

AMERICAN GREETINGS CORP

Form 10-Q

January 07, 2009

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended November 28, 2008

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-13859

AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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| | |
|---|--|
| Ohio (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | 34-0065325 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |
| One American Road, Cleveland, Ohio (Address of principal executive offices) | 44144 (Zip Code) |
| (216) 252-7300 (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 No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

| | |
|--|--|
| Large accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) | Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

As of January 5, 2009, the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock was:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Class A Common | 41,916,908 |
| Class B Common | 3,495,241 |

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AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION

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Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****(Thousands of dollars except share and per share amounts)**

| | (Unaudited) | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Net sales | \$ 444,527 | \$ 475,015 | \$ 1,242,932 | \$ 1,258,909 |
| Other revenue | 9,557 | 10,751 | 25,287 | 24,309 |
| Total revenue | 454,084 | 485,766 | 1,268,219 | 1,283,218 |
| Material, labor and other production costs | 223,214 | 223,329 | 586,668 | 547,509 |
| Selling, distribution and marketing expenses | 159,819 | 159,420 | 465,081 | 444,700 |
| Administrative and general expenses | 50,841 | 60,875 | 170,564 | 179,461 |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets impairment | 242,889 | | 242,889 | |
| Other operating income net | (491) | (127) | (1,329) | (807) |
| Operating (loss) income | (222,188) | 42,269 | (195,654) | 112,355 |
| Interest expense | 6,634 | 4,835 | 16,973 | 14,431 |
| Interest income | (947) | (2,122) | (2,835) | (5,855) |
| Other non-operating expense (income) net | 792 | (4,582) | (2,726) | (7,478) |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations before income tax (benefit) expense | (228,667) | 44,138 | (207,066) | 111,257 |
| Income tax (benefit) expense | (35,356) | 15,018 | (29,385) | 43,499 |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | (193,311) | 29,120 | (177,681) | 67,758 |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax | | (104) | | (317) |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (193,311) | \$ 29,016 | \$ (177,681) | \$ 67,441 |
| (Loss) earnings per share basic: | | | | |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | \$ (4.25) | \$ 0.53 | \$ (3.75) | \$ 1.23 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | | | | (0.01) |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (4.25) | \$ 0.53 | \$ (3.75) | \$ 1.22 |
| (Loss) earnings per share assuming dilution: | | | | |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | \$ (4.25) | \$ 0.52 | \$ (3.75) | \$ 1.22 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | | | | (0.01) |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (4.25) | \$ 0.52 | \$ (3.75) | \$ 1.21 |

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| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Average number of shares outstanding | 45,460,385 | 55,022,689 | 47,343,640 | 55,350,736 |
| Average number of shares outstanding assuming dilution | 45,460,385 | 55,466,351 | 47,343,640 | 55,726,990 |
| Dividends declared per share | \$ 0.12 | \$ 0.10 | \$ 0.36 | \$ 0.30 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

(Thousands of dollars)

| | (Unaudited) November 28, 2008 | (Note 1) February 29, 2008 | (Unaudited) November 23, 2007 |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 55,604 | \$ 123,500 | \$ 71,117 |
| Trade accounts receivable, net | 163,463 | 61,902 | 205,709 |
| Inventories | 246,596 | 216,671 | 239,209 |
| Deferred and refundable income taxes | 62,490 | 72,280 | 76,568 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 182,803 | 195,017 | 213,534 |
| Total current assets | 710,956 | 669,370 | 806,137 |
| Goodwill | 56,965 | 285,072 | 267,308 |
| Other assets | 408,677 | 420,219 | 391,460 |
| Deferred and refundable income taxes | 166,269 | 133,762 | 111,959 |
| Property, plant and equipment at cost | 966,088 | 974,073 | 975,832 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 671,180 | 678,068 | 684,213 |
| Property, plant and equipment net | 294,908 | 296,005 | 291,619 |
| | \$ 1,637,775 | \$ 1,804,428 | \$ 1,868,483 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Debt due within one year | \$ 247,945 | \$ 42,790 | \$ 46,490 |
| Accounts payable | 135,002 | 123,713 | 131,190 |
| Accrued liabilities | 78,607 | 79,345 | 89,818 |
| Accrued compensation and benefits | 35,184 | 68,669 | 58,969 |
| Income taxes payable | 36,686 | 29,037 | 31,255 |
| Other current liabilities | 106,436 | 108,867 | 96,896 |
| Total current liabilities | 639,860 | 452,421 | 454,618 |
| Long-term debt | 200,684 | 200,518 | 200,975 |
| Other liabilities | 148,320 | 181,720 | 151,094 |
| Deferred income taxes and noncurrent income taxes payable | 17,229 | 26,358 | 31,877 |
| Shareholders' equity | | | |
| Common shares - Class A | 41,917 | 45,324 | 49,929 |
| Common shares - Class B | 3,495 | 3,434 | 3,442 |
| Capital in excess of par value | 447,958 | 445,696 | 443,326 |
| Treasury stock | (918,826) | (872,949) | (780,044) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income | (48,334) | 21,244 | 22,982 |
| Retained earnings | 1,105,472 | 1,300,662 | 1,290,284 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 631,682 | 943,411 | 1,029,919 |

\$ 1,637,775 \$ 1,804,428 \$ 1,868,483

See notes to consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

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AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(Thousands of dollars)

| | (Unaudited) Nine Months Ended | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (177,681) | \$ 67,441 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | | 317 |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | (177,681) | 67,758 |
| Adjustments to reconcile (loss) income from continuing operations to cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets impairment | 242,889 | |
| Net loss (gain) on disposal of fixed assets | 642 | (481) |
| Depreciation and amortization | 37,732 | 36,016 |
| Deferred income taxes | (32,726) | (7,994) |
| Other non-cash charges | 8,053 | 5,719 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions and dispositions: | | |
| Trade accounts receivable | (115,268) | (99,267) |
| Inventories | (45,394) | (49,911) |
| Other current assets | 10,486 | 18,199 |
| Deferred costs net | 6,023 | 29,338 |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | (17,452) | 38,419 |
| Other net | (1,468) | 4,768 |
| Total Cash Flows From Operating Activities | (84,164) | 42,564 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from sale of short-term investments | | 692,985 |
| Purchases of short-term investments | | (692,985) |
| Property, plant and equipment additions | (44,320) | (37,394) |
| Cash payments for business acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (15,625) | (51,256) |
| Cash receipts related to discontinued operations | | 4,283 |
| Proceeds from sale of fixed assets | 278 | 2,656 |
| Other net | (44,153) | |
| Total Cash Flows From Investing Activities | (103,820) | (81,711) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Reduction of long-term debt | (22,509) | |
| Net increase in short-term debt | 227,845 | 23,800 |
| Sale of stock under benefit plans | 494 | 26,198 |
| Purchase of treasury shares | (51,190) | (74,572) |
| Dividends to shareholders | (17,116) | (16,657) |
| Total Cash Flows From Financing Activities | 137,524 | (41,231) |
| DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS: | | |
| Operating cash flows from discontinued operations | | (59) |
| Total Cash Flows From Discontinued Operations | | (59) |

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| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH | (17,436) | 6,841 |
| DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (67,896) | (73,596) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year | 123,500 | 144,713 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period | \$ 55,604 | \$ 71,117 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)****Three and Nine Months Ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007****Note 1 Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of American Greetings Corporation and its subsidiaries (the Corporation) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary to fairly present financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the periods have been included.

The Corporation's fiscal year ends on February 28 or 29. References to a particular year refer to the fiscal year ending in February of that year. For example, 2008 refers to the year ended February 29, 2008.

These interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Corporation's financial statements and notes thereto included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 29, 2008, from which the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position at February 29, 2008, presented herein, has been derived. During the fourth quarter of 2008, it was determined that the Corporation's entertainment development and production joint venture no longer met all of the criteria necessary to be classified as held for sale in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 144 (SFAS 144), Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets. As a result, this business unit has been reclassified into continuing operations for all periods presented. In addition, certain other amounts in the prior year financial statements have also been reclassified to conform to the 2009 presentation. These reclassifications had no material impact on earnings or cash flows.

During the quarter ended November 28, 2008, the Corporation incurred certain charges and recorded certain benefits that do not have comparative amounts in the prior year period. The net impact to the current quarter was additional expense of \$242.7 million. The Corporation recorded an estimated goodwill and other intangible assets impairments of \$232.3 million and \$10.6 million, respectively, severance expense of \$7.0 million associated with the elimination of approximately 275 positions as part of a cost reduction effort and fixed asset impairment charges of \$3.9 million in the Retail Operations segment. Partially offsetting these charges was a reduction of variable compensation expense of \$11.1 million. The fixed assets in the Retail Operations segment were tested for impairment as a result of weak performance in certain retail stores and reductions in future cash flow forecasts. The impairment charges for both the fixed assets and other intangible assets were recorded in accordance with SFAS 144. Refer to Note 9 for further information on the goodwill and other intangible assets impairment charges.

The current period net expense impacted the Consolidated Statement of Operations as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| (In millions) | |
| Material, labor and other production costs | \$ 1.5 |
| Selling, distribution and marketing expenses | 7.1 |
| Administrative and general expenses | (8.8) |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets impairment | 242.9 |
| | \$ 242.7 |

The current period net expense impacted the Corporation's reportable segments as follows:

| | |
|---|----------|
| (In millions) | |
| North American Social Expression Products | \$ (0.1) |
| International Social Expression Products | 81.8 |

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| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Retail Operations | 4.3 |
| AG Interactive | 161.2 |
| Non-reportable | 0.5 |
| Unallocated | (5.0) |
| | \$ 242.7 |

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Note 2 Seasonal Nature of Business

A significant portion of the Corporation's business is seasonal in nature. Therefore, the results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results for the fiscal year taken as a whole.

