

Edgar Filing: CULP INC - Form 8-K

CULP INC  
Form 8-K  
June 16, 2004

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

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Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934

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Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) June 16, 2004

CULP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |                       |                                      |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| North Carolina                                    | 0-12781               | 56-1001967                           |
| (State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation) | (Commission File No.) | (IRS Employer<br>Identification No.) |

101 South Main Street  
High Point, North Carolina 27260  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
(336) 889-5161  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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Exhibits

Item 7 -- Exhibits

99(a) News Release dated June 16, 2004

99(b) Financial Information Release dated June 16, 2004

Item 12 -- Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On June 16, 2004, Culp, Inc. (the "Registrant" or the "company") issued a news release to announce its financial results for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended May 2, 2004. The news release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99(a).

Also on June 16, 2004, the Registrant released a Financial Information Release containing additional financial information and disclosures about the Registrant's fiscal year May 2, 2004. The Financial Information Release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99(b).

The news release and Financial Information Release contain disclosures about free cash flow, a non-GAAP performance measure, that management believes provides useful information to investors because it measures the company's available cash flow for potential debt repayment, stock repurchases and additions to cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. In addition, the news release and Financial Information Release contain proforma income statements which reconcile the reported income statements with proforma results, which exclude restructuring and related charges and credits, expenses related to early extinguishment of debt, and cumulative effect of accounting change. The company has included this proforma information in order to show operational performance excluding the effects of restructuring charges and credits, accounting rule changes and expenses related to early debt repayment that are not expected to occur on a regular basis. Management believes this presentation aids in the comparison of financial results among comparable financial periods.

Forward Looking Information. This Report and the exhibits attached hereto contain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the federal securities laws, including the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 27A of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934). Such statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties. Further, forward looking statements are intended to speak only as of the date on which they are made. Forward-looking statements are statements that include projections, expectations or beliefs about future events or results or otherwise are not statements of historical fact. Such statements are often but not always characterized by qualifying words such as "expect," "believe," "estimate," "plan" and "project" and their derivatives, and include but are not limited to statements about expectations for the company's future sales, gross profit margins, SG&A or other expenses, and earnings, as well as any statements regarding the company's view of estimates of the company's future results by analysts. Factors that could

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influence the matters discussed in such statements include the level of housing starts and sales of existing homes, consumer confidence, trends in disposable income, and general economic conditions. Decreases in these economic indicators could have a negative effect on the company's business and prospects. Likewise, increases in interest rates, particularly home mortgage rates, and increases in consumer debt or the general rate of inflation, could affect the company adversely. In addition, strengthening of the U. S. dollar against other currencies could make the company's products less competitive on the basis of price in markets outside the United States. Also, economic and political instability in international areas could affect the company's operations or sources of goods in those areas, as well as demand for the company's products in international markets. Finally, unanticipated delays or costs in executing restructuring actions could cause the cumulative effect of restructuring actions to fail to meet the objectives set forth by management. Other factors that could affect the matters discussed in forward looking statements are included in the company's periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### SIGNATURE

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 hereunto duly authorized.

CULP, INC.  
(Registrant)

By: Franklin N. Saxon  
-----  
President and Chief Operating  
Officer

Dated: June 16, 2004

### CULP ANNOUNCES YEAR-END FISCAL 2004 RESULTS

HIGH POINT, N.C. (June 16, 2004) - Culp, Inc. (NYSE: CFI) today reported financial and operating results for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended May 2, 2004. The highlights for the quarter and fiscal year include:

- o Gross profit margin of 18.4% for the quarter and 18.3% for the fiscal year
- o Mattress ticking sales up 9.4% for the quarter and nearly 7.0% for the fiscal year
- o Debt-to-capital ratio reduced to 33.0%, the lowest level for Culp since fiscal 1993

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- o Free cash flow of \$15.4 million for the fiscal year

For the three months ended May 2, 2004, net sales were \$85.1 million, a 5.8% decrease compared with \$90.4 million a year ago. The company reported net income of \$3.7 million, or \$0.32 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. The results for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 include a credit of \$1.0 million, or \$0.06 per diluted share, related to the company's restructuring reserves. Excluding this amount, net income for the fourth fiscal quarter of fiscal 2004 was \$0.26 per diluted share. The company reported net income of \$3.3 million, or \$0.28 per diluted share, including restructuring and related charges for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003. The financial results for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003 include a total of \$1.0 million in restructuring and related charges included in cost of sales. Excluding these charges, net income for the fourth fiscal quarter of 2003 was \$3.9 million, or \$0.33 per diluted share. (A reconciliation to the net income and earnings per share calculations and free cash flow has been set forth on Page 5.)

For the fiscal year ended May 2, 2004, the company reported net sales of \$318.1 million, a 6.3% decrease compared with \$339.6 million for the same period a year ago. Net income for fiscal 2004 was \$7.2 million, or \$0.61 per diluted share, compared with a net loss of \$24.9 million, or \$2.17 per diluted share, including restructuring charges and the cumulative effect of accounting change, for fiscal 2003. Excluding the credit for the company's restructuring reserves described above, and a charge of \$1.7 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, in the third fiscal quarter related to the early extinguishment of debt, net income for fiscal 2004 was \$7.6 million, or \$0.65 per diluted share. Excluding restructuring and related charges and the cumulative effect of accounting change, net income for fiscal 2003 was \$9.0 million, or \$0.77 per diluted share.

"As previously announced, our fourth quarter performance reflects lower-than-expected sales of upholstery fabrics," remarked Robert G. Culp, III, chief executive officer of Culp, Inc. "This segment continues to face demand pressure from both the current consumer preference for leather furniture as well as competition from imported fabrics, including cut and sewn kits. Given the lower sales volume, gross profit margin for this segment declined to 16.8% in the fourth quarter compared with 18.3% in the prior year period, excluding restructuring related charges. To enhance our competitive position, we are aggressively pursuing offshore sourcing initiatives, including the development of our China operations. As a result, we are significantly increasing sales of upholstery fabrics produced outside of the company's U.S. manufacturing plants.

