

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended: **December 26, 2004**

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: 1-9824

The McClatchy Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

52-2080478
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

2100 "Q" Street, Sacramento, CA
(Address of principal executive offices)

95816
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **916-321-1846**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|--|---|
| Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share | New York Stock Exchange |

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(g) of the Act:

None

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter. Based on the closing price of the Company's Class A Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on June 25, 2004: approximately \$1,488,467,000. For purposes of the foregoing calculation only, as required by Form 10-K, the Registrant has included in the shares owned by affiliates the beneficial ownership of Common Stock of officers and directors of the Registrant and members of their families, and such inclusion shall not be construed as an admission that any such person is an affiliate for any purpose.

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

Shares outstanding as of February 17, 2005:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Class A Common Stock | 20,329,813 Shares |
| Class B Common Stock | 26,244,147 Shares |

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Definitive Proxy Statement for the Company's May 18, 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (incorporated in Part II and Part III to the extent provided in Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 hereof).

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2004 FORM 10-K

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PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Available Information

The Company maintains a website which includes an investor relations page available to all interested parties at www.mcclatchy.com. All filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, along with any amendments thereto, are available free of charge on our website at www.mcclatchy.com/investor/. In addition, paper copies of any such filings are available free of charge by contacting us at the address listed on the cover page of this filing. The contents of this website are not incorporated into this filing. Further, our reference to the URL for this website is intended to be an inactive textual reference only.

Overview

The McClatchy Company (the “Company”) was formed in 1998 as a Delaware corporation serving as a holding company owning McClatchy Newspapers, Inc. and Cowles Media Company. All references to the “Company” in this Report include McClatchy Newspapers, Inc., the predecessor in interest to the Company prior to the acquisition of Cowles Media Company.

The Company dates from the California Gold Rush era of 1857. Its three original California newspapers - *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Fresno Bee* and *The Modesto Bee* - were the core of the Company until 1979 when the Company began to diversify geographically outside of California. At that time it purchased two newspapers in the Northwest, the *Anchorage Daily News* and the *Tri-City Herald* in Southeastern Washington. In 1986, the Company purchased *The (Tacoma) News Tribune*. The Company expanded into the Carolinas when it purchased newspapers in South Carolina in 1990 and The News and Observer Publishing Company in North Carolina in 1995. In 1998 the Company expanded into Minnesota with the acquisition of The Star Tribune Company and expanded further in California with the purchase of the *Merced Sun-Star* and five related non-daily newspapers (the Merced Group) in 2004.

During 2004, the Company owned and published 30 newspapers in four regions of the country – Minnesota, California, the Carolinas and the Northwest (Alaska and Washington). These newspapers range from large dailies serving metropolitan areas to non-daily newspapers serving small communities. For the fiscal year 2004 the Company had an average paid daily circulation of 1,419,311, Sunday circulation of 1,847,242, and non-daily circulation of 69,379.

Each of the Company’s newspapers is largely autonomous in its business and editorial operations so as to meet most effectively the needs of the communities it serves. Publishers and editors of the newspapers make the day-to-day decisions and, within limits, are responsible for their own budgeting and planning. Policies on such matters as the amount and type of capital expenditures, key personnel changes, and strategic planning and operating budgets, including wage and pricing matters, are approved or established by the Company’s senior management and/or Board of Directors.

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Each of the Company's daily newspapers has the largest circulation of any newspaper serving its particular community. The Company believes that this circulation advantage is of primary importance in attracting advertising, the principal source of revenues for the Company. Advertising revenues approximated 84% of consolidated net revenues in fiscal 2004 and 83% of consolidated net revenues in fiscal 2003. Circulation revenues approximated 14% of consolidated net revenues in fiscal 2004 and 15% of consolidated net revenues in fiscal 2003.

The Company's newspapers supplement their newspaper publishing operations with an array of niche products and direct marketing initiatives, including direct mail. While the direct marketing programs are financially successful in their own right, they also help retain advertising in the newspapers. The newspapers also operate leading local websites in each daily newspaper market, offering users information, comprehensive news, advertising, e-commerce and other services. Online advertising, particularly classified advertising, has become one of the Company's fastest growing revenue sources, albeit still a small part of each newspaper's operations. Together with the mass reach of its in-paper advertising, these lines of business help each of the Company's newspapers maintain its position as a leading media outlet in each daily newspaper market.

The Company's newspaper business is somewhat seasonal, with peak revenues and profits generally occurring in the second and fourth quarters of each year as a result of increased advertising activity during the spring advertising season, and the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The first quarter is historically the weakest quarter for revenues and profits.

The Company also owns McClatchy Interactive (formerly known as Nando Media), an interactive media operation whose primary mission is to be a technology and content partner to the Company's newspaper internet sites. In addition, the Company is a partner (13.5% interest) in Ponderay Newsprint Company, a general partnership that owns and operates a newsprint mill in Washington State.

Recent Acquisition and Divestiture - On January 7, 2004, the Company purchased the assets of the *Merced Sun-Star*, a daily newspaper in Merced, California and five non-daily newspapers (Merced Group) for \$41.0 million in cash. Revenues of the Merced Group from the date of purchase through the end of fiscal 2004 were \$13.8 million. The purchase included \$37.2 million in intangible assets, the most significant of which was \$31.0 million of goodwill. Amortization of the goodwill and other identifiable intangibles will be deductible for tax purposes. The useful lives associated with the \$6.2 million of identifiable intangible assets range from eight to 17 years.

On June 10, 2003, the Company sold the assets of The Newspaper Network (TNN), a national sales and marketing company. The Associated Press purchased TNN's ad processing operations and, separately, Vertis, Inc. purchased TNN's sales and marketing assets. Total consideration from the sales was \$14.2 million including the assumption of liabilities. The revenues and operating results of TNN are included in discontinued operations in the Consolidated Statement of Income in fiscal 2003.

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Forward-Looking Statements - When used in this Report, the words “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “estimates,” and similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, including those discussed under the heading “Risk Factors that Could Affect Operating Results” in Part II, Item 7 that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Report.

Star Tribune

The *Star Tribune*, a morning newspaper serving Minneapolis-St. Paul and the surrounding metropolitan area, is the Company’s largest newspaper, contributing 32.7% of fiscal 2004 revenues compared to 33.1% of fiscal 2003 revenues. In fiscal 2004 the *Star Tribune*’s daily average paid circulation increased 0.3% to 380,422 and Sunday average paid circulation decreased 0.5% to 671,831. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 74% of the daily and 74% of Sunday circulation was home delivered. The *Star Tribune* competes in the eastern portion of its market with the *Pioneer Press*, which operates in St. Paul, Minnesota, and whose daily circulation is approximately one half and whose Sunday circulation is approximately one third of the *Star Tribune*’s circulation.