Note 3 Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued SFAS No. 157 (SFAS 157), Fair Value Measurements, which provides a definition of fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires expanded disclosures about fair value measurements. In November 2007, the FASB deferred the effective date of SFAS 157 for non-financial assets and liabilities until fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. SFAS 157 is still effective for the Corporation in fiscal 2009 for financial assets and liabilities. The Corporation adopted SFAS 157 for financial assets and liabilities on March 1, 2008. In October 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position FAS 157-3 (FSP 157-3), Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active, which clarifies the application of SFAS 157 when the market for a financial asset is not active and provides an example to illustrate key considerations in determining the fair value of a financial asset when the market for that financial asset is not active. FSP 157-3 became effective upon issuance, including prior periods for which financial statements have not been issued. See Note 13.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159 (SFAS 159), The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. SFAS 159 allows companies to choose to measure financial instruments and certain other financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. SFAS 159 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. SFAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Corporation adopted SFAS 159 on March 1, 2008 and elected not to measure any additional financial instruments or other items at fair value.

In April 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position FAS 142-3 (FSP 142-3), Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets. FSP 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS No. 142 (SFAS 142), Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. The intent of FSP 142-3 is to improve the consistency between the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS 142 and the period of expected cash flows used to measure the fair value of the asset under other U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). FSP 142-3 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is prohibited. The guidance for determining the useful life of a recognized intangible asset shall be applied prospectively to intangible assets acquired after the effective date. Certain disclosure requirements shall be applied prospectively to all intangible assets recognized as of, and subsequent to, the effective date.

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 162 (SFAS 162), The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The new standard is intended to improve financial reporting by identifying a consistent framework for selecting accounting principles to be used in preparing financial statements that are presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP for nongovernmental entities. SFAS 162 is effective 60 days following the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's related amendments to remove the GAAP hierarchy from auditing standards, where it has previously resided. The Corporation does not expect the adoption of SFAS 162 to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Note 4 Other Income and Expense**

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Other operating income net | \$ (491) | \$ (127) | \$ (1,329) | \$ (807) |
| Foreign exchange loss (gain) | \$ 1,207 | \$ (4,054) | \$ (1,673) | \$ (6,323) |
| Rental income | (275) | (274) | (1,087) | (949) |
| Miscellaneous | (140) | (254) | 34 | (206) |
| Other non-operating expense (income) net | \$ 792 | \$ (4,582) | \$ (2,726) | \$ (7,478) |

Miscellaneous includes, among other things, gains and losses on fixed asset disposals.

Note 5 (Loss) Earnings Per Share

The following table sets forth the computation of (loss) earnings per share and (loss) earnings per share assuming dilution:

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Numerator (in thousands): | | | | |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | \$ (193,311) | \$ 29,120 | \$ (177,681) | \$ 67,758 |
| Denominator (in thousands): | | | | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 45,460 | 55,023 | 47,344 | 55,351 |
| Effect of dilutive securities: | | | | |
| Stock options and other | | 443 | | 376 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding assuming dilution | 45,460 | 55,466 | 47,344 | 55,727 |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations per share | \$ (4.25) | \$ 0.53 | \$ (3.75) | \$ 1.23 |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations per share assuming dilution | \$ (4.25) | \$ 0.52 | \$ (3.75) | \$ 1.22 |

For the three and nine month periods ended November 28, 2008, all options outstanding (totaling approximately 6.8 million) were excluded from the computation of earnings per share-assuming dilution, as the effect would have been antidilutive due to the net loss in the period. Had the Corporation reported income for the respective periods, approximately 6.5 million and 6.0 million stock options outstanding in the three and nine month periods ended November 28, 2008, respectively, would have been excluded from the computation of earnings per share-assuming dilution because the options exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares during the respective periods. Approximately 1.3 million and 1.7 million stock options outstanding in the three and nine month periods ended November 23, 2007, respectively, were excluded from the computation of earnings per share-assuming dilution because the options exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares during the respective periods.

Table of Contents**Note 6 Comprehensive (Loss) Income**

The Corporation's total comprehensive (loss) income is as follows:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (193,311) | \$ 29,016 | \$ (177,681) | \$ 67,441 |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income: | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | (39,544) | 11,614 | (70,800) | 23,318 |
| Pension and other postretirement benefit plans, net of tax | 288 | 678 | 82 | 678 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on securities, net of tax | 633 | | 1,140 | (1) |
| Total comprehensive (loss) income | \$ (231,934) | \$ 41,308 | \$ (247,259) | \$ 91,436 |

Note 7 Trade Accounts Receivable, Net

Trade accounts receivable are reported net of certain allowances and discounts. The most significant of these are as follows:

| (In thousands) | November 28, 2008 | February 29, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allowance for seasonal sales returns | \$ 68,835 | \$ 59,626 | \$ 77,717 |
| Allowance for outdated products | 11,895 | 21,435 | 23,135 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 4,295 | 3,778 | 5,402 |
| Allowance for cooperative advertising and marketing funds | 29,166 | 33,662 | 35,939 |
| Allowance for rebates | 45,700 | 41,435 | 49,915 |
| | \$ 159,891 | \$ 159,936 | \$ 192,108 |

Note 8 Inventories

| (In thousands) | November 28, 2008 | February 29, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Raw materials | \$ 18,010 | \$ 17,701 | \$ 16,211 |
| Work in process | 8,839 | 10,516 | 12,646 |
| Finished products | 276,928 | 244,379 | 265,013 |
| | 303,777 | 272,596 | 293,870 |
| Less LIFO reserve | 84,883 | 82,085 | 81,945 |
| | 218,894 | 190,511 | 211,925 |
| Display materials and factory supplies | 27,702 | 26,160 | 27,284 |
| | \$ 246,596 | \$ 216,671 | \$ 239,209 |

The valuation of inventory under the Last-In, First-Out (LIFO) method is made at the end of each fiscal year based on inventory levels and costs at that time. Accordingly, interim LIFO calculations, by necessity, are based on estimates of expected fiscal year-end inventory levels and costs and are subject to final fiscal year-end LIFO inventory calculations.

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Inventory held on location for retailers with scan-based trading arrangements totaled approximately \$45 million, \$32 million and \$36 million as of November 28, 2008, February 29, 2008 and November 23, 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents**Note 9 Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets**

In accordance with SFAS 142, the Corporation is required to evaluate the carrying value of its goodwill for potential impairment on an annual basis or an interim basis if there are indicators of potential impairment. Due to the recent deterioration in the global economic environment and resulting significant decrease in the Corporation's market capitalization, combined with significant decreases in reported market values of comparable, unrelated companies, indicators emerged within the AG Interactive segment, which is also the reporting unit for SFAS 142 purposes, and one reporting unit located in the United Kingdom within the International Social Expression Products segment (the UK Reporting Unit) that led the Corporation to conclude that a SFAS 142 impairment test was required to be performed during the third quarter for goodwill in these reporting units.

Within the AG Interactive segment, there were the following three primary indicators: (1) a substantial decline in advertising revenues; (2) the e-commerce businesses not growing as anticipated; and (3) the Corporation's belief that the segment's current long-term cash flow forecasts may now be unattainable based on the lengthening and deepening economic deterioration.

The following three primary indicators emerged within the UK Reporting Unit: (1) the recent bankruptcy of a major customer; (2) a major customer implementing buying freezes, including on the Corporation's everyday products; and (3) the Corporation's belief that current long-term cash flow forecasts may now be unattainable based on the lengthening and deepening economic deterioration.

Under SFAS 142, the test for, and measurement of, impairment of goodwill consists of two steps. In the first step, the initial test for potential impairment, the Corporation compares the fair value of each reporting unit to its carrying amount. Fair values were determined using a combination of an income approach and a market based approach. Based on this evaluation, it was determined that the fair values of the AG Interactive segment and UK Reporting Unit were less than their carrying values, thus indicating potential impairment. In the second step, the measurement of the impairment, the Corporation hypothetically applies purchase accounting to the reporting units using the fair values from the first step. Due to the timing and complexity of step two, the Corporation has yet to complete this step. However, based upon preliminary calculations, the Corporation recorded estimated goodwill charges of \$150.2 million, which includes all the goodwill for the AG Interactive segment and \$82.1 million, which includes the majority of the goodwill for the UK Reporting Unit. The Corporation expects to finalize the goodwill impairment analysis and record any adjustments to the preliminary charges during the fourth quarter of 2009.

A summary of the changes in the carrying amount of the Corporation's goodwill during the nine months ended November 28, 2008, by segment, is as follows:

| (In thousands) | North American Social Expression Products | International Social Expression Products | AG Interactive | Non- Reportable Segments | Total |
|------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Balance at February 29, 2008 | \$ 47,862 | \$ 87,050 | \$ 150,078 | \$ 82 | \$ 285,072 |
| Acquisition related | | 11,570 | 1,449 | | 13,019 |
| Impairment | | (82,110) | (150,208) | | (232,318) |
| Currency translation | (25) | (7,464) | (1,319) | | (8,808) |
| Balance at November 28, 2008 | \$ 47,837 | \$ 9,046 | \$ | \$ 82 | \$ 56,965 |

The Corporation also tested the intangible assets of these two businesses during the third quarter in accordance with SFAS 144. Based on this testing, the Corporation recorded an impairment charge of \$10.6 million in the AG Interactive segment.