"Our mattress ticking business has continued to gain momentum throughout fiscal 2004. Sales in this segment were up 9.4% for the fourth quarter and nearly 7.0% for the fiscal year, due to better industry demand and continued gains with key customers. These gains reflect Culp's design leadership, exceptional customer service and low cost operations. This growth trend is particularly meaningful in light of the bedding industry's ongoing transition to selling predominantly one-sided mattresses, which utilize about one-third less fabric. We expect that the mattress ticking business will account for an increasing percentage of the company's overall sales and profitability in fiscal 2005.

"Strengthening our balance sheet has been an important focus for Culp in fiscal 2004," Culp continued. "With the \$25.0 million prepayment on \$75.0 million of outstanding senior notes in the third fiscal quarter, our long-term debt now stands at \$50.5 million compared with \$76.0 million a year ago. Notably, we have reduced our long-term debt by a total of \$86.0 million over the past four years. As a result, our long-term debt-to-capital ratio improved to 33.0% at the end of fiscal 2004, compared with 44.4% a year ago. As such, we have considerably improved our financial position and have greater financial flexibility to pursue our strategic initiatives."

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Commenting on the business outlook, Culp added, "The first quarter of our fiscal year, which includes the summer months, is typically the slowest period for Culp and the furniture industry due in part to scheduled plant vacation shutdowns. In addition, in fiscal 2005, our first fiscal quarter will be 13 weeks versus 14 weeks last year. We are seeing a definite slowdown in orders reflecting weaker retail activity throughout the furniture industry. Given these factors, we expect our consolidated sales for the first quarter will show a greater year-over-year decline than we experienced this past quarter. We believe the upholstery fabrics segment will continue to be affected by competitive factors and expect sales in this segment to decline by a greater amount than the fourth quarter decline of 11.6%. Sales in our mattress ticking segment are expected to approximate sales for the prior year quarter.

Based on these sales expectations and lower gross profit in the upholstery fabrics segment, and considering the seasonal slowdown and industry conditions, we expect to report a net loss of \$0.08 to \$0.13 per share diluted for the first fiscal quarter of 2005. The actual results will depend primarily upon the level of demand throughout the quarter. We remain optimistic that upholstery fabric sales will start to pick up in the fall, as is seasonally typical in the furniture industry. However, if sales continue to be under pressure in the upholstery fabrics segment, we are prepared to take the necessary actions to adjust our cost structure and capacity, as we have demonstrated in recent years. We believe the continued strength in our mattress ticking business, our focused efforts to develop offshore sourcing initiatives, and our proven ability to generate free cash flow are fundamental competitive advantages for Culp as we enter fiscal 2005."

Culp, Inc. is one of the world's largest marketers of upholstery fabrics for furniture and is a leading marketer of mattress ticking for bedding. The Company's fabrics are used principally in the production of residential and commercial furniture and bedding products.

This release contains statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the federal securities laws, including the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 27A of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934). Such statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties. Further, forward-looking statements are intended to speak only as of the date on which they are made. Forward-looking statements are statements that include projections, expectations or beliefs about future events or results or otherwise are not statements of historical fact. Such statements are often but not always characterized by qualifying words such as "expect," "believe," "estimate," "plan" and "project" and their derivatives, and include but are not limited to statements about expectations for the company's future sales, gross profit margins, SG&A or other expenses, and earnings, as well as any statements regarding the company's view of estimates of the company's future results by analysts. Factors that could influence the matters discussed in such statements include the level of housing starts and sales of existing homes, consumer confidence, trends in disposable income, and general economic conditions. Decreases in these economic indicators could have a negative effect on the company's business and prospects. Likewise, increases in interest rates, particularly home mortgage rates, and increases in consumer debt or the general rate of inflation, could affect the company adversely. In addition, strengthening of the U. S. dollar against other currencies could make the company's products less competitive on the basis of price in markets outside the United States. Also, economic and political instability in international areas could affect the company's operations or sources of goods in those areas, as well as demand for the company's products in international markets. Finally, unanticipated delays or costs in executing restructuring actions could cause the cumulative effect of restructuring actions to fail to meet the objectives set forth by management. Other factors that could affect the matters discussed in

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forward-looking statements are included in the company's periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### CULP, INC. Condensed Financial Highlights (Unaudited)

|  | Three Months Ended |                   |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
|  | May 2,<br>2004     | April 27,<br>2003 |
| Net sales  | \$ 85,148,000      | \$ 90,406,000     |
| Net income   | \$ 3,733,000       | \$ 3,272,000      |
| Net income per share:  |                    |                   |
| Basic  | \$ 0.32            | \$ 0.28           |
| Diluted  | \$ 0.32            | \$ 0.28           |
| Net income per share, diluted, excluding restructuring and related charges and credits and early extinguishment of debt* | \$ 0.26            | \$ 0.33           |
| Average shares outstanding:  |                    |                   |
| Basic  | 11,531,000         | 11,496,000        |
| Diluted  | 11,815,000         | 11,616,000        |
| Fiscal Year Ended  |                    |                   |
|  | May 2,<br>2004     | April 27,<br>2003 |
| Net sales  | \$318,116,000      | \$339,646,000     |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change  | \$ 7,220,000       | \$ (736,000)      |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of income taxes  | --                 | (24,151,000)      |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 7,220,000       | \$ (24,887,000)   |
| Basic income (loss) per share:   |                    |                   |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change  | \$ 0.63            | \$ (0.06)         |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change   | 0.00               | (2.11)            |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 0.63            | \$ (2.17)         |
| Diluted income (loss) per share:   |                    |                   |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change  | \$ 0.61            | \$ (0.06)         |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change   | 0.00               | (2.11)            |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 0.61            | \$ (2.17)         |
| Net income per share, diluted, excluding restructuring and related charges and credits, early                            |                    |                   |

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extinguishment of debt and cumulative effect  
of accounting change\*\*

|  |    |      |    |      |
|--|----|------|----|------|
|  | \$ | 0.65 | \$ | 0.77 |
|--|----|------|----|------|

Average shares outstanding:

|         |            |            |
|---------|------------|------------|
| Basic   | 11,525,000 | 11,462,000 |
| Diluted | 11,777,000 | 11,462,000 |

\* Excludes credit for restructuring reserves of \$1.0 million (\$701,000, or \$0.06 per diluted share, after taxes) for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. Excludes restructuring and related charges of \$1.0 million (\$601,000, or \$0.05 per diluted share, after taxes) for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003.