The *Star Tribune*’s advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------|-------|
| Full-Run advertising lineage in thousands of six-column inches | 1,895 | 1,930 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 1,223 | 1,176 |

The *Star Tribune*’s fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 4.3% to \$380,103,000 from fiscal 2003 revenues of \$364,288,000.

California Newspapers

The California newspapers include the three “*Bee*” newspapers, the *Merced Sun-Star*, six weekly newspapers and two Spanish-language, non-daily newspapers. The net revenues and circulation of these newspapers are summarized below:

| Newspaper | 2004 Circulation (1) | | Net Revenues | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| | Daily/Weekly | Sunday | 2004 | 2003 |
| <i>The Sacramento Bee</i> | 298,908 | 346,186 | \$249,866,000 | \$239,828,000 |
| <i>The Fresno Bee</i> | 163,381 | 192,474 | \$101,017,000 | \$ 93,856,000 |
| <i>The Modesto Bee</i> | 84,852 | 91,246 | \$ 61,993,000 | \$ 58,513,000 |
| <i>Merced Sun-Star</i> | 17,518 | — | \$ 10,657,000 | — |
| Non-daily newspapers | 15,530 | — | \$ 5,878,000 | \$ 2,077,000 |

(1) Based on fiscal year average paid circulation.

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The California newspapers produced approximately 36.9% of total Company net revenues in fiscal 2004, compared to 35.9% in fiscal 2003. Fiscal 2004 net revenues at the California newspapers increased 8.9% from fiscal 2003. Revenues at the California newspapers, excluding the Merced Group, increased 5.4% in fiscal 2004.

The Sacramento Bee

The Sacramento Bee is a morning newspaper serving the California state capital and the surrounding region. In fiscal year 2004, *The Sacramento Bee's* average paid circulation increased 1.0% daily and decreased 1.9% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 84% of the daily and 79% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

The Sacramento Bee's advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six column inches | 2,586 | 2,574 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 718 | 705 |

The Sacramento Bee's fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 4.2% from fiscal 2003 revenues.

The Fresno Bee

The Fresno Bee is a morning newspaper serving the Fresno, California metropolitan area. In 2004, *The Fresno Bee's* fiscal year 2004 average paid circulation increased 0.5% daily and decreased 0.3% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 86% of *The Fresno Bee's* daily and 85% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

The Fresno Bee's advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 1,303 | 1,318 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 336 | 313 |

The Fresno Bee's fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 7.6% from 2003.

The Modesto Bee

The Modesto Bee is a morning newspaper that serves the Modesto, California metropolitan area, located between Sacramento and Fresno. *The Modesto Bee's* fiscal year 2004 average paid circulation decreased 2.0% daily and 2.1% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 82% of the daily and 84% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

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The *Modesto Bee*'s advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, are set forth in the following table:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 1,299 | 1,327 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 189 | 170 |

The *Modesto Bee*'s fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 5.9% from fiscal 2003.

Merced Sun-Star

The *Merced Sun-Star* is a morning newspaper that serves the Merced, California metropolitan area, which is located between Modesto and Fresno. Merced publishes a daily newspaper Monday through Friday and a weekend edition on Saturday. Average daily paid circulation is calculated using a six-day average. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 80% of the daily circulation was home delivered.

The *Merced Sun-Star*'s advertising volumes for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2004 are set forth in the following table:

| | 2004 |
|---|------|
| Full Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 600 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 44 |

Carolina Newspapers

The Carolina newspapers include *The News & Observer*, the second largest newspaper in North Carolina, and three daily newspapers in South Carolina. The Company also operates eight non-daily newspapers in North and South Carolina strategically located near its daily newspapers.

The net revenues and circulation of the Carolina newspapers are summarized below:

| Newspaper | 2004 Circulation (1) | | Net Revenues | |
|--|----------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| | Daily/Weekly | Sunday | 2004 | 2003 |
| <i>The News & Observer</i> (Raleigh) | 171,089 | 211,039 | \$ 136,778,000 | \$ 128,878,000 |
| <i>The Herald</i> (Rock Hill) | 31,574 | 32,955 | \$ 13,726,000 | \$ 13,209,000 |
| <i>The Island Packet</i> (Hilton Head) | 18,953 | 19,806 | \$ 16,805,000 | \$ 15,902,000 |
| <i>The Beaufort Gazette</i> | 12,449 | 11,276 | \$ 6,855,000 | \$ 6,475,000 |
| Non-daily newspapers | 40,315 | NA | \$ 12,001,000 | \$ 12,232,000 |

(1) Based on fiscal year average paid circulation.

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The Carolina newspapers produced 16.0% of total Company net revenues in fiscal 2004, compared to 16.1% in 2003. Net revenues of the Carolina newspapers increased 5.4% from fiscal 2003.

The News & Observer

The News & Observer, the Company's third largest newspaper, is a morning daily serving North Carolina's state capital, Raleigh, and the Research Triangle, which includes Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The News & Observer's average paid circulation in fiscal year 2004 increased approximately 0.6% daily and 0.5% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004 approximately 80% of the daily and 76% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

The News & Observer's advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 1,900 | 1,935 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 404 | 375 |

The News & Observer's fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 6.1% from fiscal 2003.

The Herald

The Herald is a morning newspaper serving Rock Hill and surrounding communities in York County, South Carolina. Rock Hill is approximately 25 miles southwest of Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2004, *The Herald's* fiscal year 2004 average paid circulation decreased 0.9% daily and decreased 1.7% on Sunday.

The Herald's main competitor is a zoned edition of the *Charlotte Observer*, whose circulation in *The Herald's* primary circulation area is estimated to be approximately a third of *The Herald's* circulation. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 76% of the daily and 76% of Sunday circulation of the Herald was home delivered.

Advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 743 | 782 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 58 | 57 |

The Herald's fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 4.8% from fiscal 2003.

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The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette

The Island Packet and *The Beaufort Gazette* serve Beaufort County in southeastern South Carolina. *The Island Packet* serves Hilton Head Island and the town of Bluffton where tourism, retirement communities and services are the economic mainstays. *The Beaufort Gazette* serves the city of Beaufort and northern Beaufort County encompassing surrounding islands of Lady's, St. Helena, Fripp and Parris. The management and many business functions of the two newspapers are combined to pursue regional strategies and operational synergies.

From fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2004, the average paid circulation increased 2.4% daily and 3.1% Sunday at *The Island Packet*, and increased 4.9% daily and 1.1% Sunday at *The Beaufort Gazette*.

As of December 26, 2004, approximately 64% of the daily and 62% of Sunday circulation of *The Island Packet* was home delivered. Comparable amounts for *The Beaufort Gazette* were 56% daily and 64% Sunday.

Advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <i>The Island Packet:</i> | | |
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 930 | 934 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 25 | 23 |
| <i>The Beaufort Gazette:</i> | | |
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 379 | 403 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 18 | 17 |

The Island Packet's fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 5.7% over fiscal 2003, and *The Beaufort Gazette's* net revenues increased 5.9%.

Carolina Non-daily Newspapers

The North Carolina non-dailies are newspapers that serve communities generally surrounding Raleigh. They are: *Chapel Hill News*, *Cary News*, *Eastern Wake News*, and *Smithfield Herald*. Their combined paid average fiscal year 2004 non-daily circulation is 32,120.

The South Carolina non-daily newspapers include the *Clover Herald*, the *Yorkville Enquirer*, the *Lake Wylie Magazine* and the *Fort Mill Times*, and serve small communities generally surrounding Rock Hill, South Carolina. Their combined paid average fiscal year 2004 non-daily circulation is 8,114.

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Northwest Newspapers

The Company publishes five newspapers in Washington State and the largest daily newspaper in Alaska. The net revenues and circulation of these newspapers are summarized below:

| Newspaper | 2004 Circulation (1) | | Net Revenues | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| | Daily/Weekly | Sunday | 2004 | 2003 |
| <i>The News Tribune</i> | 129,129 | 143,845 | \$79,274,000 | \$79,306,000 |
| <i>Anchorage Daily News</i> | 68,953 | 81,291 | \$57,574,000 | \$55,708,000 |
| <i>Tri-City Herald</i> | 42,083 | 45,293 | \$24,932,000 | \$23,518,000 |
| Non-daily newspapers | 13,204 | NA | \$ 4,973,000 | \$ 4,629,000 |

(1) Based on fiscal year average paid circulation.

The Company's Northwest newspapers produced 14.3% of the Company's total net revenues in fiscal 2004, compared to 14.8% in 2003. Net revenues in fiscal 2004 at the Northwest newspapers increased 2.2% versus fiscal 2003.

The News Tribune

The News Tribune, a morning newspaper, primarily serves the Tacoma, Washington, metropolitan area in Pierce and southern King counties. It is the third largest newspaper in Washington State. Tacoma is approximately 30 miles south of Seattle. *The News Tribune* competes in the northernmost fringes of its market with the Seattle metropolitan newspapers. In fiscal year 2004, the average paid circulation of *The News Tribune* increased 0.1% daily and decreased 1.6% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 85% of the daily and 84% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

The News Tribune's advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Full-Run advertising linage in thousands of six-column inches | 1,266 | 1,363 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 257 | 263 |

The News Tribune's fiscal 2004 net revenues decreased nominally from fiscal 2003.

Anchorage Daily News

The *Anchorage Daily News*, a morning newspaper, is Alaska's largest newspaper. The *Anchorage Daily News* circulates throughout the state of Alaska but its primary circulation is concentrated in the south central region of the state comprising metropolitan Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

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The *Anchorage Daily News*' fiscal year 2004 average paid circulation decreased 3.5% daily and 4.0% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004, approximately 67% of the daily and 64% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

Advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Full-Run advertising lineage in thousands of six-column inches | 947 | 918 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 91 | 85 |

Anchorage Daily News' fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 3.3% from fiscal 2003.

Tri-City Herald

The *Tri-City Herald* is a morning newspaper serving the Tri-Cities of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco in southeastern Washington. For fiscal year 2004, the *Tri-City Herald*'s average paid circulation increased 1.2% daily and decreased 0.3% Sunday. As of December 26, 2004 approximately 88% of the daily and 87% of Sunday circulation was home delivered.

The *Tri-City Herald*'s advertising volumes for the fiscal years ended December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are set forth in the following table:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Full-Run advertising lineage in thousands of six-column inches | 843 | 787 |
| Preprints distributed in millions | 94 | 92 |

The *Tri-City Herald*'s fiscal 2004 net revenues increased 6.0% from fiscal 2003.

Northwestern Non-daily Newspapers

The Company's other non-daily newspapers include the *Peninsula Gateway* in southern Puget Sound and *The Puyallup Herald*, which circulates weekly in southern Pierce County, near Tacoma.

Other Operations

The Company's rapidly expanding internet activities have produced robust local websites in each of its daily newspaper markets. These efforts are supported by McClatchy Interactive, the Company's interactive media operation that provides newspapers with content, publishing tools and software development. The primary mission of McClatchy Interactive is to be a technology and content partner to the Company's newspaper internet sites. McClatchy Interactive also provides hosting and programming services to other newspapers.

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Raw Materials

During fiscal 2004, the Company consumed approximately 241,000 metric tons of newsprint compared to 241,700 metric tons in fiscal 2003. The Company currently obtains its supply of newsprint from a number of suppliers primarily under long-term contracts.

Newsprint expense accounted for 14.5% of operating expenses in fiscal 2004 compared to 13.9% in fiscal 2003. Consequently, the Company's earnings are sensitive to changes in newsprint prices. All other things being equal, a hypothetical \$10 per metric ton change in newsprint prices affects earnings per share by three cents annually. Management believes its newsprint sources of supply under existing arrangements are adequate for its anticipated current needs. Significant increases in the price of newsprint would adversely affect the operating results of the Company to the extent that they were not offset by advertising and circulation volume and/or rate increases.

The Company, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Newsprint Ventures, Inc., and four other publishers and a major newsprint manufacturer are partners in Ponderay Newsprint Company, a general partnership, which owns and operates a newsprint mill located sixty miles northeast of Spokane, Washington. The mill has a production capacity in excess of 260,000 metric tons annually. The publisher partners have committed to take a total of 126,000 metric tons of this anticipated production with the balance to be sold on the open market. The Company's annual commitment is 28,400 metric tons. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and the financial statements and accompanying notes for further discussion of the impact of this investment on the Company's business.