At November 28, 2008, intangible assets subject to the amortization provisions of SFAS 142, net of accumulated amortization and impairment charges, were \$6.6 million.

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The following table presents information about other intangible assets, which are included in Other assets on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position:

| (In thousands) | November 28, 2008 | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount |
| Patents | \$ 3,885 | \$ (3,278) | \$ 607 |
| Trademarks | 29,353 | (24,742) | 4,611 |
| Leasehold interest | 4,824 | (4,824) | |
| Other | 2,178 | (839) | 1,339 |
| | \$ 40,240 | \$ (33,683) | \$ 6,557 |

Amortization expense for intangible assets totaled \$5.4 million for the nine months ended November 28, 2008. Estimated annual amortization expense for the next five years will approximate \$2.1 million in 2010, \$1.1 million in 2011, \$1.0 million in 2012, \$0.9 million in 2013 and \$0.7 million in 2014. The weighted average remaining amortization period is approximately 3 years.

Note 10 Deferred Costs

Deferred costs and future payment commitments are included in the following financial statement captions:

| (In thousands) | November 28, 2008 | February 29, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Prepaid expenses and other | \$ 119,982 | \$ 119,069 | \$ 135,017 |
| Other assets | 294,883 | 338,003 | 313,928 |
| Deferred cost assets | 414,865 | 457,072 | 448,945 |
| Other current liabilities | (61,180) | (68,457) | (57,607) |
| Other liabilities | (27,391) | (50,491) | (28,652) |
| Deferred cost liabilities | (88,571) | (118,948) | (86,259) |
| Net deferred costs | \$ 326,294 | \$ 338,124 | \$ 362,686 |

The Corporation maintains an allowance for deferred costs related to supply agreements of \$27.7 million, \$29.7 million and \$24.6 million at November 28, 2008, February 29, 2008 and November 23, 2007, respectively. This allowance is included in Other assets in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Note 11 Debt

The Corporation is party to an amended and restated \$450 million secured credit agreement and to an amended and restated receivables purchase agreement that had available financing of up to \$150 million. The credit agreement includes a \$350 million revolving credit facility and a \$100 million delay draw term loan. The agreements were each amended on March 28, 2008. The amendment to the credit agreement extends the period during which the Corporation may borrow on the term loan until April 3, 2009 and changes the start of the amortization period from April 4, 2008 until April 3, 2009. The amendment to the accounts receivable facility decreases the amount of available financing from \$150 million to \$90 million. The revolving credit facility will mature on April 4, 2011 and any outstanding term loans will mature on April 4, 2013. The accounts receivable facility expires on October 23, 2009.

On September 23, 2008, the credit agreement was further amended as follows: (1) to permit the Corporation to sell its Strawberry Shortcake, Care Bears and Sushi Pack properties; (2) to increase the permitted level of acquisitions that the Corporation may make from \$200 million to

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\$325 million; (3) to authorize the Corporation to further amend its accounts receivable facility to allow its accounts receivable subsidiary, AGC Funding Corporation, to enter into insurance and other transactions that may mitigate credit risks associated with the collection of accounts receivable; and (4) to permit the Corporation to grant certain liens to third parties engaged in connection with the production, marketing and exploitation of the Corporation's entertainment properties.

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Debt due within one year is as follows:

| (In thousands) | November 28, 2008 | February 29, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Revolving credit facility | \$ 224,500 | \$ 20,100 | \$ 12,800 |
| Accounts receivable securitization facility | 23,445 | | 11,000 |
| 6.10% senior notes, due 2028 | | 22,690 | 22,690 |
| | \$ 247,945 | \$ 42,790 | \$ 46,490 |

At November 28, 2008, the balances outstanding on the revolving credit facility and accounts receivable securitization facility bear interest at a rate of approximately 3.4% and 3.7%, respectively. In addition to the balances outstanding under the aforementioned agreements, the Corporation has, in the aggregate, \$25.7 million outstanding under letters of credit, which reduces the total credit availability thereunder.

The 6.10% senior notes could be put back to the Corporation on August 1, 2008, at the option of the holders, at 100% of the principal amount provided the holders exercised this option between July 1, 2008 and August 1, 2008. During the second quarter of 2009, \$22.5 million of these notes were repaid upon exercise of the put option. The balance of the 6.10% senior notes was reclassified to long-term.

Long-term debt and their related calendar year due dates are as follows:

| (In thousands) | November 28, 2008 | February 29, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 7.375% senior notes, due 2016 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| 6.10% senior notes, due 2028 | 181 | | |
| Other (due 2010) | 503 | 518 | 975 |
| | \$ 200,684 | \$ 200,518 | \$ 200,975 |

At November 28, 2008, the Corporation was in compliance with the financial covenants under its borrowing agreements.

Note 12 Retirement Benefits

The components of periodic benefit cost for the Corporation's defined benefit pension and postretirement benefit plans are as follows:

| (In thousands) | Defined Benefit Pension | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Service cost | \$ 245 | \$ 251 | \$ 725 | \$ 740 |
| Interest cost | 2,286 | 2,249 | 6,886 | 6,769 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (1,994) | (2,143) | (6,074) | (6,479) |
| Settlement | | | | 1,067 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 47 | 67 | 201 | 200 |
| Amortization of actuarial loss | 349 | 411 | 989 | 1,227 |
| | \$ 933 | \$ 835 | \$ 2,727 | \$ 3,524 |

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| (In thousands) | Postretirement Benefit | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Service cost | \$ 950 | \$ 1,050 | \$ 2,850 | \$ 3,150 |
| Interest cost | 2,200 | 2,150 | 6,600 | 6,450 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (1,250) | (1,250) | (3,750) | (3,750) |
| Amortization of prior service credit | (1,850) | (1,850) | (5,550) | (5,550) |
| Amortization of actuarial loss | 1,075 | 1,650 | 3,225 | 4,950 |
| | \$ 1,125 | \$ 1,750 | \$ 3,375 | \$ 5,250 |

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The Corporation has a non-contributory profit-sharing plan with a contributory 401(k) provision covering most of its United States employees. The profit-sharing plan expense for the nine month periods are estimates as actual contributions to the profit-sharing plan are made after fiscal year-end. In addition, the Corporation matches a portion of 401(k) employee contributions contingent upon meeting specified annual operating results goals. As of November 28, 2008, the Corporation does not expect to meet the required 2009 operating results goals necessary to make profit-sharing or 401(k) matching contributions. As a result, no expense has been recorded during the nine months ended November 28, 2008 for either profit-sharing or 401(k) matching contributions. The profit-sharing plan expense for the nine months ended November 23, 2007 was \$5.1 million. The 401(k) matching contribution expenses recognized for the three and nine month periods ended November 23, 2007 was \$1.0 million and \$3.2 million, respectively.

At November 28, 2008, February 29, 2008 and November 23, 2007, the liability for postretirement benefits other than pensions was \$70.7 million, \$63.0 million and \$72.7 million, respectively, and is included in Other liabilities on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Note 13 Fair Value Measurements

SFAS 157 outlines a valuation framework, which requires use of the market approach, income approach and/or cost approach when measuring fair value and creates a fair value hierarchy in order to increase the consistency and comparability of fair value measurements and the related disclosures. SFAS 157 also expands disclosure requirements to include the methods and assumptions used to measure fair value.

The hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. The classification of fair value measurements within the hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1 Valuation is based upon quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, or other inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level 3 Valuation is based upon unobservable inputs that are significant to the fair value measurement.

The following table summarizes the financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of the measurement date, November 28, 2008, and the basis for that measurement, by level within the fair value hierarchy:

| (In thousands) | Balance as of November 28, 2008 | Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) | Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Financial assets | | | |
| Debt securities (1) | \$ 45,965 | \$ | \$ 45,965 |
| Deferred compensation plan assets (2) | 5,313 | 5,313 | |
| Total | \$ 51,278 | \$ 5,313 | \$ 45,965 |

(1) All unrealized gains/losses on the debt securities are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income/loss. Through November 28, 2008, unrealized gains of \$1.8 million (\$1.1 million net of tax) have been recorded. See Note 6.

(2) There is an offsetting liability for the obligation to its employees on the Corporation's books.

During the second quarter of 2009, the Corporation paid \$44.2 million to acquire, at a substantial discount, debt securities of Recycled Paper Greetings, Inc. (Recycled Paper). The cash paid for this investment is included in Other-net investing activities on the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows. For the second quarter, the Corporation valued these debt securities, which are classified as available-for-sale and included in Other

assets on

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the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, using Level 2 inputs, primarily the most recent transaction price. For the third quarter, the Corporation valued these securities using Level 3 inputs since there was no longer an active, observable market for these securities. The value of these securities takes into consideration many factors that management believes a market participant would consider, including the credit quality of the issuer, current offers by the parties to the issuer's debt restructuring negotiation, the Corporation's expected cash flow analysis and input from a broker-dealer in these types of securities. See Note 17 for further information.

The fair value of the mutual fund assets in the deferred compensation plan was considered a Level 1 valuation as it is based on each fund's quoted market value per share in an active market. Although the Corporation is under no obligation to fund employees' nonqualified accounts, the fair value of the related non-qualified deferred compensation liability is based on the fair value of the mutual fund assets.

Note 14 Income Taxes

The Corporation's provision for income taxes in interim periods is computed by applying its estimated annual effective tax rate against income from continuing operations before income tax expense for the period. In addition, non-recurring or discrete items are recorded during the period in which they occur. The effective tax rates were 15.5% and 14.2% for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2008, respectively, and 34.0% and 39.1% for the three and nine months ended November 23, 2007, respectively. The lower effective tax rate in the current year is due primarily to the goodwill impairment charge as only a portion of the charge is deductible for tax purposes.