\*\* Excludes credit for restructuring reserves of \$1.0 million (\$701,000, or \$0.06 per diluted share, after taxes) for fiscal 2004. Excludes charge for early extinguishment of debt of \$1.7 million (\$1.1 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, after taxes) for fiscal 2004. Excludes cumulative effect of accounting change, net of income taxes, of \$24.2 million (\$2.11 per diluted share) for fiscal 2003. Excludes restructuring and related charges of \$15.9 million (\$9.7 million, or \$0.85 per diluted share, after taxes) for fiscal 2003.

### CULP, INC.

#### Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) as Reported to Pro Forma Net Income (Unaudited)

|   | Three Months Ended  |                     | Fiscal Year Ended   |                     |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | May 2,<br>2004      | April 27,<br>2003   | May 2,<br>2004      | April 27,<br>2003   |
| Net income (loss), as reported                                      | \$ 3,733,000        | \$ 3,272,000        | \$ 7,220,000        | \$(24,887,000)      |
| Cumulative effect of<br>accounting change, net of<br>income taxes   | --                  | --                  | --                  | 24,151,000          |
| Restructuring and related charges<br>(credits), net of income taxes | (701,000)           | 601,000             | (701,000)           | 9,714,000           |
| Early extinguishment of debt,<br>net of income taxes                | --                  | --                  | 1,120,000           | --                  |
| Pro forma net income  | <u>\$ 3,032,000</u> | <u>\$ 3,873,000</u> | <u>\$ 7,639,000</u> | <u>\$ 8,978,000</u> |

#### Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) Per Share as Reported to Pro Forma Net Income Per Share (Unaudited)

|   |         |         |         |           |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Diluted net income (loss) per<br>share                              | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.28 | \$ 0.61 | \$ (2.17) |
| Cumulative effect of<br>accounting change, net of<br>income taxes   | --      | --      | --      | 2.11      |
| Restructuring and related charges<br>(credits), net of income taxes | (0.06)  | 0.05    | (0.06)  | 0.85      |
| Early extinguishment of debt,<br>net of income taxes                | --      | --      | 0.10    | --        |

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|  |         |         |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Effect of dilutive stock options       | --      | --      | 0.00    | (0.02)  |
| Diluted net income per share, adjusted | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.65 | \$ 0.77 |

Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations to Free Cash Flow  
(Unaudited)

|   | Fiscal Year Ended |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
|   | May 2, 2004       | April 27, 2003 |
| Cash flow from operations                       | \$25,352,000      | \$31,129,000   |
| Capital expenditures                            | (5,976,000)       | (6,830,000)    |
| Change in accounts payable-capital expenditures | (3,932,000)       | (1,294,000)    |
| Free cash flow                                  | \$15,444,000      | \$23,005,000   |

Exhibit 99(b)

CULP, INC. FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (LOSS)  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS AND TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003

(Amounts in Thousands, Except for Per Share Data)

|  | THREE MONTH |                |                   |
|--|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
|  | Amounts     |                | % Over<br>(Under) |
|  | May 2, 2004 | April 27, 2003 |                   |
| Net sales                                    | \$ 85,148   | 90,406         | (5.8) %           |
| Cost of sales                                | 69,510      | 74,218         | (6.3) %           |
| Gross profit                                 | 15,638      | 16,188         | (3.4) %           |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 9,925       | 10,324         | (3.9) %           |
| Restructuring credit                         | (1,047)     | (25)           | N/A               |
| Income from operations                       | 6,760       | 5,889          | 14.8 %            |
| Interest expense                             | 988         | 1,392          | (29.0) %          |
| Interest income                              | (20)        | (182)          | (89.0) %          |
| Other expense                                | 220         | 160            | 37.5 %            |
| Income before income taxes                   | 5,572       | 4,519          | 23.3 %            |
| Income taxes*                                | 1,839       | 1,247          | 47.5 %            |



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|   |    |        |        |          |
|---|----|--------|--------|----------|
| Net income  | \$ | 3,733  | 3,272  | 14.1 %   |
| Net income per share-basic  |    | \$0.32 | \$0.28 | 14.3 %   |
| Net income per share-diluted  |    | \$0.32 | \$0.28 | 14.3 %   |
| Net income per share, diluted,<br>excluding restructuring and related<br>charges (see proforma statement on page 6) |    | \$0.26 | \$0.33 | (21.2) % |
| Average shares outstanding-basic  |    | 11,531 | 11,496 | 0.3 %    |
| Average shares outstanding-diluted  |    | 11,815 | 11,616 | 1.7 %    |

TWELVE MONTHS

|  |    | Amounts        |                   | % Over<br>(Under) |
|--|----|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  |    | May 2,<br>2004 | April 27,<br>2003 |                   |
| Net sales  | \$ | 318,116        | 339,646           | (6.3) %           |
| Cost of sales  |    | 259,794        | 282,073           | (7.9) %           |
| Gross profit   |    | 58,322         | 57,573            | 1.3 %             |
| Selling, general and<br>administrative expenses                |    | 41,019         | 40,040            | 2.4 %             |
| Restructuring (credit) expense                                 |    | (1,047)        | 12,981            | (108.1) %         |
| Income from operations   |    | 18,350         | 4,552             | 303.1 %           |
| Interest expense   |    | 5,528          | 6,636             | (16.7) %          |
| Interest income  |    | (376)          | (596)             | (36.9) %          |
| Early extinguishment of debt                                   |    | 1,672          | 0                 | 100.0 %           |
| Other expense  |    | 750            | 805               | (6.8) %           |
| Income (loss) before income taxes                              |    | 10,776         | (2,293)           | 570.0 %           |
| Income taxes*  |    | 3,556          | (1,557)           | 328.4 %           |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of<br>accounting change |    | 7,220          | (736)             | 1,081.0 %         |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of<br>income taxes |    | 0              | (24,151)          |                   |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ | 7,220          | (24,887)          |                   |
| Basic income (loss) per share:                                 |    |                |                   |                   |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of<br>accounting change | \$ | 0.63           | (0.06)            | 1,075.6 %         |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change                         |    | 0.00           | (2.11)            | 100.0 %           |

