.

In the first nine months of fiscal 2005, diluted earnings of approximately $\$ 0.02$ per share can be attributed to the Company s repurchase of 2,367,400 shares of its common stock in February 2004 and the first nine months of fiscal 2005.

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## Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company s principal on-going cash requirements are to finance the construction of new stores and the remodeling of certain existing stores, to purchase merchandise inventory and to fund other working capital requirements. Merchandise purchases vary on a seasonal basis, peaking in the fall. As a result, the Company s cash requirements historically reach their peak in October or November. Conversely, cash balances reach their peak in January, after the holiday season is completed.

Net cash provided by operating activities totaled $\$ 18.6$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2005. Net cash provided by investing activities of $\$ 9.3$ million included net redemptions of short-term investments of $\$ 36.8$ million, offset by $\$ 20.1$ million of capital expenditures and $\$ 7.4$ million of cash paid for the acquisition of 21 Acorn stores. The Company opened 94 new stores and completed 19 store remodels during the nine months ended November 27, 2004.

Net cash of $\$ 38.6$ million was used by the Company for financing activities in the first nine months of fiscal 2005. The Company repurchased $2,088,236$ shares of the Company s common stock at a total cost, including commissions, of approximately $\$ 35.4$ million during the nine months ended November 27, 2004. The common stock repurchased is being held in treasury. Certain directors, officers and key employees of the Company exercised stock options which provided approximately $\$ 1.2$ million of cash during the nine months ended November 27, 2004. In April, July and October 2004, the Company paid quarterly cash dividends which together totaled approximately $\$ 4.4$ million.

The Company plans to fund approximately $\$ 5$ million of capital expenditures during the last three months of fiscal 2005, most of which will relate to stores scheduled to open in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The Company currently intends to open in excess of 100 new stores in fiscal 2006. However, in light of the Acorn acquisition and recent sales trends, the Company plans to review the number of stores it will open in fiscal 2006 during February 2005. The Company expects its cash and short-term investments, combined with cash flows from operations, to be sufficient to meet its planned new store growth, capital expenditure, working capital and other requirements for liquidity during the remainder of fiscal 2005 and throughout fiscal 2006.

The Company maintains an Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Security Agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (the Wells Fargo Revolver ) which expires on June 30, 2006. The Wells Fargo Revolver provides the Company with revolving credit loans and letters of credit of up to $\$ 40.0$ million, subject to a borrowing base formula based on inventory levels.

In October 2004, the Wells Fargo Revolver was amended to allow, among other things, the formation of a new subsidiary, Christopher \& Banks Services Company, in conjunction with the acquisition of Acorn.

Loans under the Wells Fargo Revolver bear interest at Wells Fargo s base rate, 5\% as of November 27, 2004, plus 0.25\%. Interest is payable monthly in arrears. The Wells Fargo Revolver carries a facility fee of $0.25 \%$ based on the unused portion as defined in the agreement. Facility fees totaled $\$ 3,963$ for the nine months ended November 27, 2004. The credit facility is collateralized by the Company s equipment, general intangibles, inventory, inventory letters of credit and letter of credit rights. The Company had no revolving credit loan borrowings under the Wells Fargo Revolver during the first nine months of fiscal 2005. Historically, the Wells Fargo Revolver has been utilized by the Company only to open letters of credit to facilitate the import of merchandise. The borrowing base at November 27, 2004 was $\$ 35.5$ million. As of November 27, 2004, the Company had outstanding letters of credit in the amount of $\$ 17.6$ million. Accordingly, the availability of revolving credit loans under the Wells Fargo Revolver was $\$ 17.9$ million at November 27, 2004.

The Wells Fargo Revolver contains certain restrictive covenants including restrictions on incurring additional indebtedness and limitations on certain types of investments, as well as requiring the maintenance of certain financial covenants. As of November 27, 2004, the most recent measurement date, the Company was in compliance with all covenants of the Wells Fargo Revolver.

## Contractual Obligations

The following table summarizes the Company s contractual obligations as of November 27, 2004:

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The Company s contractual obligations include operating leases for each of its retail store locations and leased vehicles, and purchase obligations consisting of $\$ 17.6$ million of open purchase orders for goods currently in production with foreign suppliers. These open purchase orders are generally secured by letters of credit. As of November 27, 2004, the Company had no other contractual obligations relating to short or long-term debt, capital leases or non-cancelable purchase obligations. In addition, the Company had no contractual obligations relating to the other liabilities recorded on or off the Company s balance sheet under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As of November 27, 2004, the Company s other liabilities consisted of deferred rent, deferred revenue and deferred income taxes.