As of November 28, 2008, the Corporation had \$24.1 million in gross unrecognized tax benefits. During the second and third quarters of 2009, the Corporation's unrecognized tax positions decreased approximately \$2.2 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, due primarily to settlements and related cash payments associated with certain state examinations.

Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits at November 28, 2008, was \$20.8 million in unrecognized tax benefits, the recognition of which would have a favorable effect on the effective tax rate. The Corporation does not anticipate any material changes in its unrecognized tax positions during the next twelve months. As of November 28, 2008, the total amount of gross accrued interest and penalties included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position was \$3.9 million, which is a decrease from February 29, 2008 resulting primarily from interest payments related to the above mentioned settlements.

The Corporation is subject to examination by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and various U.S. state and local jurisdictions for tax years 1996 to the present. The Corporation is also subject to tax examination in various foreign tax jurisdictions, including Canada, the United Kingdom (U.K.), Australia, France, Italy, Mexico and New Zealand for tax years 2003 to the present.

Table of Contents**Note 15 Business Segment Information**

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 | November 28, 2008 | November 23, 2007 |
| Total Revenue: | | | | |
| North American Social Expression Products | \$ 322,853 | \$ 342,487 | \$ 886,567 | \$ 900,572 |
| Intersegment items | (19,031) | (20,337) | (48,411) | (43,422) |
| Exchange rate adjustment | (2,661) | 942 | (1,886) | (1,846) |
| Net | 301,161 | 323,092 | 836,270 | 855,304 |
| International Social Expression Products | 89,365 | 86,951 | 222,429 | 215,439 |
| Exchange rate adjustment | (10,797) | 2,259 | (9,577) | 2,167 |
| Net | 78,568 | 89,210 | 212,852 | 217,606 |
| Retail Operations | 39,994 | 41,312 | 119,034 | 120,923 |
| Exchange rate adjustment | (1,895) | 705 | (1,288) | (1,527) |
| Net | 38,099 | 42,017 | 117,746 | 119,396 |
| AG Interactive | 20,996 | 18,908 | 62,498 | 55,962 |
| Exchange rate adjustment | (321) | 2 | (290) | 1 |
| Net | 20,675 | 18,910 | 62,208 | 55,963 |
| Non-reportable segments | 15,581 | 12,507 | 39,143 | 34,834 |
| Unallocated | | 30 | | 115 |
| | \$ 454,084 | \$ 485,766 | \$ 1,268,219 | \$ 1,283,218 |
| Segment (Loss) Earnings: | | | | |
| North American Social Expression Products | \$ 48,496 | \$ 66,022 | \$ 136,555 | \$ 196,868 |
| Intersegment items | (13,721) | (15,172) | (35,714) | (32,649) |
| Exchange rate adjustment | (1,222) | 775 | (1,177) | (774) |
| Net | 33,553 | 51,625 | 99,664 | 163,445 |
| International Social Expression Products | (80,478) | 10,904 | (79,750) | 12,654 |
| Exchange rate adjustment | 4,883 | 250 | 4,802 | 280 |
| Net | (75,595) | 11,154 | (74,948) | 12,934 |
| Retail Operations | (9,596) | (5,814) | (19,672) | (15,144) |
| Exchange rate adjustment | 53 | 67 | 40 | 129 |
| Net | (9,543) | (5,747) | (19,632) | (15,015) |
| AG Interactive | (160,907) | 2,222 | (161,244) | 8,664 |
| Exchange rate adjustment | 93 | (13) | 130 | 1 |
| Net | (160,814) | 2,209 | (161,114) | 8,665 |
| Non-reportable segments | 1,614 | 263 | 2,189 | 2,598 |

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| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Unallocated | (16,926) | (14,928) | (52,117) | (60,811) |
| Exchange rate adjustment | (956) | (438) | (1,108) | (559) |
| Net | (17,882) | (15,366) | (53,225) | (61,370) |
| | \$ (228,667) | \$ 44,138 | \$ (207,066) | \$ 111,257 |

Table of Contents**Termination Benefits**

Termination benefits are primarily considered part of an ongoing benefit arrangement, are accounted for in accordance with SFAS No. 112, Employers Accounting for Postemployment Benefits, and are recorded when payment of the benefits is probable and can be reasonably estimated.

During the quarter ended November 28, 2008, the Corporation recorded severance expense of approximately \$7 million related to a cost reduction effort that eliminated approximately 275 positions. The balance of the severance accrual was \$10.8 million, \$9.6 million and \$6.9 million at November 28, 2008, February 29, 2008 and November 23, 2007, respectively.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue, included in Other current liabilities on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, totaled \$33.3 million, \$37.9 million and \$32.5 million at November 28, 2008, February 29, 2008 and November 23, 2007, respectively. The amounts relate primarily to the Corporation's AG Interactive segment and the licensing activities included in non-reportable segments.

Acquisitions

In March 2008, the Corporation acquired a card publisher and franchised distributor of greeting cards in the U.K. for approximately \$16 million. Cash paid, net of cash acquired was \$15.6 million and is reflected in investing activities in the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows. Although the allocation of the purchase price has not yet been finalized, goodwill of approximately \$12 million has been recorded. The purchase agreement provides for a contingent payment of up to 2 million U.K. Pounds Sterling to be paid based on the company's operating results over a three-year period from the date of acquisition. The financial results of this acquisition are included in the Corporation's consolidated results from the date of acquisition. Pro forma results of operations have not been presented because the effect of this acquisition was not deemed material.

Note 16 Discontinued Operations

Discontinued operations include Learning Horizons, the Corporation's educational products business. This subsidiary meets the definition of a component of an entity and has been accounted for as a discontinued operation under SFAS 144. Accordingly, the Corporation's consolidated financial statements and related notes have been presented to reflect Learning Horizons as a discontinued operation for all periods presented. Learning Horizons was previously included within the Corporation's non-reportable segments.

In February 2007, the Corporation entered into an agreement to sell Learning Horizons. The sale reflects the Corporation's strategy to focus its resources on business units closely related to its core social expression business. The sale closed in March 2007 and the Corporation received cash proceeds of \$2.2 million, which is included in Cash receipts related to discontinued operations in the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

The following summarizes the results of discontinued operations:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended November 23, 2007 | Nine Months Ended November 23, 2007 |
|---|---|--|
| Total revenue | \$ | \$ 299 |
| Pre-tax loss from operations | \$ | \$ (47) |
| (Loss) gain on sale | (161) | 34 |
| | (161) | (13) |
| Income tax (benefit) expense | (57) | 304 |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax | \$ (104) | \$ (317) |

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Note 17 Subsequent Events

On December 30, 2008, the Corporation announced that it had reached an agreement to acquire Recycled Paper. Recycled Paper is a Chicago-based creator and designer of humorous greeting cards with annual net sales of approximately \$80 million. Recycled Paper's humor cards are distributed primarily through mass retail partners, drug stores and specialty retail stores. The transaction is subject to various closing conditions including a Chapter 11 reorganization process being successfully completed for Recycled Paper and other closing conditions.

The agreement providing for the acquisition contemplates that the transaction will be effected pursuant to a so-called "pre-packaged" Chapter 11 reorganization. The reorganization plan is supported by Recycled Paper's secured creditors and its trade creditors are expected to be paid in full under the plan. Consideration for the acquisition will include a combination of \$54.7 million of new 7.375% notes due in 2016 and up to \$18.4 million of cash in addition to the \$44.2 million investment (\$67.1 million of principal) previously made by the Corporation during the second quarter. See Note 13 for further information on the \$44.2 million investment. In addition, the Corporation has agreed to provide up to \$10 million debtor in possession (DIP) financing to Recycled Paper.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations should be read in conjunction with our unaudited consolidated financial statements. This discussion and analysis, and other statements made in this Report, contain forward-looking statements, see "Factors That May Affect Future Results" at the end of this discussion and analysis for a description of the uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements. Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, the Corporation, we, our, us and American Greetings are used in this Report to refer to the businesses of American Greetings Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Overview

During the third quarter, our results were significantly impacted by the recent deterioration in the global economy. These economic factors led to lower consolidated total revenues and earnings during the third quarter of 2009 compared to the prior year quarter. The most significant items causing the decline in earnings compared to the prior year were the goodwill impairment charges in our AG Interactive segment and United Kingdom (U.K.) reporting unit. During the quarter, indicators emerged within these businesses that led us to conclude that an interim goodwill impairment test was required. As a result of the testing, we recorded a preliminary impairment charge to write-off substantially all of the goodwill of these business units, totaling approximately \$232 million. In conjunction with this testing, we also tested intangible assets within these businesses and recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$11 million in the AG Interactive segment.

Within our Retail Operations segment, weak performance in certain retail stores led to a fixed asset impairment test. As a result of that testing, we recorded an impairment charge of approximately \$4 million. Based on the recent performance in this segment, we are currently analyzing our long-term strategy, which may include significant store closures in the near term.

In an effort to reduce costs, drive efficiencies throughout the Corporation and meet the continuing challenges of the economy, we eliminated approximately 275 positions throughout the organization. As a result of this action, the third quarter results included a severance charge of approximately \$7 million.

As a consequence of our declining earnings, the quarter included the reversal of approximately \$11 million of variable compensation expense, as we do not expect significant variable compensation payments to be made this fiscal year.