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|  |    |        |        |         |   |
|--|----|--------|--------|---------|---|
| Net income (loss)  | \$ | 0.63   | (2.17) | 128.9   | % |
| Diluted income (loss) per share:   |    |        |        |         |   |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change  | \$ | 0.61   | (0.06) | 1,054.7 | % |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change   |    | 0.00   | (2.11) | 100.0   | % |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ | 0.61   | (2.17) | 128.2   | % |
| Net income per share, diluted, excluding restructuring and related charges and credits, early extinguishment of debt and cumulative effect of accounting change (see proforma statement on page 7) |    |        |        |         |   |
|  |    | \$0.65 | \$0.77 | (15.6)  | % |
| Average shares outstanding-basic   |    | 11,525 | 11,462 | 0.5     | % |
| Average shares outstanding-diluted   |    | 11,777 | 11,462 | 2.7     | % |

\* Percent of sales column for income taxes is calculated as a % of income (loss) before income

CULP, INC. FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003  
(unaudited)  
(Amounts in Thousands)

|                                      | Amounts             |                        | Incre<br>(Decre<br>Dollars |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | May 2, 2004<br>2004 | April 27, 2003<br>2003 |                            |
| Current assets                       |                     |                        |                            |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | \$ 14,568           | 14,355                 | 213                        |
| Short-term investments               | 0                   | 10,043                 | (10,043)                   |
| Accounts receivable                  | 30,719              | 32,259                 | (1,540)                    |
| Inventories                          | 49,045              | 49,552                 | (507)                      |
| Deferred income taxes                | 9,256               | 12,303                 | (3,047)                    |
| Other current assets                 | 1,634               | 3,204                  | (1,570)                    |
| Total current assets                 | 105,222             | 121,716                | (16,494)                   |
| Property, plant & equipment, net     | 77,770              | 84,962                 | (7,192)                    |
| Goodwill                             | 9,240               | 9,240                  | 0                          |
| Other assets                         | 1,496               | 2,235                  | (739)                      |
| Total assets                         | \$ 193,728          | 218,153                | (24,425)                   |
| Current liabilities                  |                     |                        |                            |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | \$ 528              | 500                    | 28                         |
| Accounts payable                     | 15,323              | 19,874                 | (4,551)                    |
| Accrued expenses                     | 13,028              | 14,071                 | (1,043)                    |

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|  |            |         |          |
|--|------------|---------|----------|
| Accrued restructuring                      | 4,968      | 7,743   | (2,775)  |
| Income taxes payable                       | 1,850      | 349     | 1,501    |
|  | -----      | -----   | -----    |
| Total current liabilities                  | 35,697     | 42,537  | (6,840)  |
| Long-term debt                             | 50,502     | 76,000  | (25,498) |
| Deferred income taxes                      | 4,138      | 3,851   | 287      |
|  | -----      | -----   | -----    |
| Total liabilities                          | 90,337     | 122,388 | (32,051) |
| Shareholders' equity                       | 103,391    | 95,765  | 7,626    |
|  | -----      | -----   | -----    |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 193,728 | 218,153 | (24,425) |
|  | =====      | =====   | =====    |
| Shares outstanding                         | 11,547     | 11,515  | 32       |
|  | =====      | =====   | =====    |

CULP, INC. FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003  
(unaudited)

(Amounts in Thousands)

|  | TWELVE MONTHS ENDED |                   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | Amounts             |                   |
|  | May 2,<br>2004      | April 27,<br>2003 |
|  | -----               | -----             |
| Cash flows from operating activities:  |                     |                   |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 7,220            | (24,887)          |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: |                     |                   |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of income taxes                              | 0                   | 24,151            |
| Depreciation   | 13,642              | 13,990            |
| Amortization of other assets   | 173                 | 457               |
| Stock-based compensation   | 210                 | 210               |
| Provision for deferred income taxes  | 3,334               | (2,507)           |
| Restructuring (credit) expense   | (1,047)             | 12,981            |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:   |                     |                   |
| Accounts receivable  | 1,540               | 11,107            |
| Inventories  | 507                 | 8,347             |
| Other current assets   | 1,570               | 763               |
| Other assets   | 607                 | 366               |
| Accounts payable   | (951)               | (8,558)           |
| Accrued expenses   | (1,043)             | (2,126)           |
| Accrued restructuring  | (1,911)             | (3,514)           |
| Income taxes payable   | 1,501               | 349               |
|  | -----               | -----             |
| Net cash provided by operating activities  | 25,352              | 31,129            |
|  | -----               | -----             |

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|   |           |          |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Cash flows from investing activities:               |           |          |
| Capital expenditures                                | (5,976)   | (6,830)  |
| Purchases of short-term investments                 | 0         | (10,043) |
| Proceeds from the sale of short-term investments    | 10,043    | 0        |
|   | -----     | -----    |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | 4,067     | (16,873) |
|   | -----     | -----    |
| Cash flows from financing activities:               |           |          |
| Payments on vendor-financed capital expenditures    | (3,932)   | (1,294)  |
| Principal payments of long-term debt                | (25,470)  | (31,984) |
| Proceeds from common stock issued                   | 196       | 1,384    |
|   | -----     | -----    |
| Net cash used in financing activities               | (29,206)  | (31,894) |
|   | -----     | -----    |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents    | 213       | (17,638) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year      | 14,355    | 31,993   |
|   | -----     | -----    |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year            | \$ 14,568 | 14,355   |
|   | =====     | =====    |
| Free Cash Flow (1)                                  | \$ 15,444 | 23,005   |
|   | =====     | =====    |

(1) Free Cash Flow reconciliation is as follows:

|  | FY 2004 | FY 2003 |
|--|---------|---------|
|  | -----   | -----   |
| A) Net cash provided by operating activities               | 25,352  | 31,129  |
| B) Minus: Capital Expenditures                             | (5,976) | (6,830) |
| C) Minus: Payments on vendor-financed capital expenditures | (3,932) | (1,294) |
|  | -----   | -----   |
|  | 15,444  | 23,005  |
|  | =====   | =====   |

CULP, INC. FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE  
 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS  
 MAY 2, 2004

|                           | FISCAL 03 |       |       |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
|                           | -----     | ----- | ----- |
|                           | Q4        | Q1    | Q2    |
|                           | -----     | ----- | ----- |
| INVENTORIES               |           |       |       |
| Inventory turns           | 5.7       | 5.0   | 5.1   |
| RECEIVABLES               |           |       |       |
| Days sales in receivables | 33        | 32    | 34    |