Competition

The Company's newspapers, direct marketing programs and internet sites compete for advertising revenues and readers' time with television, radio, the internet, direct mail companies, free shoppers, suburban neighborhood and national newspapers and other publications, and billboard companies, among others. In some of its markets (primarily Minneapolis, Minnesota; Tacoma, Washington; and Rock Hill, South Carolina), the Company's newspapers also compete with other newspapers published in nearby cities and towns. Competition for advertising is generally based upon circulation levels, readership demographics, price and advertiser results, while competition for circulation and readership is generally based upon the content, journalistic quality, service and the price of the newspaper. The Company's major daily newspapers lead their direct local newspaper competitors in both advertising lineage and general circulation and readership in their respective markets, and its internet sites are leading local sites in each of the Company's major daily newspaper markets, based upon research conducted by the Company and various independent sources.

Employees – Labor

As of December 26, 2004, the Company had 9,171 full and part-time employees (equating to 7,657 full-time equivalent employees), of whom approximately 25% were represented by unions including 58% at the *Star Tribune* and 23% at *The Sacramento Bee*, the Company's two largest

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newspapers. Most of the Company's union-represented employees are currently working under labor agreements expiring in various years. Seven of the Company's 12 daily papers have no unions.

While the Company's newspapers have not had a strike since 1980 and they do not currently anticipate a strike occurring, the Company cannot preclude the possibility that a strike may occur at one or more of its newspapers when future negotiations occur. The Company believes that, in the event of a newspaper strike, it would be able to continue to publish and deliver to subscribers, a capability which is critical to retaining revenues from advertising and circulation, although there can be no assurance of this.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

The corporate headquarters of the Company are located at 2100 "Q" Street, Sacramento, California. At December 26, 2004 the Company had newspaper production facilities in 12 markets situated in six states. These facilities vary in size and in total occupy about 4.3 million square feet. Approximately 840,000 of the total square footage is leased from others. The Company owns substantially all of its production equipment, although certain office equipment is leased.

The Company maintains its properties in good condition and believes that its current facilities are adequate to meet the present needs of its newspapers.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company becomes involved from time to time in claims and lawsuits incidental to the ordinary course of its business, including such matters as libel, invasion of privacy, intellectual property infringement, wrongful termination actions, and complaints alleging discrimination. In addition, the Company is involved from time to time in governmental and administrative proceedings concerning employment, labor, environmental and other claims. Historically, such claims and proceedings have not had a material adverse effect upon the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

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

Not Applicable.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON STOCK AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The Company's Class A Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE symbol - MNI). A small amount of Class A Stock is also traded on the Midwest Stock Exchange and the Pacific Stock Exchange. The Company's Class B Stock is not publicly traded. The following table lists per share dividends paid on both classes of Common Stock and the prices of the Company's Class A Common Stock as reported by these exchanges for fiscal 2004 and 2003:

| | 2004 | | | 2003 | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | High | Low | Dividends | High | Low | Dividends |
| 1st Quarter | \$72.05 | \$67.50 | \$ 0.12 | \$58.35 | \$51.39 | \$ 0.11 |
| 2nd Quarter | \$74.38 | \$68.90 | \$ 0.12 | \$62.39 | \$52.70 | \$ 0.11 |
| 3rd Quarter | \$73.10 | \$67.50 | \$ 0.13 | \$62.15 | \$55.58 | \$ 0.11 |
| 4th Quarter | \$72.60 | \$67.14 | \$ 0.13 | \$70.14 | \$59.35 | \$ 0.11 |

The payment and amount of future dividends remain within the discretion of the Board of Directors and will depend upon the Company's future earnings, financial condition and requirements, and other factors considered relevant by the Board.

The number of record holders of Class A and Class B Common Stock at February 17, 2005 was 1,405 and 22, respectively. The Company did not repurchase any of its common shares in fiscal 2004 and currently has no authorized stock repurchase program in place.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

Information regarding McClatchy's equity compensation plans, including both shareholder approved plans and non-shareholder approved plans, is set forth in the section entitled "Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans" in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company's 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which information is incorporated into Item 12 herein by reference.

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ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY
(In thousands, except per share amounts)

| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 | December 30, 2001 | December 31, 2000 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| REVENUES - NET: | | | | | |
| Advertising | \$ 972,808 | \$ 910,628 | \$ 877,838 | \$ 871,375 | \$ 926,745 |
| Circulation | 166,623 | 165,552 | 166,050 | 168,462 | 175,429 |
| Other | 23,945 | 23,211 | 26,072 | 28,302 | 28,915 |
| Total | 1,163,376 | 1,099,391 | 1,069,960 | 1,068,139 | 1,131,089 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 66,532 | 70,139 | 73,189 | 109,029 | 109,169 |
| Other operating expenses | 827,535 | 780,311 | 752,966 | 787,092 | 789,698 |
| Total | 894,067 | 850,450 | 826,155 | 896,121 | 898,867 |
| OPERATING INCOME | 269,309 | 248,941 | 243,805 | 172,018 | 232,222 |
| NON-OPERATING (EXPENSES) INCOME: | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (9,095) | (18,090) | (26,448) | (44,045) | (64,677) |
| Refinancing related charge | (3,737) | — | — | — | — |
| Partnership income (loss) | 929 | 368 | (1,341) | 527 | (60) |
| Loss on internet investment | — | (1,008) | (1,000) | (10,556) | — |
| Other - net | 155 | 448 | 652 | 937 | 1,927 |
| Total | (11,748) | (18,282) | (28,137) | (53,137) | (62,810) |
| INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAX PROVISION | 257,561 | 230,659 | 215,668 | 118,881 | 169,412 |
| INCOME TAX PROVISION | 101,685 | 86,462 | 85,119 | 61,944 | 81,407 |
| INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS | 155,876 | 144,197 | 130,549 | 56,937 | 88,005 |
| DISCONTINUED OPERATION: | | | | | |
| Income from discontinued operation (including \$10,224 gain on disposal in 2003) | — | 10,076 | 1,217 | 1,821 | 1,608 |
| Income tax provision | — | 4,051 | 550 | 761 | 683 |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | 6,025 | 667 | 1,060 | 925 |
| NET INCOME | \$ 155,876 | \$ 150,222 | \$ 131,216 | \$ 57,997 | \$ 88,930 |
| NET INCOME PER COMMON SHARE: | | | | | |
| Basic: | | | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 3.36 | \$ 3.13 | \$ 2.86 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 1.95 |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Net income per share | \$ 3.36 | \$ 3.26 | \$ 2.87 | \$ 1.28 | \$ 1.97 |
| Diluted: | | | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.10 | \$ 2.83 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 1.95 |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Net income per share | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.23 | \$ 2.84 | \$ 1.27 | \$ 1.97 |
| DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.44 | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.40 |
| CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET DATA: | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$2,049,400 | \$1,875,298 | \$1,981,561 | \$2,104,160 | \$2,165,658 |
| Long-term debt | 267,200 | 204,923 | 471,615 | 594,714 | 778,102 |
| Stockholders' equity | 1,423,004 | 1,216,017 | 1,057,329 | 998,165 | 958,851 |