The above items are reflected in the Consolidated Statement of Operations as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| (In millions) | |
| Material, labor and other production costs | \$ 1.5 |
| Selling, distribution and marketing expenses | 7.1 |
| Administrative and general expenses | (8.8) |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets impairment | 242.9 |
| | \$ 242.7 |

The decrease in total revenue, compared to the prior year third quarter, was approximately half due to the impact of foreign currency movements and half due to lower sales of gift packaging products and seasonal cards in the North American Social Expression Products segment. These declines were slightly offset by revenue growth in the International Social Expression Products segment and the AG Interactive segment, both due to recent acquisitions. Revenues were favorably impacted by approximately \$4 million related to a scan-based trading (SBT) implementation completed in the quarter that had been previously estimated.

In addition to the \$243 million impact of the items noted above, earnings declined due to decreased sales, an unfavorable product mix and continued increases in product content costs due to the growth in the sale of technology cards and changes in product design that add creative embellishments to the card lines. These increases in content costs along with the growth in value card sales continue to put downward pressure on our gross margins. Supply

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chain, scrap and distribution costs continue to be higher than the prior year period as increases in card shipments outpace increases of card net sales. The bankruptcy of a major customer in the U.K. also negatively impacted earnings by approximately \$4 million during the third quarter.

Our effective tax rate was 15.5% for the three months ended November 28, 2008. The difference between the effective tax rate and the statutory rate was primarily due to the non-deductible nature of a significant portion of the goodwill impairment charge taken during the quarter.

On December 30, 2008, we announced an agreement to acquire Recycled Paper Greetings, Inc. (Recycled Paper). Recycled Paper is a Chicago-based creator and designer of humorous greeting cards with annual net sales of approximately \$80 million. Recycled Paper's humor cards are distributed primarily through mass retail partners, drug stores and specialty retail stores. The transaction is subject to various closing conditions including a Chapter 11 reorganization process being successfully completed for Recycled Paper and other closing conditions.

Results of Operations***Three months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007***

Net loss was \$193.3 million, or \$4.25 per share, in the third quarter compared to net income of \$29.0 million, or \$0.52 per share, in the prior year third quarter (all per-share amounts assume dilution).

Our results for the three months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007 are summarized below:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2008 | % Total Revenue | 2007 | % Total Revenue |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Net sales | \$ 444,527 | 97.9% | \$ 475,015 | 97.8% |
| Other revenue | 9,557 | 2.1% | 10,751 | 2.2% |
| Total revenue | 454,084 | 100.0% | 485,766 | 100.0% |
| Material, labor and other production costs | 223,214 | 49.1% | 223,329 | 46.0% |
| Selling, distribution and marketing expenses | 159,819 | 35.2% | 159,420 | 32.8% |
| Administrative and general expenses | 50,841 | 11.2% | 60,875 | 12.5% |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets impairment | 242,889 | 53.5% | | 0.0% |
| Other operating income net | (491) | (0.1)% | (127) | (0.0)% |
| Operating (loss) income | (222,188) | (48.9)% | 42,269 | 8.7% |
| Interest expense | 6,634 | 1.5% | 4,835 | 1.0% |
| Interest income | (947) | (0.2)% | (2,122) | (0.4)% |
| Other non-operating expense (income) net | 792 | 0.2% | (4,582) | (1.0)% |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations before income tax (benefit) expense | (228,667) | (50.4)% | 44,138 | 9.1% |
| Income tax (benefit) expense | (35,356) | (7.8)% | 15,018 | 3.1% |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | (193,311) | (42.6)% | 29,120 | 6.0% |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax | | 0.0% | (104) | 0.0% |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (193,311) | (42.6)% | \$ 29,016 | 6.0% |

For the three months ended November 28, 2008, consolidated net sales were \$444.5 million, down from \$475.0 million in the prior year third quarter. This 6.4%, or approximately \$30 million, decrease was primarily the result of lower net sales in our North American Social Expression Products segment of approximately \$18 million as well as an unfavorable foreign currency translation impact of approximately \$19 million. These decreases were partially offset by higher net sales of approximately \$2 million in both our International Social Expression Products and AG Interactive segments. The increased sales in both of these segments are primarily attributable to recent acquisitions.

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Net sales of our North American Social Expression Products segment decreased approximately \$18 million. The majority of the decrease is attributable to decreased sales of our gift packaging and seasonal card product lines partially offset by an increase in everyday card sales of approximately \$5 million and an increase of approximately \$4 million related to the SBT implementation discussed above. Sales of our gift packaging product lines were down approximately \$23 million while seasonal card sales decreased approximately \$4 million.

Other revenue, primarily royalty revenue from our Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears properties, decreased \$1.2 million from \$10.8 million during the three months ended November 23, 2007 to \$9.6 million for the three months ended November 28, 2008. On July 20, 2008, we entered into an agreement to sell the Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears properties and our rights in the Sushi Pack property to Cookie Jar Entertainment Inc. (Cookie Jar) for \$195.0 million in cash. The transaction was expected to close by September 30, 2008; however, with the recent disruptions in the financial markets, the transaction has not closed. As a result, under the terms of our agreement, we now have the right to solicit offers from third parties to purchase the properties until March 31, 2009. During the period of time between September 30, 2008 and March 31, 2009, Cookie Jar may match any third party offer up to a pre-established threshold.

Wholesale Unit and Pricing Analysis for Greeting Cards

Unit and pricing comparatives (on a sales less returns basis) for the three months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007 are summarized below:

| | Increase (Decrease) From the Prior Year | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|----------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| | Everyday Cards | | Seasonal Cards | | Total Greeting Cards | |
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Unit volume | 4.1% | 1.7% | 3.4% | 4.2% | 3.9% | 2.3% |
| Selling prices | (1.6)% | (2.5)% | (6.8)% | (3.3)% | (3.0)% | (2.7)% |
| Overall increase / (decrease) | 2.5% | (0.9)% | (3.7)% | 0.8% | 0.8% | (0.4)% |

During the third quarter, combined everyday and seasonal greeting card sales less returns improved 0.8% compared to the prior year quarter. This increase was driven by everyday card sales, partially offset by lower seasonal card sales. Overall unit growth improved 3.9%, offset by lower selling prices as a result of the continued trend toward a higher mix of value line cards compared to the prior year. The increased volume of value priced card sales is driven by expanded distribution that we have obtained over the past year. This growth in the value priced cards more than offsets the impact of the growth in higher priced technology cards.

Seasonal card sales less returns were down 3.7%, with a 3.4% improvement in unit volume more than offset by a 6.8% decrease in selling prices. The unit volume improvement occurred in the summer seasonal and fall programs. The lower selling prices were due to a higher mix of value priced cards across most seasonal programs compared to the prior year period.

Everyday card sales less returns for the third quarter were up 2.5% compared to the prior year quarter, with unit volume improving 4.1% and selling prices declining 1.6%. The overall improvement of 2.5% was primarily due to the impact of the SBT implementation noted earlier. Net of the SBT impact, improvements within the North American Social Expression Products segment, where continued focus on providing fresh and relevant products to consumers continues to drive unit growth, were partially offset by the International Social Expression Products segment. The lower selling prices were the result of a higher mix of value line cards compared to the prior year.

Table of Contents**Expense Overview**

During the current quarter, we experienced increased costs as a result of the recent deterioration in the global economy. These higher costs were primarily due to goodwill and other long-lived asset impairment charges and severance charges associated with a workforce reduction effort.

Material, labor and other production costs (MLOPC) for the three months ended November 28, 2008 were \$223.2 million, essentially flat with the comparable period in the prior year. As a percentage of total revenue, these costs were 49.1% in the current period compared to 46.0% for the three months ended November 23, 2007. The decrease of \$0.1 million is due to favorable volume variances of approximately \$4 million due to the lower sales level in the current quarter and foreign currency translation impacts of approximately \$8 million substantially offset by unfavorable spending and mix of approximately \$12 million. The increased spending and mix was due to higher scrap and content related costs such as music, lights and other embellishments in addition to \$2 million related to the severance charges incurred as a result of cost reduction efforts.

Selling, distribution and marketing expenses for the three months ended November 28, 2008 were \$159.8 million, increasing slightly from \$159.4 million for the comparable period in the prior year. The increase is due to higher spending of approximately \$8 million partially offset by favorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$7 million. The additional spending is directly attributable to the severance charges and higher freight and distribution related costs. Severance expense of approximately \$3 million was recorded in the quarter associated with the workforce reduction announced in early December 2008. Also contributing to the increased expense was the fixed asset impairment charge. Due to weak performance in certain of our retail stores, long-lived assets within our Retail Operations segment were reviewed. As a result of that review, an impairment charge of approximately \$4 million was recorded.

Administrative and general expenses were \$50.8 million for the three months ended November 28, 2008, a decrease from \$60.9 million for the three months ended November 23, 2007. The decrease of \$10.1 million is primarily related to the reversal of variable compensation expense of approximately \$11 million. Based on current operating results, we do not expect to meet the 2009 operating results required to make certain variable compensation payments. Also contributing to the decrease in the current three months is lower postretirement benefit obligation expense of approximately \$1 million and favorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$2 million. These decreases were partially offset by approximately \$2 million of severance charges associated with the workforce reduction discussed above and approximately \$3 million of higher bad debt expense due in part to the recent bankruptcy of a major customer in the U.K.

A goodwill and other intangible assets impairment charge of \$242.9 million was recorded in the current quarter as indicators emerged during the period that led us to conclude that an impairment test was required prior to the annual test. As a result, impairment was recorded for a reporting unit in the International Social Expression Products segment, located in the U.K., and in our AG Interactive segment. The goodwill impairment charge recorded in the U.K. was \$82.1 million, which represents the majority of the goodwill for this reporting unit. The goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges for the AG Interactive segment were \$160.8 million, which includes all of the goodwill for AG Interactive. The actual amount of the goodwill impairment charges will not be finalized until we have completed our testing. See Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements for further detail of these impairment charges.