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|   |              |           |           |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| WORKING CAPITAL                                     |              |           |           |
| Current ratio                                       | 2.9          | 3.1       | 2.9       |
| Operating working capital turnover (1)              | 5.0          | 5.1       | 5.3       |
| Operating working capital (1)                       | \$61,937     | \$54,854  | \$61,262  |
| PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT                         |              |           |           |
| Depreciation rate                                   | 6.3%         | 6.2%      | 6.3%      |
| Percent property, plant & equipment are depreciated | 61.3%        | 62.3%     | 62.9%     |
| Capital expenditures                                | \$12,229 (2) | \$1,781   | \$1,360   |
| LEVERAGE  |              |           |           |
| Total liabilities/equity                            | 127.8%       | 124.7%    | 128.0%    |
| Long-term debt/equity                               | 79.9%        | 80.3%     | 77.7%     |
| Long-term debt/capital employed (3)                 | 44.4%        | 44.5%     | 43.7%     |
| Long-term debt                                      | \$76,500     | \$76,551  | \$76,616  |
| OTHER   |              |           |           |
| Book value per share                                | \$8.33       | \$8.28    | \$8.55    |
| Employees at quarter end                            | 2,463        | 2,383     | 2,373     |
| Sales per employee (annualized)                     | \$144,421    | \$121,628 | \$139,161 |
| Capital employed (3)                                | \$172,265    | \$171,891 | \$175,221 |

(1) Working capital for this calculation is accountsreceivable, inventories and accounts payable

(2) Expenditures for entire year

(3) Capital employed represents long-term debt plus stockholders equity; Long-term debt is long maturities of long-term debt.

CULP, INC. FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE  
 SALES / GROSS PROFIT BY SEGMENT/DIVISION  
 FOR THE THREE AND TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003

(Amounts in thousands)

| Segment/Division Sales (1) | THREE MONTHS ENDED (UNANNUALIZED) |                |          |      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------|------|
|                            | Amounts                           |                | % Over   | May  |
|                            | May 2, 2004                       | April 27, 2003 | (Under)  | 2003 |
| Upholstery Fabrics         |                                   |                |          |      |
| Culp Decorative Fabrics    | \$ 31,511                         | 37,006         | (14.8) % | 3    |
| Culp Velvets/Prints        | 25,429                            | 26,772         | (5.0) %  | 2    |
| Culp Yarn                  | 1,008                             | 1,757          | (42.6) % |      |
|                            | 57,948                            | 65,535         | (11.6) % | 6    |
| Mattress Ticking           |                                   |                |          |      |
| Culp Home Fashions         | 27,200                            | 24,871         | 9.4 %    | 3    |
|                            | \$ 85,148                         | 90,406         | (5.8) %  | 10   |
| Segment Gross Profit       |                                   |                |          |      |

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|   |    |        |        |           |   |
|---|----|--------|--------|-----------|---|
| Upholstery Fabrics                            | \$ | 9,755  | 10,999 | (11.3) %  | 1 |
| Restructuring related charges                 |    | 0      | 1,008  | (100.0) % |   |
| Pro forma Upholstery Fabrics gross profit (2) |    | 9,755  | 12,007 | (18.8) %  | 1 |
| Mattress Ticking                              |    | 5,883  | 5,189  | 13.4 %    | 2 |
| Pro forma gross profit                        | \$ | 15,638 | 17,196 | (9.1) %   | 1 |

TWELVE MONTHS ENDED (UN

| Segment/Division Sales (1)                    | Amounts        |                   |                   |             |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
|   | May 2,<br>2004 | April 27,<br>2003 | % Over<br>(Under) | May<br>2003 |
| Upholstery Fabrics                            |                |                   |                   |             |
| Culp Decorative Fabrics                       | \$ 119,514     | 137,479           | (13.1) %          | 3           |
| Culp Velvets/Prints                           | 87,522         | 96,049            | (8.9) %           | 2           |
| Culp Yarn                                     | 4,758          | 6,459             | (26.3) %          |             |
| Mattress Ticking                              | 211,794        | 239,987           | (11.7) %          | 6           |
| Culp Home Fashions                            | 106,322        | 99,659            | 6.7 %             | 3           |
|   | \$ 318,116     | 339,646           | (6.3) %           | 10          |
| Segment Gross Profit                          |                |                   |                   |             |
| Upholstery Fabrics                            | \$ 34,946      | 34,737            | 0.6 %             | 1           |
| Restructuring related charges                 | 0              | 2,918             | (100.0) %         |             |
| Pro forma Upholstery Fabrics gross profit (2) | 34,946         | 37,655            | (7.2) %           | 1           |
| Mattress Ticking                              | 23,376         | 22,836            | 2.4 %             | 2           |
| Pro forma gross profit                        | \$ 58,322      | 60,491            | (3.6) %           | 1           |

(1) International Sales and portion of total sales is: Q4 - \$9.3 million FY04 (11.0%) & \$10.1 million FY03 (11.1%)  
YTD - \$35.4 million FY04 (11.1%) & \$39.9 million FY03 (11.8%)

(2) Pro forma includes \$1.0 and \$2.9 million of restructuring related charges from the shut down of the Culp Home Fashions segment for the three and twelve month period of fiscal 2003, respectively.

CULP, INC.  
PROFORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003  
(Amounts in Thousands, Except for Per Share Data)