On January 7, 2004 the Company purchased the assets of the *Merced Sun-Star* and five related non-daily newspapers. On June 10, 2003, the Company sold the assets of The Newspaper Network, a national sales and marketing company. Prior year data has been reclassified for this discontinued operation. In fiscal 2002 the Company adopted SFAS No. 142 and No. 144 and in accordance with these statements, eliminated the amortization of goodwill and recorded a pre-tax charge of \$1.6 million to write down the value of certain land. Amortization expense that would have been excluded had SFAS No. 142 been effective for fiscal years 2001 and 2000 was \$34.7 million and \$35.4 million, respectively. Results in 2001 include pre-tax charges totaling \$12.0 million to write down certain internet investments and reserve for an environmental clean up. Results in fiscal 2000 include 53 weeks while all other years include 52 weeks. This summary should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

The Company owns and publishes 30 newspapers in four regions of the country - Minnesota, California, the Carolinas and the Northwest (Alaska and Washington). The Company's newspapers range from large dailies serving metropolitan areas to non-daily newspapers serving small communities. The Company supplements its newspaper publishing with an array of niche products and direct marketing initiatives, including direct mail. The Company also operates leading local websites in each of its daily newspaper markets offering users information, comprehensive news, advertising, e-commerce and other services. The Company also owns and operates McClatchy Interactive (formerly known as Nando Media), an interactive media operation that provides newspapers with content, publishing tools and software development.

The Company's primary source of revenue is advertising. While percentages vary from year to year, and from newspaper to newspaper, local retail advertising carried as a part of newspapers ("run-of-press" or "ROP" advertising) or in advertising inserts placed in newspapers (preprint advertising), generally contributes roughly 40% of advertising revenues at the Company's newspapers. Recent trends have been for certain national or regional retailers to use greater preprint advertising and less ROP advertising, although that trend shifts from time to time. Nonetheless, ROP advertising still makes up the majority of retail advertising. Classified advertising, primarily in automotive, employment and real estate categories, generally contributes about 40% of advertising revenue and national advertising generally contributes about 10% of total advertising. Online advertising, direct marketing and other advertising make up the remainder of the Company's advertising revenues. Circulation revenues contribute roughly 15% of the Company's newspaper revenues, depending upon the size and locale of the newspaper. Most newspapers are delivered by independent contractors. Circulation revenues are recorded net of direct delivery costs.

See "Results of Operations" below for a discussion of the Company's revenue performance and contribution by categories for fiscal 2004, 2003 and 2002.

Critical Accounting Policies

The accompanying discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP). The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. These estimates form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. We base our estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. However, future events are subject to change and

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the best estimates and judgments routinely require adjustment. The most significant areas involving estimates and assumptions are revenue recognition, allowance for uncollectible accounts, amortization and/or impairment of intangibles, pension and post-retirement expenses, insurance reserves, and the Company's tax provision. We believe the following critical accounting policies, in particular, affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition - Advertising revenues are recorded when advertisements are placed in the newspaper and circulation revenues are recorded as newspapers are delivered over the subscription term. Circulation revenues are recorded net of direct delivery costs. Other revenue is recognized when the related product or service has been delivered. Revenues are recorded net of estimated incentive offerings including special pricing agreements, promotions and other volume-based incentives. Revisions to these estimates are charged to income in the period in which the facts that give rise to the revision become known.

Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts - The Company maintains an allowance account for estimated losses resulting from the risk its customers will not make required payments. Generally, the Company uses the aging of accounts receivable, reserving for all accounts due 90 days or longer, to establish allowances for losses on accounts receivable. However, if the financial condition of a customer deteriorates, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances are reserved. To illustrate the impact of a change to the allowance for uncollectible accounts, hypothetically, if the amount of receivables that are 90 days or longer were to increase by 10%, the Company's allowance for estimated losses would have increased \$292,000 at the end of fiscal 2004.

Goodwill and Intangible Impairment - In assessing the recoverability of the Company's goodwill and other intangibles, the Company must make assumptions regarding estimated future cash flows and other factors to determine the fair value of the respective assets. The Company periodically analyzes its goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives for impairment. No material impairment loss was recorded in fiscal 2004, 2003 or 2002.

Pension and Post-retirement Benefits - The Company has significant pension and post-retirement benefit costs and credits that are developed from actuarial valuations. Inherent in these valuations are key assumptions including salary rate increases, discount rates and expected return on plan assets. The Company is required to consider current market conditions, including changes in interest rates, in establishing these assumptions. Changes in the related pension and post-retirement benefit costs or credits may occur in the future because of changes resulting from fluctuations in the Company's employee headcount and/or changes in the various assumptions.

The Company used a discount rate of 6.25%, assumed salary rate increases of 3.5% to 5.0% and an assumed long-term return on assets of 9.0% to calculate its retirement expenses in fiscal 2004, based upon consultation with its outside actuaries. See note 5 to the consolidated financial statements for a more in-depth discussion of the Company's policies in setting its key assumptions related to these obligations. For fiscal 2004, a change in the weighted average rates would have had the following impact on our net benefit cost:

- A decrease of 50 basis points in the long-term rate of return would have increased our net benefit cost by approximately \$2.8 million;

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- A decrease of 25 basis points in the discount rate would have increased our net benefit cost by approximately \$2.4 million; and
- An increase of 50 basis points in the future compensation rate would have increased our net benefit cost by approximately \$2 million.

The Company has revised certain assumptions for its 2005 pension expense calculation. Please see “Recent Events and Trends - Operating Expenses” discussion below.

Tax Provision - The Company’s current and deferred tax provisions are calculated based on estimates and assumptions that could differ from the actual results reflected in income tax returns filed during the subsequent year. Adjustments between the Company’s estimates and the actual results of filed returns are recorded when identified, which is generally in the third quarter of the subsequent year for U.S. federal and state provisions.