Interest expense for the three months ended November 28, 2008 was \$6.6 million, up from \$4.8 million for the prior year quarter. The increase of \$1.8 million is attributable to increased borrowings on our revolving credit facility and the accounts receivable securitization facility in the current period.

Other non-operating expense (income) net was \$0.8 million of expense in the current year third quarter compared to income of \$4.6 million for the three months ended November 23, 2007. The \$5.4 million decrease from income to expense is due primarily to a swing from a foreign exchange gain in the prior year quarter to a loss in the current quarter.

The effective tax rate on income from continuing operations was 15.5% and 34.0% for the three months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007, respectively. The lower effective tax rate in the current quarter is due primarily to the goodwill impairment charge as only a portion of the charge is deductible for tax purposes.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations***Nine months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007*

Net loss was \$177.7 million, or \$3.75 per share, in the nine months ended November 28, 2008 compared to net income of \$67.4 million, or \$1.21 per share, in the prior year nine months.

Our results for the nine months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007 are summarized below:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2008 | % Total Revenue | 2007 | % Total Revenue |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Net sales | \$ 1,242,932 | 98.0% | \$ 1,258,909 | 98.1% |
| Other revenue | 25,287 | 2.0% | 24,309 | 1.9% |
| Total revenue | 1,268,219 | 100.0% | 1,283,218 | 100.0% |
| Material, labor and other production costs | 586,668 | 46.3% | 547,509 | 42.7% |
| Selling, distribution and marketing expenses | 465,081 | 36.7% | 444,700 | 34.6% |
| Administrative and general expenses | 170,564 | 13.4% | 179,461 | 14.0% |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets impairment | 242,889 | 19.1% | | 0.0% |
| Other operating income net | (1,329) | (0.1)% | (807) | (0.1)% |
| Operating (loss) income | (195,654) | (15.4)% | 112,355 | 8.8% |
| Interest expense | 16,973 | 1.3% | 14,431 | 1.1% |
| Interest income | (2,835) | (0.2)% | (5,855) | (0.4)% |
| Other non-operating income net | (2,726) | (0.2)% | (7,478) | (0.6)% |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations before income tax (benefit) expense | (207,066) | (16.3)% | 111,257 | 8.7% |
| Income tax (benefit) expense | (29,385) | (2.3)% | 43,499 | 3.4% |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | (177,681) | (14.0)% | 67,758 | 5.3% |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax | | 0.0% | (317) | (0.0)% |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (177,681) | (14.0)% | \$ 67,441 | 5.3% |

For the nine months ended November 28, 2008, consolidated net sales were \$1.24 billion, down from \$1.26 billion in the prior year nine months. This 1.3%, or approximately \$16 million, decrease was primarily the result of lower net sales in our North American Social Expression Products segment of approximately \$19 million and an unfavorable foreign currency translation impact of approximately \$12 million. These decreases were partially offset by higher net sales in our International Social Expression Products segment and our AG Interactive segment of approximately \$7 million each.

Net sales of our North American Social Expression Products segment decreased approximately \$19 million compared to the prior year nine months. The majority of the decrease is attributable to lower sales of our gift packaging and party goods product lines of approximately \$29 million and \$5 million, respectively. This decrease is partially offset by increased sales of everyday cards of approximately \$14 million.

The increase in our International Social Expression Products segment's net sales of approximately \$7 million was driven by our U.K. operations where the increase was solely driven by the acquisition completed in the first quarter of 2009.

Net sales of our AG Interactive segment increased approximately \$7 million. The current year period includes approximately \$11 million of revenue from the digital photography acquisitions completed during the second half of 2008. These revenues were partially offset by lower advertising revenues in our online product group.

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Other revenue, primarily royalty revenue from our Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears properties, increased \$1.0 million from \$24.3 million during the nine months ended November 23, 2007 to \$25.3 million for the nine months ended November 28, 2008.

Wholesale Unit and Pricing Analysis for Greeting Cards

Unit and pricing comparatives (on a sales less returns basis) for the nine months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007 are summarized below:

| | Increase (Decrease) From the Prior Year | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|----------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| | Everyday Cards | | Seasonal Cards | | Total Greeting Cards | |
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Unit volume | 6.0% | 9.3% | 9.6% | 4.8% | 7.0% | 8.1% |
| Selling prices | (2.7)% | (5.5)% | (7.6)% | (3.4)% | (4.0)% | (4.9)% |
| Overall increase / (decrease) | 3.2% | 3.3% | 1.2% | 1.3% | 2.6% | 2.8% |

During the nine months ended November 28, 2008, combined everyday and seasonal greeting card sales less returns improved 2.6%, compared to the prior year nine months, with increases coming from both everyday and seasonal cards. Overall unit growth improved 7.0%, offset by lower selling prices as a result of the continued trend toward a higher mix of value line cards compared to the prior year. The increased volume of value priced card sales is driven by expanded distribution that we have obtained over the past year. This growth in the value priced cards more than offsets the impact of the growth in higher priced technology cards.

Everyday card sales less returns were up 3.2%, compared to the prior year nine months. This improvement was in the North American Social Expression Products segment where continued focus on providing fresh and relevant products to consumers continues to drive unit growth. Overall, unit volume was up 6.0% and selling prices were down 2.7%. The lower selling prices were the result of a higher mix of value line cards compared to the prior year.

Seasonal card unit volume increased 9.6%, driven by improvement in most seasonal programs. Lower selling prices of 7.6% related to a higher mix of value priced cards across most programs compared to the prior year period.

Expense Overview

During the current year period, we experienced increased costs due to both the recent deterioration in the global economy and in our effort to drive profitable sales growth. These higher costs were due to the rollout of the new single priced card line in Canada, added content to our cards, including music, lights and other embellishments, and increased shipments outpacing increased net sales. The current year period also included charges for goodwill and other long-lived asset impairments and severance.

MLOPC for the nine months ended November 28, 2008 were \$586.7 million, an increase from \$547.5 million for the comparable period in the prior year. As a percentage of total revenue, these costs were 46.3% in the current period compared to 42.7% for the nine months ended November 23, 2007. The increase of \$39.2 million is due to unfavorable spending and product mix of approximately \$46 million. Volume variances due to the decreased sales volume in the current year period and foreign currency translation impacts decreased MLOPC approximately \$1 million and \$6 million, respectively. The increased spending and mix is primarily attributable to severance charges, higher scrap and creative content costs, including music, lights and other embellishments, as well as costs associated with the conversion to our new Canadian line of cards.

Selling, distribution and marketing expenses for the nine months ended November 28, 2008 were \$465.1 million, increasing from \$444.7 million for the comparable period in the prior year. The increase of \$20.4 million is due to higher spending of approximately \$24 million partially offset by favorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$4 million. The additional spending is attributable to severance charges of approximately \$3 million and increases in supply chain costs, specifically merchandiser, freight and distribution costs, due to an increase in units shipped. Merchandiser expense increased approximately \$10 million and freight and distribution costs each

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increased approximately \$4 million. The fixed asset impairment charge in our Retail Operations segment of approximately \$4 million also contributed to the increased expense in the current nine months.

Administrative and general expenses were \$170.6 million for the nine months ended November 28, 2008, a decrease from \$179.5 million for the nine months ended November 23, 2007. The majority of the decrease of \$8.9 million is due to the reversal of variable compensation expense of approximately \$11 million as well as favorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$1 million. This decrease was partially offset by an increase in bad debt expense of approximately \$4 million due in part to the recent bankruptcy of a major customer in the U.K.

A goodwill and other intangible assets impairment charge of \$242.9 million was recorded in the third quarter as indicators emerged during the period that led us to conclude that an impairment test was required prior to the annual test. As a result, impairment was recorded for a reporting unit in the International Social Expression Products segment, located in the U.K., and in our AG Interactive segment. The goodwill impairment charge recorded in the U.K. is \$82.1 million, which represents the majority of the goodwill for this reporting unit. The goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges for the AG Interactive segment were \$160.8 million, which includes all of the goodwill for AG Interactive. The actual amount of the goodwill impairment charges will not be finalized until we have completed our testing. See Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements for further detail of these impairment charges.

Interest expense for the nine months ended November 28, 2008 was \$17.0 million, up from \$14.4 million for the prior year period. The increase of \$2.6 million is attributable to increased borrowings on the revolving credit facility and the accounts receivable securitization facility in the current period.

Other non-operating income net was \$2.7 million in the current year nine months compared to \$7.5 million for the nine months ended November 23, 2007. The \$4.8 million decrease in income is due primarily to decreased foreign exchange gains in the current period.

The effective tax rate on income from continuing operations was 14.2% and 39.1% for the nine months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007, respectively. The lower effective tax rate in the current nine months is primarily related to the goodwill impairment, as only a portion of the charge is deductible for tax purposes. The higher effective tax rate in the prior nine months related to several discrete events during that period, primarily agreements reached with the Internal Revenue Service as it closed its audit cycle.