THREE MONTHS ENDED

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|  | As Reported | % of   | Adjustments | % of  | May 2, 2004 | Proforma   |
|--|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------|------------|
|  | May 2,      | Sales  |             | Sales | 2004        | of Adjustm |
|  | 2004        |        |             |       |             | of Adjustm |
| Net sales                                    | \$ 85,148   | 100.0% | 0           |       | 85,148      | 85,148     |
| Cost of sales                                | 69,510      | 81.6%  | 0           | 0.0%  | 69,510      | 69,510     |
| Gross profit                                 | 15,638      | 18.4%  | 0           | 0.0%  | 15,638      | 15,638     |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 9,925       | 11.7%  | 0           | 0.0%  | 9,925       | 9,925      |
| Restructuring credit                         | (1,047)     | -1.2%  | 1,047       | 1.2%  | (2)         | 0          |
| Income from operations                       | 6,760       | 7.9%   | 1,047       | 1.2%  |             | 5,713      |
| Interest expense                             | 988         | 1.2%   | 0           | 0.0%  |             | 988        |
| Interest income                              | (20)        | 0.0%   | 0           | 0.0%  |             | (20)       |
| Other expense                                | 220         | 0.3%   | 0           | 0.0%  |             | 220        |
| Income before income taxes                   | 5,572       | 6.5%   | 1,047       | 1.2%  |             | 4,525      |
| Income taxes (1)                             | 1,839       | 33.0%  | 346         | 33.0% |             | 1,493      |
| Net income (loss)                            | \$ 3,733    | 4.4%   | 701         | 0.8%  |             | 3,032      |
| Net income (loss) per share-basic            | \$0.32      |        | \$0.06      |       |             | \$0.26     |
| Net income (loss) per share-diluted          | \$0.32      |        | \$0.06      |       |             | \$0.26     |
| Average shares outstanding-basic             | 11,531      |        | 11,531      |       |             | 11,531     |
| Average shares outstanding-diluted           | 11,815      |        | 11,815      |       |             | 11,815     |

CULP, INC.  
PROFORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003  
(Amounts in Thousands, Except for Per Share Data)

|  | As Reported | % of   | Adjustments | % of  | April 27, 2003 | Proforma |
|--|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|----------------|----------|
|  | April 27,   | Sales  |             | Sales | 2003           | of A     |
|  | 2003        |        |             |       |                | of A     |
| Net sales                                    | \$ 90,406   | 100.0% | 0           |       | 90,406         | 90,406   |
| Cost of sales                                | 74,218      | 82.1%  | (1,008)     | -1.1% | (3)            | 73,210   |
| Gross profit                                 | 16,188      | 17.9%  | (1,008)     | -1.1% |                | 15,180   |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 10,324      | 11.4%  | 0           | 0.0%  |                | 10,324   |
| Restructuring credit                         | (25)        | 0.0%   | 25          | 0.0%  | (4)            | 0        |
| Income from operations                       | 5,889       | 6.5%   | (983)       | -1.1% |                | 4,906    |
| Interest expense                             | 1,392       | 1.5%   | 0           | 0.0%  |                | 1,392    |
| Interest income                              | (182)       | -0.2%  | 0           | 0.0%  |                | (182)    |
| Other expense                                | 160         | 0.2%   | 0           | 0.0%  |                | 160      |

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|                                     |          |       |          |       |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Income before income taxes          | 4,519    | 5.0%  | (983)    | -1.1% |
| Income taxes (1)                    | 1,247    | 27.6% | (382)    | 38.9% |
| Net income (loss)                   | \$ 3,272 | 3.6%  | (601)    | -0.7% |
| Net income (loss) per share-basic   | \$0.28   |       | (\$0.05) |       |
| Net income (loss) per share-diluted | \$0.28   |       | (\$0.05) |       |
| Average shares outstanding-basic    | 11,496   |       | 11,496   |       |
| Average shares outstanding-diluted  | 11,616   |       | 11,496   |       |

Notes:

- (1) The percent of net sales column for income taxes is calculated as a % of income (loss) before income taxes.
- (2) The \$1.0 million restructuring credit represents adjustment of accrued employee benefit and to the shutdown of the Chattanooga and Lumberton operations.
- (3) The \$1.0 million represents restructuring related charges for inventory markdowns and movement to the Chattanooga plant closing.
- (4) The net \$25,000 credit represents the sale of manufacturing equipment that was previously written down to the Chattanooga plant closing.

CULP, INC.  
PROFORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (LOSS)  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003  
(Amounts in Thousands, Except for Per Share Data)

|   | TWELVE MONTHS ENDED |        |             |
|---|---------------------|--------|-------------|
|   | As Reported         | % of   | Adjustments |
|   | May 2,<br>2004      | Sales  |             |
| Net sales   | \$ 318,116          | 100.0% | 0           |
| Cost of sales   | 259,794             | 81.7%  | 0           |
| Gross profit  | 58,322              | 18.3%  | 0           |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                | 41,019              | 12.9%  | 0           |
| Restructuring credit  | (1,047)             | -0.3%  | 1,047       |
| Income (loss) from operations                               | 18,350              | 5.8%   | 1,047       |
| Interest expense  | 5,528               | 1.7%   | 0           |
| Interest income   | (376)               | -0.1%  | 0           |
| Early extinguishment of debt                                | 1,672               | 0.5%   | (1,672)     |
| Other expense   | 750                 | 0.2%   | 0           |
| Income (loss) before income taxes                           | 10,776              | 3.4%   | (625)       |
| Income taxes (1)  | 3,556               | 33.0%  | (206)       |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change | 7,220               | 2.3%   | (419)       |

Cumulative effect of accounting change,



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|  |    |        |        |
|--|----|--------|--------|
| net of income taxes  |    | 0      |        |
|  |    | -----  | -----  |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ | 7,220  | (419)  |
|  |    | =====  | =====  |
| Basic income (loss) per share:                                 |    |        |        |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect<br>of accounting change | \$ | 0.63   | (0.04) |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change                         |    | 0.00   | 0.00   |
|  |    | -----  | -----  |
| Net income (loss)  |    | 0.63   | (0.04) |
|  |    | =====  | =====  |
| Diluted income (loss) per share:                               |    |        |        |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect<br>of accounting change | \$ | 0.61   | (0.04) |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change                         |    | 0.00   | 0.00   |
|  |    | -----  | -----  |
| Net income (loss)  |    | 0.61   | (0.04) |
|  |    | =====  | =====  |
| Average shares outstanding-basic                               |    | 11,525 | 11,525 |
| Average shares outstanding-diluted                             |    | 11,777 | 11,525 |