The amount of income taxes paid is subject to audits by federal and state authorities, which may result in proposed assessments. The Company’s estimate for the potential outcome for any uncertain tax issue is highly judgmental. Management believes that the Company has adequately provided for any reasonably foreseeable outcome related to these matters based upon currently available information. However, future results may include favorable or unfavorable adjustments to estimated tax liabilities in the period the assessments are made or resolved or when statutes of limitation on potential assessments expire. Additionally, earnings or deductions estimated to be in each jurisdiction by the Company may differ from actual amounts. As a result of these potential adjustments, the Company’s effective tax rate may fluctuate significantly on a quarterly basis.

Self-Insurance - The Company is self-insured for workers’ compensation in California and Alaska. The Company relies on claims experience and the advice of consulting actuaries and administrators in determining an adequate provision for self-insurance claims.

The Company used a discount rate of 6.0% to calculate workers’ compensation reserves as of December 26, 2004. A decrease of 25 basis points in the discount rate would have an immaterial effect on total workers’ compensation reserves. Additionally, a 10% increase in claims would have increased total workers’ compensation reserves by approximately \$470,000 at the end of fiscal 2004.

Recent Events and Trends

Recent Acquisition and Divestiture:

On January 7, 2004, the Company purchased the assets of the *Merced Sun-Star*, a daily newspaper in Merced, California and five non-daily newspapers (Merced Group) for \$41.0 million in cash.

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The purchase included \$37.2 million in intangible assets, the most significant of which was \$31.0 million of goodwill. The acquisition and results of the Merced Group are included in the Company's financial statements beginning on January 7, 2004. See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

On June 10, 2003, the Company sold the assets of The Newspaper Network (TNN), a national sales and marketing company. The Associated Press purchased TNN's ad processing operations and, separately, Vertis, Inc. purchased TNN's sales and marketing assets. Total consideration from the sales was \$14.2 million including the assumption of liabilities. The revenues and operating results of TNN are included in discontinued operations in the Consolidated Statement of Income in fiscal 2003.

Refinancing of Debt:

On May 10, 2004, the Company entered into a five-year, senior unsecured revolving credit facility (Credit Agreement), which provides for borrowings of up to \$500 million from a syndicate of banks through May 11, 2009. The primary purpose of the Credit Agreement is to support the issuance of unsecured promissory notes under a commercial paper program (commercial paper) of up to \$500 million and for general corporate purposes. Initially, however, the Company used the Credit Agreement to refinance all of its existing term debt and principal outstanding under the previous bank credit facility. This debt was subsequently retired with proceeds of commercial paper during the second quarter of fiscal 2004.

Debt under the Credit Agreement bears interest at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus a spread ranging from 29.5 basis points to 77.5 basis points plus a utilization fee of 12.5 basis points if borrowings exceed \$250 million. Applicable rates are based upon the Company's ratings on its long-term debt from Moody's and Standard & Poor's. A facility fee for the revolving credit facility ranges from 8.0 basis points to 22.5 basis points depending on the Company's ratings, and such fees are currently at 12.5 basis points. No debt was outstanding under the Credit Agreement at December 26, 2004.

The Company's commercial paper outstanding at December 26, 2004 had maturities ranging from overnight to 46 days, with interest rates ranging from 2.10% to 2.48%. The weighted average interest rate on commercial paper outstanding since May 12, 2004 (inception of the program) through December 26, 2004 was 1.45%. Because the Company's Credit Agreement provides backup for its commercial paper, and in accordance with the Company's ability and intent, the commercial paper is classified as long-term debt.

In the second quarter of fiscal 2004, the Company recognized a charge, primarily consisting of previously capitalized loan fees, of \$3.7 million related to its previous debt agreement. The write-off was \$2.25 million after taxes.

Advertising Revenues:

The most significant trend in revenues for the newspaper industry and the Company in recent years has been the decline in employment advertising revenues since 2000. The Company's employment advertising revenues, which reached \$190.8 million in 2000, declined 41.6% to \$111.4 million in 2002, and declined an additional 12.0% to \$98.0 million in fiscal 2003. Employment advertising improved in 2004 to \$107.8 million.

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In fiscal 2004, total advertising revenues grew 6.8% to \$972.8 million compared to fiscal 2003. A rebound in employment revenues of 9.9% from fiscal 2003, together with growth in national revenue and continued growth of internet and direct marketing revenues, contributed to the increase in advertising revenue for fiscal 2004. In addition, the Merced Group contributed \$12.3 million in advertising revenues for fiscal 2004. Please see the revenue discussions below under “Results of Operations”.

Operating Expenses:

The Company incurred three newsprint price increases in 2003 and two in 2004, resulting in an average increase of 9.5% in newsprint prices in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. An additional price increase has been announced for the first quarter of 2005; however, the ultimate amount and/or timing of any price increase is uncertain at this time. Newsprint pricing is largely dependent on global demand and supply for newsprint. All other things being equal, a hypothetical \$10 per metric ton change in newsprint prices affects earnings per share by three cents annually. The impact of newsprint price increases on the Company’s expenses is discussed under “Results of Operations” below.

The Company’s fringe benefit costs increased 10.7% over fiscal 2003 due primarily to higher retirement and medical costs. With regard to the Company’s retirement expenses, historically low long-term interest rates caused the Company to use a 6.25% discount rate to calculate its pension and post-retirement expenses in fiscal 2004 compared to a 6.75% rate used in fiscal 2003. In addition, with an economic recovery anticipated by many analysts over the next several years, the Company increased its assumed rate of salary increase from a range of 3.0% to 5.0% used in 2003 to a range of 3.5% to 5.0% in 2004 for its pension plans. These factors have increased the Company’s pension expense in fiscal 2004 compared to 2003. The Company contributed \$60.0 million to its pension plans in early fiscal 2004, and expected earnings on this contribution partially offset these increases.

In 2005, for purposes of calculating retirement expenses, the Company has reduced its discount rate to 6.0% and its expected return on assets to 8.5% from 9.0% used in 2004, due to a continued decline in long-term interest rates and expected lower investment returns on plan assets. The Company did not change the assumed range of salary rate increases for 2005. These changes are expected to increase retirement expenses and obligations. As a result, the Company voluntarily contributed \$40.0 million to its pension plans in early fiscal 2005, and expects earnings on this contribution to partially offset these increases. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements:

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 123 (revised 2004), “Share-Based Payment” (“SFAS 123R”), which replaces SFAS No. 123, “Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees.”