The Company has not created, and is not party to, any special-purpose or off-balance sheet entities for the purpose of raising capital, incurring debt or operating the Company s business. The Company does not have any arrangements or relationships with entities that are not consolidated into the financial statements that are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company s liquidity or the availability of capital resources.

The Company s related party transactions are limited to employment agreements with certain officers. In addition, the Company does not maintain any long-term or exclusive commitments or arrangements to purchase merchandise from any of its suppliers.

## Merchandise Sourcing

The Company directly imports approximately $96 \%$ of its total merchandise purchases. This reliance on sourcing from foreign countries may cause the Company to be exposed to certain risks. Import restrictions, including tariffs and quotas, and changes in such restrictions, could affect the import of apparel and might result in increased costs, delays in merchandise receipts or reduced supplies of apparel available to the Company and could possibly have an adverse effect on the Company s business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Company s merchandise flow could also be adversely affected by political instability in any of the countries where its merchandise is manufactured or by changes in the United States governmental policies toward such foreign countries. In addition, merchandise receipts could be delayed due to interruptions in air, ocean and ground shipments.

Substantially all of the Company s directly imported merchandise is manufactured in Southeast Asia. The majority of these goods are produced in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Singapore. The Company is not currently importing merchandise produced in the Middle East.

Based on discussions with its primary sourcing agent, the Company does not anticipate any significant disruption or delays in the production or shipment of merchandise resulting from the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which struck parts of Indonesia and other countries surrounding the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004.

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The Company purchased approximately $36 \%$ and $37 \%$ of its merchandise from its largest overseas supplier in the first nine months of fiscal 2005 and 2004, respectively. Although the Company believes that its relationship with this particular vendor is good, there can be no assurance that this relationship can be maintained in the future or that the vendor will continue to supply merchandise to the Company. If there should be any significant disruption in the supply of merchandise from this vendor, management believes that it can shift production to other suppliers so as to continue to secure the required volume of product. Nevertheless, there is some potential that any such disruption in supply could have a material adverse impact on the Company s financial position and results of operations.

Furthermore, on December 31, 2004, quota restrictions on the importing of apparel into the United States of America from foreign countries which are members of the World Trade Organization are expected to expire. The effect this quota expiration will have on global sourcing patterns is uncertain but is likely to continue retail price deflation. Management currently believes that the Company s sourcing strategy will allow the Company to adjust to potential shifts in availability of apparel following the expiration of these quotas.

## Quarterly Results and Seasonality

The Company s sales reflect seasonal variation as sales in the third and fourth quarters, which include the fall and holiday seasons, generally have been higher than sales in the first and second quarters. Sales generated during the fall and holiday seasons have a significant impact on the Company s annual results of operations. Quarterly results may fluctuate significantly depending on a number of factors including adverse weather conditions, shifts in the timing of certain holidays, timing of new store openings and customer response to the Company s seasonal merchandise mix.

## Inflation

Although the operations of the Company are influenced by general economic conditions, the Company does not believe that inflation had a material effect on its results of operations during the quarters and nine month periods ended November 27, 2004 and November 29, 2003.

## Forward Looking Information and Risk

Information contained in this Form 10-Q contains certain forward-looking statements which reflect the current view of the Company with respect to future events and financial performance. Wherever used, terminology such as may, will, expect , intend, plan , anticipate , estin continue, or the negative thereof, or other variations thereon or comparable terminology reflect such forward-looking statements.

There are certain important factors that could cause results to differ materially from those anticipated by some of these forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those matters discussed below and beginning on page 20 of the Company s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 13, 2004. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainty. The factors, among others, that could cause actual results to differ materially include: changes in general economic conditions, including recessionary effects which may affect consumers spending and debt levels; the Company s ability to execute its business plan including the successful expansion of its Christopher \& Banks, C.J. Banks and Acorn concepts; the Company s ability to open new stores on favorable terms and the timing of such store openings; the acceptance of the Company s merchandising strategies by its target customers; the ability of the Company to anticipate fashion trends and consumer

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preferences; the loss of one or more of the Company s key executives; continuity of a relationship with or purchases from major vendors, particularly those from whom the Company imports merchandise; timeliness of vendor production and deliveries; competitive pressures on sales and pricing; increases in other costs which cannot be recovered through improved pricing of merchandise; and the adverse effect of weather conditions from time to time on consumers ability or desire to purchase new clothing. Since the Company relies heavily on sourcing from foreign vendors, there are risks and uncertainties including transportation delays related to ocean, air and ground shipments, political instability, work stoppages, and changes in import and export controls including quota restrictions and the expiration thereof. The Company assumes no obligation to publicly update or revise its forward looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that may arise after the date of this Form 10-Q.