CULP, INC.  
PROFORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (LOSS)  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 2, 2004 AND APRIL 27, 2003  
(Amounts in Thousands, Except for Per Share Data)

|   | TWELVE MONTHS ENDED (UN |        |             |       |
|---|-------------------------|--------|-------------|-------|
|   | As Reported             | % of   | Adjustments | % of  |
|   | April 27,<br>2003       | Sales  |             | Sales |
|   | -----                   | -----  | -----       | ----- |
| Net sales                                       | \$ 339,646              | 100.0% | 0           |       |
| Cost of sales                                   | 282,073                 | 83.0%  | (2,918)     | -0.9% |
|   | -----                   | -----  | -----       | ----- |
| Gross profit                                    | 57,573                  | 17.0%  | (2,918)     | -0.9% |
| Selling, general and<br>administrative expenses | 40,040                  | 11.8%  | 0           | 0.0%  |
| Restructuring expense                           | 12,981                  | 3.8%   | (12,981)    | -3.8% |
|   | -----                   | -----  | -----       | ----- |
| Income (loss) from operations                   | 4,552                   | 1.3%   | (15,899)    | -4.7% |
| Interest expense                                | 6,636                   | 2.0%   | 0           | 0.0%  |
| Interest income                                 | (596)                   | -0.2%  | 0           | 0.0%  |
| Early extinguishment of debt                    | 0                       | 0.0%   | 0           | 0.0%  |
| Other expense                                   | 805                     | 0.2%   | 0           | 0.0%  |
|   | -----                   | -----  | -----       | ----- |
| Income (loss) before income taxes               | (2,293)                 | -0.7%  | (15,899)    | -4.7% |

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|   |           |       |          |       |
|---|-----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Income taxes (1)  | (1,557)   | 67.9% | (6,185)  | 38.9% |
|   | -----     | ----- | -----    | ----- |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change | \$ (736)  | -0.2% | (9,714)  | -2.9% |
|   | -----     | ----- | -----    | ----- |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of income taxes | (24,151)  |       | (24,151) |       |
|   | -----     |       | -----    |       |
| Net income (loss)   | (24,887)  |       | (33,865) |       |
|   | =====     |       | =====    |       |
| Basic income (loss) per share:                              |           |       |          |       |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change | \$ (0.06) |       | (\$0.85) |       |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change                      | (2.11)    |       | 2.11     |       |
|   | -----     |       | -----    |       |
| Net income (loss)   | (2.17)    |       |          |       |
|   | =====     |       |          |       |
| Diluted income (loss) per share:                            |           |       |          |       |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change | \$ (0.06) |       | (0.85)   |       |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change                      | (2.11)    |       | 2.11     |       |
|   | -----     |       | -----    |       |
| Net income (loss)   | (2.17)    |       |          |       |
|   | =====     |       |          |       |
| Average shares outstanding-basic                            | 11,462    |       | 11,462   |       |
| Average shares outstanding-diluted                          | 11,462    |       | 11,462   |       |

Notes:

- (1) The percent of net sales column for income taxes is calculated as a % of income (loss) before accounting change.
- (2) The \$1.0 million restructuring credit represents adjustment of accrued employee benefit and to the shutdown of the Chattanooga and Lumberton operations.
- (3) The \$1.7 million charge represents premium and fees paid to reduce the private placement loss.
- (4) The \$2.9 million represents restructuring related charges for inventory markdowns and movement of Chattanooga plant closing.
- (5) The \$13.0 million represents restructuring charges for the shut down of the Chattanooga operations, including an additional write-down of wet printed assets held for sale, \$1.3 million, offset by a restructuring credit over accrued employee benefit and plant security costs.

CULP, INC. FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE  
FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

for the three and twelve months ended May 2, 2004 and April 27, 2003

OVERVIEW

Highlights for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended May 2, 2004, include:

Gross profit margin of 18.4% for the quarter and 18.3% for the fiscal year

Mattress ticking sales up 9.4% for the quarter and nearly 7.0% for the fiscal year

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Debt-to-capital ratio reduced to 33.0%, the lowest level for Culp since fiscal 1993

Free cash flow of \$15.4 million for the fiscal year

GENERAL -- For the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, net sales decreased 5.8% to \$85.1 million; and the company reported net income of \$3.7 million, or \$0.32 per share diluted, compared with net income of \$3.3 million, or \$0.28 per share diluted, in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003. Excluding restructuring credits, earnings for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 were \$3.0 million, or \$0.26 per share diluted, versus net income of \$3.9 million, or \$0.33 per share diluted, in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003. For fiscal 2004 as a whole, net sales decreased 6.3% to \$318.1 million; and the company reported net income of \$7.2 million, or \$0.61 per share diluted, versus a net loss before cumulative effect of accounting change of \$736,000, or \$0.06 per share diluted, a year ago. Including the cumulative effect of accounting change, the company reported a loss of \$2.17 per share for fiscal 2003. Excluding restructuring credits and charges for early extinguishment of debt, net income for fiscal 2004 was \$7.6 million, or \$0.65 per share diluted, versus \$9.0 million, or \$0.77 per share diluted, for fiscal 2003.

### INCOME STATEMENT COMMENTS

UPHOLSTERY FABRICS SEGMENT (See page 5 - Sales and Gross Profit by Segment)

Net Sales -- Upholstery fabric sales for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 decreased 11.6% to \$57.9 million when compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003, primarily reflecting a decline in orders in the Culp Decorative Fabrics (CDF) division related to consumer preference for leather and competition from imported fabrics, including cut and sewn kits.

With the company's offshore sourcing efforts, including the China platform, the company is experiencing higher sales of upholstery fabric products produced outside of the company's U.S. manufacturing plants. These sales, which include microdenier suedes, accounted for approximately 10.7% of upholstery fabric sales for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, more than double the percentage from the year earlier quarter.

Upholstery fabric yards sold during the fourth quarter were 13.3 million versus 16.0 million in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2003, a decline of 16.9%. Average selling price was \$4.23 per yard for the fourth quarter compared with \$3.98 per yard in the same quarter of last year, an increase of 6.3%, due primarily to higher average selling prices in the Culp Decorative Fabrics division.

Gross Profit -- Gross profit for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 was \$9.8 million, or 16.8% margin, versus \$11.0 million, or 16.8% margin, for the same quarter of last year. Excluding restructuring related charges of \$1.0 million, which were included in cost of sales in last year's fourth quarter, gross profit dollars and margins were \$12.0 million and 18.3%, respectively. The decrease in gross profit and margins primarily reflects lower sales volume within CDF, coupled with lower capacity utilization.

China Operations -- During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, the company began incoming fabric inspection and testing, and started shipping fabric to customers. Finishing operations also began in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. As expected, the company experienced modest operating losses in its China operation during the current fiscal year.