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SFAS 123R requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options and purchases under the employee stock purchase plan, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values, beginning with the first interim or annual period after June 15, 2005, with early adoption encouraged. The pro forma disclosures previously permitted under SFAS 123, no longer will be an alternative to financial statement recognition. We are required to adopt SFAS 123R in our third quarter of fiscal 2005. Under SFAS 123R, we must determine the appropriate fair value model to be used for valuing share-based payments, the amortization method for compensation cost and the transition method to be used at date of adoption. The transition methods include prospective and retroactive adoption options. Under the retroactive options, prior periods may be restated either as of the beginning of the year of adoption or for all periods presented. The prospective method requires that compensation expense be recorded at the beginning of the first quarter of adoption of SFAS 123R for all unvested stock options and restricted stock based upon the previously disclosed SFAS 123 methodology and amounts. The retroactive methods would record compensation expense beginning with the first period restated for all unvested stock options and restricted stock. We are evaluating the requirements of SFAS 123R and have not yet determined the method of adoption. If the Company were to expense the value of stock options for the full fiscal year 2005, it would reduce earnings by an estimated 10 to 12 cents per share. This estimate is based upon currently available information and actual results may differ when SFAS 123R is adopted.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

FISCAL 2004 COMPARED TO FISCAL 2003

The Company reported net income of \$155.9 million or \$3.33 per share for fiscal 2004, which included the non-cash charge of \$2.25 million after-tax related to its debt refinancing (\$0.05 per share). Earnings from continuing operations for fiscal 2003 were \$144.2 million or \$3.10 per share, and were \$150.2 million or \$3.23 per share including income from a discontinued operation.

Revenues:

Revenues in fiscal 2004, including \$13.8 million from the Merced Group, were \$1.2 billion, up 5.8% from revenues in fiscal 2003. Advertising revenues were up 6.8% to \$972.8 million and circulation revenue was up 0.6% to \$166.6 million.

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The following table summarizes the Company's revenue by category for fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. In order to allow an analysis of the categories on a comparable basis to fiscal 2003 operations, advertising revenues from the Merced Group are excluded from the advertising categories, and are discussed separately below. Management believes such an analysis is helpful to enable investors to understand the underlying advertising performance of the Company's historical business.

| | Fiscal Year Ended | | % Change |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | | |
| Advertising revenues: | | | |
| Retail | \$ 408,404 | \$ 397,415 | 2.8% |
| National | 100,220 | 95,214 | 5.3% |
| Classified: | | | |
| Automotive | 117,038 | 119,014 | -1.7% |
| Employment | 107,765 | 98,028 | 9.9% |
| Real estate | 97,620 | 89,110 | 9.5% |
| Other | 36,867 | 36,796 | 0.2% |
| Total classified | 359,290 | 342,948 | 4.8% |
| Other | 92,627 | 75,051 | 23.4% |
| Total advertising excluding Merced | 960,541 | 910,628 | 5.5% |
| Merced total advertising | 12,267 | — | NM |
| Total advertising | 972,808 | 910,628 | 6.8% |
| Circulation | 166,623 | 165,552 | 0.6% |
| Other | 23,945 | 23,211 | 3.2% |
| Total revenues | \$1,163,376 | \$1,099,391 | 5.8% |

NM – Not Meaningful

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While the Company reviews and evaluates the operations of each individual newspaper, for purposes of organization and ease of understanding, the following table summarizes the fiscal 2004 revenues at its newspapers operations by region with year-over-year changes (in thousands):

| | Minnesota | | California (1) | | Carolinas | | Northwest | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | Revenues | % Change |
| Revenues | | | | | | | | |
| Advertising | \$309,506 | 5.0% | \$372,232 | 10.0% | \$155,616 | 6.0% | \$135,454 | 3.8% |
| Circulation | 66,294 | 0.2% | 51,210 | 1.7% | 24,328 | 0.8% | 24,791 | -0.4% |
| Other | 4,303 | 34.5% | 5,969 | 9.5% | 6,221 | 7.2% | 6,508 | -16.4% |
| Total | \$380,103 | 4.3% | \$429,411 | 8.9% | \$186,165 | 5.4% | \$166,753 | 2.2% |

(1) The California region includes the 2004 revenues of \$13.8 million of the Merced Group. Excluding the Merced Group, advertising revenues in this region increased 6.4% and total revenues were up 5.4%.

Retail advertising, excluding the Merced Group, grew \$11.0 million over fiscal 2003 due to growth in preprinted advertising inserts placed into the newspapers, which was up \$8.1 million or 5.1% and in ROP advertising, which increased \$2.9 million or 1.2%. Much of the revenue increase was from the *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis (\$5.4 million) and the Company's three daily *Bee* newspapers in California (\$4.8 million).

National advertising, excluding the Merced Group, increased \$5.0 million, reflecting strong advertising from the airline, banking, entertainment and automotive categories (\$4.2 million), partially offset by a \$1.5 million decline in telecommunications (primarily in the California region). The net increase in national revenues was spread among the California, Minnesota and Carolinas regions, while the Northwest newspapers reported a decline in national advertising.

Classified advertising, excluding the Merced Group, increased \$16.3 million over fiscal 2003, mostly from employment and real estate advertising growth. Employment advertising was up in all regions and gained momentum as the year progressed. Real estate advertising was up in all regions reflecting the national trend in this category. Automotive advertising revenues declined \$2.0 million over fiscal 2003, and generally declined throughout the industry in 2004.

Other advertising revenues, excluding the Merced Group, increased \$17.6 million and primarily consisted of online advertising and direct marketing revenues. Online advertising grew \$13.2 million or 48.7% with strong growth in all regions. Direct marketing revenues increased \$4.5 million with gains in most regions, led by strong growth at the Company's three *Bee* newspapers. Direct mail revenues declined at the *Star Tribune* where certain unprofitable products were discontinued in 2004.

The Merced Group contributed \$12.3 million in advertising revenues for fiscal 2004, including \$5.6 million in retail advertising, \$4.4 million in classified advertising and \$1.8 million in direct mail advertising revenues.

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Consolidated circulation revenues increased \$1.1 million with much of the growth from the Merced Group. Excluding the Merced Group, circulation revenues were up \$60,000.

Operating Expenses:

Operating expenses increased 5.1% and were up 3.7% excluding \$11.8 million of expenses from the Merced Group. The following review of expense categories excludes the expenses of the Merced Group. Management believes such an analysis is helpful to enable investors to understand the underlying performance of the Company's historical business.