Segment Information

Our operations are organized and managed according to a number of factors, including product categories, geographic locations and channels of distribution. Our North American Social Expression Products and our International Social Expression Products segments primarily design, manufacture and sell greeting cards and other related products through various channels of distribution, with mass retailers as the primary channel. As permitted under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information, certain operating divisions have been aggregated into both the North American Social Expression Products and International Social Expression Products segments. The aggregated operating divisions have similar economic characteristics, products, production processes, types of customers and distribution methods. At November 28, 2008, we owned and operated 415 card and gift retail stores in the United States and Canada through our Retail Operations segment. The stores are primarily located in malls and strip shopping centers. The stores sell products purchased from the North American Social Expression Products segment as well as products purchased from other vendors. AG Interactive distributes social expression products, including electronic greetings, personalized printable greeting cards and a broad range of graphics and digital services and products, through a variety of electronic channels, including Web sites, Internet portals, instant messaging services and electronic mobile devices. AG Interactive also offers online photo sharing space and a platform to provide consumers the ability to use their own photos to create unique, high quality physical products, including greeting cards, calendars, photo albums and photo books.

We review segment results using consistent exchange rates between periods to eliminate the impact of foreign currency fluctuations.

Table of Contents*North American Social Expression Products Segment*

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended November | | | Nine Months Ended November | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change |
| Total revenue | \$ 303,822 | \$ 322,150 | (5.7)% | \$ 838,156 | \$ 857,150 | (2.2)% |
| Segment earnings | 34,775 | 50,850 | (31.6)% | 100,841 | 164,219 | (38.6)% |

Total revenue of our North American Social Expression Products segment for the quarter ended November 28, 2008, excluding the impact of foreign exchange and intersegment items, decreased \$18.3 million, or 5.7%, from the prior year period. The majority of the decrease is attributable to decreased sales of our gift packaging and seasonal card product lines partially offset by an increase in everyday card sales of approximately \$5 million and an increase of approximately \$4 million related to the SBT implementation discussed earlier. Sales of our gift packaging product lines are down approximately \$23 million while seasonal card sales have decreased approximately \$4 million. Total revenue of our North American Social Expression Products segment for the nine months ended November 28, 2008, excluding the impact of foreign exchange and intersegment items, decreased \$19.0 million compared to the prior year period. The majority of the decrease is attributable to lower sales of our gift packaging and party goods product lines of approximately \$29 million and \$5 million, respectively. This decrease is partially offset by increased sales of everyday cards of approximately \$14 million.

Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange and intersegment items, decreased \$16.1 million in the current three months compared to the three months ended November 23, 2007. The decrease was driven by a combination of lower revenues, increased product content costs and increased supply chain costs. Increased product content costs are a result of increased cards with technology (paper cards that include light and/or sound) and other creative embellishments. Increased supply chain costs were driven by increases in card shipments, which outpaced increases of card net sales. Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange and intersegment items, decreased \$63.4 million during the nine months ended November 28, 2008 compared to the prior year period. The decrease for the nine-month period was primarily due to the combination of lower revenues, increased product content and supply chain costs as described above which impacted segment earnings by approximately \$54 million compared to the prior year period. Also contributing to the decrease in earnings is the conversion to the new Canadian card line, which reduced earnings by approximately \$8 million in the current nine months.

International Social Expression Products Segment

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended November | | | Nine Months Ended November | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change |
| Total revenue | \$ 89,365 | \$ 86,951 | 2.8% | \$ 222,429 | \$ 215,439 | 3.2% |
| Segment (loss) earnings | (80,478) | 10,904 | | (79,750) | 12,654 | |

Total revenue of our International Social Expression Products segment, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, increased \$2.4 million, or 2.8%, and \$7.0 million, or 3.2%, for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2008, respectively, compared to the respective periods in the prior year. The majority of the revenue improvement in both the three and nine month periods is attributable to the U.K. acquisition completed in the first quarter of this year. The current year three and nine months include revenue of approximately \$4 million and \$8 million, respectively, from the acquisition. These increases were partially offset by decreased sales in the U.K. attributable to the recent bankruptcy of a major customer and a buying freeze implemented by another major customer, including on our everyday products.

Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, decreased from earnings of \$10.9 million in the prior year quarter to a loss of \$80.5 million in the current quarter. Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, decreased \$92.4 million in the nine months ended November 28, 2008 compared to the prior year nine months. The decrease in both the three and nine month periods is primarily the result of the goodwill impairment

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charge of approximately \$87 million (approximately \$82 million reported above plus approximately \$5 million of foreign currency based on the consistent exchange rates utilized for segment reporting purposes). The remaining decrease in earnings was driven primarily by charges taken as a result of the bankruptcy of a major customer.

Retail Operations Segment

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended November | | | Nine Months Ended November | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change |
| Total revenue | \$ 39,994 | \$ 41,312 | (3.2)% | \$ 119,034 | \$ 120,923 | (1.6)% |
| Segment loss | (9,596) | (5,814) | (65.1)% | (19,672) | (15,144) | (29.9)% |

Total revenue, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, in our Retail Operations segment decreased \$1.3 million, or 3.2%, for the three months ended November 28, 2008, compared to the prior year period due to a 6.8% decrease in same-store sales. For the nine months ended November 28, 2008, total revenue decreased \$1.9 million compared to the prior year period, as same-store sales decreased 2.8%. Also contributing to the decrease in both periods is the reduction in store doors. The average number of stores was approximately 4% less than in the prior year period.

Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, was a loss of \$9.6 million in the three months ended November 28, 2008, compared to a loss of \$5.8 million during the three months ended November 23, 2007. Segment earnings were unfavorably impacted by the lower sales level and lower gross margins, which decreased by approximately 2.9 percentage points, due to increased promotional pricing in the current quarter. For the nine months ended November 28, 2008, segment earnings was a loss of \$19.7 million compared to a loss of \$15.1 million in the prior year period. Earnings in the current year nine months were unfavorably impacted by a weakening of gross margins as a result of more promotional pricing. Gross margins decreased by approximately 1.9 percentage points. Also contributing to the decrease in earnings in both the three and nine month periods was the fixed asset impairment charge. Due to weak performance in certain of our retail stores, long-lived assets within our Retail Operations segment were reviewed. As a result of that review, an impairment charge of approximately \$4 million was recorded. Both the three and nine month periods ended November 28, 2008 were favorably impacted by lower store expenses as a result of the reduction in store doors.

AG Interactive Segment

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended November | | | Nine Months Ended November | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change | 28, 2008 | 23, 2007 | % Change |
| Total revenue | \$ 20,996 | \$ 18,908 | 11.0% | \$ 62,498 | \$ 55,962 | 11.7% |
| Segment (loss) earnings | (160,907) | 2,222 | | (161,244) | 8,664 | |

Total revenue of AG Interactive for the three months ended November 28, 2008, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, was \$21.0 million compared to \$18.9 million in the prior year third quarter. The increased revenue is due to the digital photography acquisitions completed during the second half of 2008 partially offset by lower advertising revenues in our online product group. Total revenue of AG Interactive for the nine months ended November 28, 2008, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, was \$62.5 million compared to \$56.0 million in the prior year nine months. The current year nine months include approximately \$11 million of revenue from the digital photography acquisitions. These revenues were partially offset by lower advertising revenues in our online product group. At the end of the third quarter of 2009, AG Interactive had approximately 4.0 million online paid subscriptions versus 3.7 million at the prior year quarter end.

Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, decreased from earnings of \$2.2 million during the quarter ended November 23, 2007 to a loss of \$160.9 million for the quarter ended November 28, 2008. Segment earnings, excluding the impact of foreign exchange, decreased from earnings of \$8.7 million in the nine months ended November 23, 2007 to a loss of \$161.2 million in the current year nine months. The decrease in both the three and nine month periods ended November 28, 2008 compared to the prior year periods is primarily attributable to the

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goodwill and intangible asset impairments of \$160.8 million. The remaining earnings decrease in both periods is due to expenses incurred associated with the digital photo product line, including marketing, intangible asset amortization and technology costs.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The seasonal nature of our business precludes a useful comparison of the current period and the fiscal year-end financial statements; therefore, a Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of November 23, 2007, has been included.

Operating Activities

Operating activities used \$84.2 million of cash during the nine months ended November 28, 2008, compared to providing \$42.6 million of cash in the prior year period.

Other non-cash charges were \$8.1 million for the nine months ended November 28, 2008, compared to \$5.7 million in the prior year period. The increase is primarily due to the fixed asset impairment charges recorded during the current period in our Retail Operations segment.

Other current assets provided \$10.5 million of cash from February 29, 2008, compared to \$18.2 million in the prior year nine months. The change is attributable to a receivable recorded as part of the termination of several long-term supply agreements in fiscal 2007. The majority of the receivable was collected in the fourth quarter of 2007 and the balance was received in the nine months ended November 23, 2007.

Deferred costs net generally represents payments under agreements with retailers net of the related amortization of those payments. During the nine months ended November 28, 2008, amortization exceeded payments by \$6.0 million; in the nine months ended November 23, 2007, amortization exceeded payments by \$14.4 million. For the nine months ended November 23, 2007, deferred costs net also included the impact of a \$15 million reduction of deferred contract costs associated with the termination of a long-term supply agreement and related refund received. See Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements for further detail of deferred costs related to customer agreements.

Accounts payable and other liabilities used \$17.5 million of cash during the nine months ended November 28, 2008, compared to providing \$38.4 million in the prior year period. The change was attributable primarily to the reversal of variable compensation expense accruals during the current quarter as well as to differences in the timing of cash payments related to normal course of business accounts payable, accrued liabilities, income taxes and compensation. For example, the timing of the year-end or quarterly period in relation to payroll periods can substantially impact the amount of accrued payroll on a year-over-year basis and thus the related cash outflow in the subsequent period. In addition, incentive-based and profit-sharing accruals at February 29, 2008 were higher than at February 28, 2007 due to our improved financial results in fiscal 2008 compared to fiscal 2007, thus the cash outflow in the current period was higher than the prior year period.