MATTRESS TICKING SEGMENT (See page 5 - Sales and Gross Profit by Segment)

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Net Sales -- Mattress ticking sales for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 increased 9.4% to \$27.2 million, due to better industry demand and continued gains with key customers. The 6.7% fiscal year sales gain in this segment is especially noteworthy because it occurred during the bedding industry's transition to selling predominantly one-sided mattresses, which utilize about one-third less mattress ticking. This transition at retail began in late calendar year 2002 and is expected to continue through early calendar year 2005.

Mattress ticking yards sold during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 were 11.6 million compared with 10.1 million yards in the fourth quarter of last year. The average selling price was \$2.33 per yard for the fourth quarter, compared to \$2.45 per yard in the same quarter last year.

Gross Profit -- For the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, the mattress ticking segment reported gross profit dollars and margins of \$5.9 million and 21.6%, respectively, compared with \$5.2 million and 20.9% for the same period of last year. The loss in margin due to a lower average selling price was more than offset by improved operating efficiencies and lower fixed costs.

SG&A EXPENSES -- SG&A expenses of \$9.9 million for the fourth quarter decreased approximately \$399,000, or 3.9%, from the prior year amount. As a percent of net sales, SG&A expenses increased slightly to 11.7% from 11.4% the previous year, due to higher professional fees and lower sales.

INTEREST EXPENSE AND INTEREST INCOME -- Interest expense for the fourth quarter declined to \$988,000 from \$1.4 million the previous year due to lower borrowings outstanding. Interest income decreased to \$20,000 from \$182,000 the previous year due to lower interest rates earned in fiscal 2004 and lower invested balances.

INCOME TAXES -- The effective tax rate (taxes as a percentage of pretax income (loss)) for fiscal 2004 was 33.0% compared with 67.9% for fiscal 2003. The higher rate for the prior period reflects the increased tax benefits related to the company's loss in the U.S. resulting from the restructuring charges recorded in the second quarter of fiscal 2003. Excluding the cumulative effect of accounting change and restructuring and related charges, the effective tax rate for fiscal 2003 was 34.0%.

### BALANCE SHEET COMMENTS

CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS - Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments as of May 2, 2004 decreased to \$14.6 million from \$24.4 million at the end of fiscal 2003, reflecting free cash flow of \$15.4 million for fiscal 2004, and the \$25 million prepayment of the company's \$75 million outstanding senior notes (see additional discussion of free cash flow and debt below).

WORKING CAPITAL -- Accounts receivable as of May 2, 2004 decreased 4.8% from the year-earlier level, principally due to lower sales volume. Days sales outstanding totaled 33 days at May 2, 2004, the same as for the same period last fiscal year. Inventories at the close of the fourth quarter decreased 1.0% from a year ago. Inventory turns for the fourth quarter were 5.5 versus 5.7 for the year-earlier period. Operating working capital (comprised of accounts receivable, inventories and trade accounts payable) was \$64.4 million at May 2, 2004, up from \$61.9 million a year ago.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT -- Capital spending for fiscal 2004 was \$6.7 million, including approximately \$3.0 million for manufacturing equipment and leasehold improvements related to the China operation. This compares with capital spending of \$12.2 million in fiscal 2003. Depreciation was \$13.6 million

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compared to \$14.0 million for fiscal 2003. For fiscal 2005, the company anticipates capital expenditures to be approximately \$9.0 million, and expects depreciation to be comparable to fiscal 2004.

**INTANGIBLE ASSETS** -- As of May 2, 2004, \$9.2 million in goodwill is the company's only intangible asset. As of April 29, 2002, the company adopted SFAS No. 142 and recognized an impairment charge of \$37.6 million (\$24.2 million net of taxes of \$13.4 million) during the first quarter of fiscal 2003. The remaining goodwill is comprised of \$4.1 million related to the mattress ticking segment, and \$5.1 million related to CDF, which is part of the upholstery fabrics segment.

**LONG-TERM DEBT** -- The company's long-term debt of \$51.0 million is unsecured and is comprised of \$50.0 million in outstanding senior notes, with a fixed interest rate of 7.76%, and a \$1.0 million, non-interest bearing term loan with the Canadian government. Additionally, the company has a \$15.0 million revolving credit line with a bank, of which no balance is outstanding at May 2, 2004. The bank agreement expires in August 2004. The first scheduled principal payment on the \$50 million term loan is due March 2006 in the amount of \$7.5 million. The Canadian government loan is repaid in annual installments of approximately \$500,000 per year. The company was in compliance with all financial covenants in its loan agreements as of May 2, 2004.

### FREE CASH FLOW COMMENTS

Free cash flow (see reconciliation on page 3 of this release) was \$15.4 million for fiscal 2004, compared with \$23.0 million for the same period last year. This decrease is primarily due to less cash flow generated from working capital and higher payments on vendor-financed capital expenditures.

### BUSINESS OUTLOOK

The first quarter of fiscal 2005 will include 13 weeks versus 14 weeks for the same quarter last year. The first quarter of the company's fiscal year, which includes the summer months, is typically the slowest period for Culp and the furniture industry due to scheduled plant vacation shutdowns. The company is experiencing a definite slowdown in orders as a result of weaker retail activity throughout the furniture industry. Given these factors, the company expects that first quarter consolidated sales, as compared to the same quarter last year, will decrease more than the 5.8% experienced in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. Mattress ticking segment sales are expected to approximate the sales in the same quarter of last year. Upholstery fabric segment sales are expected to decline from the same quarter of last year more than the 11.6% experienced in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, due primarily to softness in incoming orders for CDF.

Based on these sales expectations and the lower gross profit in the upholstery fabrics segment, and considering the seasonal slowdown and industry conditions, the company expects to report a net loss in the range of \$0.08 to \$0.13 per diluted share for the first quarter of fiscal 2005, with actual results primarily depending upon the level of demand throughout the quarter.

Management remains optimistic that upholstery fabric sales will start to pick up in the fall, as is seasonally typical in the furniture industry. However, if sales continue to be under pressure in the upholstery fabrics segment, management is prepared to take the necessary actions to adjust the company's cost structure and rationalize capacity, as has been demonstrated in recent years. Management believes that the continued strength in the mattress ticking business, the focused efforts to develop offshore sourcing initiatives and proven ability to generate free cash flow are fundamental competitive advantages for Culp.