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## ITEM 3.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

The market risk inherent in the Company s financial instruments and in its financial position represents the potential loss arising from adverse changes in interest rates. The Company s results of operations could be negatively impacted by decreases in interest rates on its short-term investments.

The Company is potentially exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates relating to its Revolving Credit and Security Agreement with Wells Fargo Bank. Loans under the Wells Fargo Revolver bear interest at Wells Fargo s fluctuating base rate, 5\% as of November 27, 2004, plus $0.25 \%$. However, the Company had no revolving credit loan borrowings under the Wells Fargo Revolver during the first nine months of fiscal 2005 and, given its existing liquidity position, does not expect to utilize the Wells Fargo Revolver in the near future except for its continuing use of the import letter of credit facility.

All of the Company s purchase obligations with foreign suppliers are denominated in U.S. dollars. Therefore, the Company has only minimal exposure to foreign currency exchange risks. The Company does not hedge against foreign currency risks and believes that the foreign currency exchange risk is immaterial. The Company does not have any derivative financial instruments and does not hold any such instruments for trading purposes.

## ITEM 4.

## CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

## (a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

The Company s management, with the participation of its chief executive officer and chief financial officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company s disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act )) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on such evaluation, the Company s chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that, as of the end of such period, the Company s disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that the Company files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in applicable SEC rules and forms.
(b) Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

There have not been any changes in the Company s internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the three months ended November 27, 2004 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company s internal control over financial reporting.

## ITEM 1.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There are no material legal proceedings pending against the Company.

ITEM 2.
UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

On February 5, 2004, the Company announced its Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program enabling the Company to purchase up to $\$ 25$ million of its common stock, subject to market conditions. On June 28, 2004, the Company announced its Board of Directors authorized an increase in the stock repurchase program to $\$ 40$ million from $\$ 25$ million. The following table contains information regarding the Company s repurchases of its common stock pursuant to this repurchase program during each fiscal month of the quarterly period ended November 27, 2004:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased |  | Average <br> Price Paid per Share |  | Total Number of Shares <br> Purchased as Part of a Publicly Announced Program |  | Maximum <br> Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Program |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August 29, 2004 - <br> September 25, 2004 | 69,500 | \$ |  | 17.41 | 2,163,500 | \$ | 3.4 million |
| September 26, 2004 - <br> October 30, 2004 | 203,900 | \$ |  | 16.62 | 2,367,400 |  |  |
| October 31, 2004 - <br> November 27, 2004 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The Company s stock repurchase authorization was completed in October 2004 with total purchases under the program of $2,367,400$ shares for a total cost, including commissions, of approximately $\$ 40.0$ million.

All of the Company s share repurchases were executed in accordance with the safe harbor provisions of Rule $10 \mathrm{~b}-18$ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

ITEM 3.
DEFAULTS UPON
SENIOR SECURITIES

There has been no default with respect to any indebtedness of the Company.

ITEM 4.
SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO
A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the third quarter of fiscal 2005.

ITEM 5.
OTHER INFORMATION

None.

# Edgar Filing: CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORP - Form 10-Q <br> ITEM 6. <br> EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K 

(a) Exhibits:
31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

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Reports on Form 8-K:

On September 21, 2004, the Company filed a current report on Form 8-K with respect to the press release issued by the Company on September 21, 2004 disclosing material nonpublic information regarding the Company s results of operations for the quarter ended August 28, 2004.

On September 28, 2004, the Company filed a current report on Form 8-K with respect to the press release issued by the Company on September 28, 2004 announcing the Company s execution of a definitive agreement to acquire the assets of Gilmore Brothers, Inc.

On September 30, 2004, the Company filed a current report on Form 8-K with respect to the press release issued by the Company on September 30, 2004 disclosing material nonpublic information regarding the Company s sales for the month ended September 25, 2004.

## 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.

## CHRISTOPHER \& BANKS CORPORATION

Dated: January 6, 2005
By
/S/ WILLIAM J. PRANGE
William J. Prange
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Signing on behalf of the Registrant as principal executive officer.

By
/S/ ANDREW K. MOLLER
Andrew K. Moller Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Signing on behalf of the Registrant as principal financial officer.