Investing Activities

Investing activities used \$103.8 million of cash during the nine months ended November 28, 2008, compared to \$81.7 million in the prior year period. The use of cash in the current period is related to cash payments for marketable securities and business acquisitions as well as capital expenditures of \$44.3 million. During 2009, we purchased a card publisher and franchised distributor of greeting cards in the U.K. for \$15.6 million and we acquired, at a substantial discount, a majority of the distressed first-lien debt securities of Recycled Paper. We paid \$44.2 million for this investment.

The use of cash in the prior nine months is related to capital expenditures of \$37.4 million as well as cash payments for business acquisitions of \$51.3 million. During the third quarter of fiscal 2008, we purchased the assets of Webshots, an online photo and video sharing site, for \$45.2 million. Also, the final payment of \$6.1 million for the online greeting card business purchased in the second quarter of fiscal 2007 was made during the first quarter of

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fiscal 2008. These cash outflows were partially offset by cash receipts related to discontinued operations and proceeds from the sale of fixed assets.

Financing Activities

Financing activities provided \$137.5 million of cash during the nine months ended November 28, 2008, compared to using \$41.2 million during the nine months ended November 23, 2007. The current year source of cash relates primarily to short-term debt borrowings of \$227.8 million partially offset by share repurchases and long-term debt repayments. During the nine months ended November 28, 2008, \$51.0 million was paid to repurchase approximately 3.4 million shares under our repurchase program compared to \$51.8 million used in the nine months ended November 23, 2007 to repurchase approximately 2.1 million shares. We also paid \$0.2 million in the current period to repurchase less than 10,000 Class B common shares, in accordance with our Amended Articles of Incorporation, compared to \$22.8 million in the prior year nine months to repurchase 0.9 million Class B common shares. During the second quarter of 2009, \$22.5 million was paid upon exercise of the put option on our 6.10% senior notes. During the nine months ended November 28, 2008 and November 23, 2007, we paid quarterly dividends of \$0.12 and \$0.10 per common share, respectively, which totaled \$17.1 million and \$16.7 million, respectively. In the prior year, our receipt of the exercise price on stock options provided \$26.2 million and our additional short-term borrowings provided \$23.8 million.

Credit Sources

Substantial credit sources are available to us. In total, we had available sources of approximately \$540 million at November 28, 2008. This included our \$450 million senior secured credit facility and our \$90 million accounts receivable securitization facility. Borrowings under the accounts receivable securitization facility are limited based on our eligible receivables outstanding. We had \$224.5 million outstanding under the revolving credit facility and \$23.4 million outstanding under the accounts receivable securitization facility at November 28, 2008. In addition to these borrowings, we have, in the aggregate, \$25.7 million outstanding under letters of credit, which reduces the total credit availability thereunder.

On September 23, 2008, the revolving credit facility was amended as follows: (1) to permit us to sell our Strawberry Shortcake, Care Bears and Sushi Pack properties; (2) to increase the permitted level of acquisitions that we may make from \$200 million to \$325 million; (3) to authorize further amendments to our accounts receivable facility to allow our accounts receivable subsidiary, AGC Funding Corporation, to enter into insurance and other transactions that may mitigate credit risks associated with the collection of accounts receivable; and (4) to permit us to grant certain liens to third parties engaged in connection with the production, marketing and exploitation of our entertainment properties.

Please refer to the discussion of our borrowing arrangements as disclosed in the Credit Sources section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 29, 2008 for further information.

Our future operating cash flow and borrowing availability under our credit agreement and our accounts receivable securitization facility are expected to meet currently anticipated funding requirements. The seasonal nature of the business results in peak working capital requirements that may be financed through short-term borrowings.

As discussed above, on December 30, 2008, we announced that an agreement had been reached to acquire Recycled Paper. Consideration for the acquisition will include a combination of \$54.7 million of new 7.375% notes due in 2016 and up to \$18.4 million of cash in addition to the \$44.2 million investment we previously made during the second quarter. In addition, we have agreed to provide up to \$10 million debtor in possession (DIP) financing to Recycled Paper.

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Critical Accounting Policies

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the periods presented. Please refer to the discussion of our Critical Accounting Policies as disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 29, 2008. As discussed in Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements, we recorded an estimated impairment charge to reduce the carrying value of our goodwill. We have not completed step two of the impairment test. As a result, an adjustment to the estimated impairment charge may be required when we finalize our analysis, which is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2009.

Factors That May Affect Future Results

Certain statements in this report may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Federal securities laws. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historic or current facts. They use such words as anticipate, estimate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe, and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance. These forward-looking statements are based on currently available information, but are subject to a variety of uncertainties, unknown risks and other factors concerning our operations and business environment, which are difficult to predict and may be beyond our control. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by these forward-looking statements, and that could adversely affect our future financial performance, include, but are not limited to, the following:

a weak retail environment and general economic conditions;

the ability to achieve the desired benefits associated with our cost reduction efforts;

the ability to close the acquisition of Recycled Paper, including, if we are unable to acquire Recycled Paper, whether we will be repaid our investment in its first-lien distressed debt securities;

retail consolidations, acquisitions and bankruptcies, including the possibility of resulting adverse changes to retail contract terms;

competitive terms of sale offered to customers;

if we determine additional retail store closures are necessary;

the timing and impact of investments in new retail or product strategies as well as new product introductions and achieving the desired benefits from those investments;

consumer acceptance of products as priced and marketed;

the ability to successfully integrate acquisitions, including Recycled Paper;

the impact of technology on core product sales;

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the timing and impact of converting customers to a scan-based trading model;

the escalation in the cost of providing employee health care;

the ability to identify, complete, or achieve the desired benefits associated with productivity improvement projects;

the ability to successfully implement, or achieve the desired benefits associated with, any information systems refresh that we may implement;

the ability to execute share repurchase programs or the ability to achieve the desired accretive effect from any such share repurchases;

the ability to comply with our debt covenants;

the ability to successfully complete, or achieve the desired benefits associated with, dispositions, including the sale of the Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears properties;

fluctuations in the value of currencies in major areas where we operate, including the U.S. Dollar, Euro, U.K. Pound Sterling and Canadian Dollar; and

the outcome of any legal claims known or unknown.

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Risks pertaining specifically to AG Interactive include the viability of online advertising, subscriptions as revenue generators, the public's acceptance of online greetings and other social expression products, and the ability to gain a leadership position in the digital photo sharing space.

The risks and uncertainties identified above are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we believe to be immaterial also may adversely affect us. Should any known or unknown risks or uncertainties develop into actual events, or underlying assumptions prove inaccurate, these developments could have material adverse effects on our business, financial condition and results of operations. For further information concerning the risks we face and issues that could materially affect our financial performance related to forward-looking statements, refer to our periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including the Risk Factors section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 29, 2008.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

For further information, refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 29, 2008. There were no material changes in market risk, specifically interest rate and foreign currency exposure, for us from February 29, 2008, the end of our preceding fiscal year, to November 28, 2008, the end of our most recent fiscal quarter.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

American Greetings maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in its reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Corporation's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives.

American Greetings carries out a variety of on-going procedures, under the supervision and with the participation of the Corporation's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Corporation's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on the foregoing, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of American Greetings concluded that the Corporation's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

There has been no change in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting during the Corporation's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are involved in certain legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. We, however, do not believe that any of the litigation in which we are currently engaged, either individually or in the aggregate, will have a material adverse effect on our business, consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

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(c) The following table provides information with respect to our purchases of our common shares during the three months ended November 28, 2008.

| Period | Total Number of Shares | | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans | Maximum Number of Shares (or Approximate Dollar Value) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Repurchased | | | | |
| September 2008 | Class A | 294,700 | \$ 16.82 (2) | 294,700 (3) | \$ |
| October 2008 | Class B | | | | |
| | Class A | | | | \$ |
| November 2008 | Class B | 5,000 (1) | \$ 17.49 | | |
| | Class A | | | | \$ |
| Total | Class B | | | | |
| | Class A | 294,700 | | 294,700 (3) | |
| | Class B | 5,000 (1) | | | |

- (1) There is no public market for the Class B common shares of the Corporation. Pursuant to our Articles of Incorporation, a holder of Class B common shares may not transfer such Class B common shares (except to permitted transferees, a group that generally includes members of the holder's extended family, family trusts and charities) unless such holder first offers such shares to the Corporation for purchase at the most recent closing price for the Corporation's Class A common shares. If the Corporation does not purchase such Class B common shares, the holder must convert such shares, on a share for share basis, into Class A common shares prior to any transfer. All of the shares were repurchased by American Greetings for cash pursuant to this right of first refusal.
- (2) Excludes commissions paid, if any, related to the share repurchase transactions.
- (3) On January 8, 2008, American Greetings announced that its Board of Directors authorized a program to repurchase up to \$100 million of its Class A common shares. There was no set expiration date for this repurchase program and these repurchases were made through a 10b5-1 program in open market or privately negotiated transactions which were intended to be in compliance with the SEC's Rule 10b-18, subject to market conditions, applicable legal requirements and other factors. This program was completed in September 2008.

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibits required by Item 601 of Regulation S-K

Exhibit

| Number | Description |
|--------|--|
| (31) a | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| (31) b | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| (32) | Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |

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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.

AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION

By: /s/ Joseph B. Cipollone
Joseph B. Cipollone
Vice President, Corporate Controller, and Chief
Accounting Officer *

January 7, 2009

* (Signing on behalf of Registrant as a duly authorized officer of the Registrant and signing as the chief accounting officer of the Registrant.)