Newsprint and supplement expense was up 8.9% with newsprint prices up 9.5% and newsprint consumption down 1.0%. Supplement costs were up \$2.2 million. Compensation costs were up 4.4%, primarily reflecting salary increases and higher fringe benefit costs. Salaries increased 3.2% reflecting merit increases, which were offset somewhat by a decline in head count. However, fringe benefit costs rose 9.7%, largely due to \$7.5 million in additional retirement and medical costs. Other operating expenses increased 2.3% primarily due to increased postage costs associated with the Company's direct mail programs, while other costs were held in check through company-wide cost controls. Depreciation and amortization decreased \$4.3 million, or 6.2%, largely reflecting lower capital expenditures over the last several years and the expiration of useful lives of certain intangible assets.

Non-Operating (Expenses) Income - Net:

Interest expense was \$9.1 million for fiscal 2004. This is a 49.7% decline from fiscal 2003, as the Company benefited from lower interest rates, the expiration of three interest rate swap agreements in June 2003 and one in June 2004, and debt repayment from free cash flow. The Company also recorded \$3.7 million as a pre-tax charge to write off costs related to its previous debt agreement. See Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements and "Refinancing of Debt" discussion under "Recent Events and Trends" above.

The Company recorded \$929,000 as its share of Ponderay's income for fiscal 2004 compared to \$368,000 in fiscal 2003, reflecting the positive impact of newsprint price increases on Ponderay's results.

Income Taxes:

The Company's effective income tax rate was 39.5% for fiscal 2004 compared to 37.5% in fiscal 2003, when the Company realized a greater impact from the effect of the successful resolution of certain state tax positions it had taken in connection with past acquisitions.

FISCAL 2003 COMPARED TO FISCAL 2002

The Company reported net income from continuing operations of \$144.2 million, or \$3.10 per share, compared to the fiscal year 2002 earnings from continuing operations of \$130.5 million, or \$2.83 per share. Total fiscal 2003 earnings from continuing operations included a pre-tax charge of \$1.0 million to write down a certain internet investment. Net income including the discontinued operation was \$150.2 million in fiscal 2003, or \$3.23 per share, compared to \$131.2 million, or \$2.84 per share, in fiscal 2002.

[Table of Contents](#)*Revenues:*

Revenues in fiscal year 2003 increased 2.8% to \$1.1 billion with advertising revenues up 3.7% to \$910.6 million and circulation revenues down 0.3% to \$165.6 million.

The following table summarizes the Company's revenue by category for fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002 (in thousands):

| | 2003 | 2002 | % Change |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Advertising revenues: | | | |
| Retail | \$ 397,415 | \$ 382,467 | 3.9% |
| National | 95,214 | 85,749 | 11.0% |
| Classified: | | | |
| Automotive | 119,014 | 120,933 | -1.6% |
| Employment | 98,028 | 111,359 | -12.0% |
| Real estate | 89,110 | 77,374 | 15.2% |
| Other | 36,796 | 38,149 | -3.5% |
| Total classified | 342,948 | 347,815 | -1.4% |
| Other | 75,051 | 61,807 | 21.4% |
| Total advertising | 910,628 | 877,838 | 3.7% |
| Circulation | 165,552 | 166,050 | -0.3% |
| Other | 23,211 | 26,072 | -11.0% |
| Total revenues | \$1,099,391 | \$1,069,960 | 2.8% |

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While the Company reviews and evaluates the operations of each individual newspaper, for purposes of organization and ease of understanding, the following table summarizes fiscal 2003 revenues at its newspaper operations by region with year over year changes (in thousands):

| | Minnesota | | California | | Carolinas | | Northwest | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| | Revenues | % Change | Revenues | % Change | Revenues | % Change | Revenues | % Change |
| Revenues | | | | | | | | |
| Advertising | \$294,894 | 2.3% | \$338,485 | 7.3% | \$146,769 | 0.6% | \$130,480 | 1.9% |
| Circulation | 66,194 | -0.9% | 50,338 | 0.3% | 24,126 | -3.4% | 24,894 | 3.3% |
| Other | 3,200 | -19.6% | 5,451 | 6.0% | 5,801 | -10.2% | 7,787 | -14.2% |
| Total | \$364,288 | 1.4% | \$394,274 | 6.3% | \$176,696 | -0.3% | \$163,161 | 1.2% |

Retail advertising grew \$14.9 million over fiscal 2002 due primarily to growth in preprinted advertising inserts placed into the newspapers, which was up \$13.5 million or 9.3%. Much of this growth was from the Company's three daily *Bee* newspapers in California (\$8.2 million) and from the *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis (\$5.4 million).

National advertising increased \$9.5 million reflecting strong advertising from telecommunication companies at most newspapers, and banking and automotive advertising at *The Sacramento Bee*. In fact, \$3.7 million of the increase in national advertising was at *The Sacramento Bee*, and the California newspapers as a group contributed \$6.7 million of the increase.

Classified advertising declined \$4.9 million, due primarily to a \$13.3 million decline in employment advertising, offset somewhat by strong advertising growth of \$11.7 million in classified real estate advertising. Automotive and other classified advertising declined \$3.2 million with only the California newspapers showing growth in these areas. The decline in automotive is partially due to difficult comparisons to strong growth in this category in 2002.

Employment advertising was down at all newspapers as this industry-wide trend of lower employment advertising continued, especially at larger metropolitan newspapers. The *Star Tribune* in Minnesota and *The Sacramento Bee* recorded most of these declines by virtue of being the Company's two largest newspapers. *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, NC, had significant losses of employment advertising over the last few years; however, it was one of the Company's first newspapers to show an improving trend in the second half of fiscal 2003. Employment revenue declined \$5.3 million at the *Star Tribune*, \$3.6 million at *The Sacramento Bee*, and \$464,000 at *The News & Observer*.

Real estate advertising was strong at all newspapers except for those in the Carolina region, where they declined nominally due to local market conditions. The increase in real estate advertising at the Company's other newspapers reflects the national trend in this category.

Other advertising revenues increased \$13.2 million and primarily consisted of direct marketing and internet advertising revenues, two of the fastest growing revenue sources at the

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Company's newspapers. Direct marketing revenues increased \$4.4 million with much of the growth coming from the Company's California newspapers (\$3.2 million) where the three *Bee* newspapers have combined to offer direct mail programs to advertisers. Online advertising grew \$8.7 million or 47.5% with strong growth at all newspapers, but with particularly strong growth at *The Sacramento Bee* (up \$2.9 million) and the *Star Tribune* (up \$2.2 million).

Circulation revenues declined nominally as increases at some newspapers were offset by declines at others. Each newspaper pursues its own mix of rate changes and promotional programs. The most significant declines in circulation revenues were at the *Star Tribune*, which reflected changes in the sales mix between single copy and home delivery and promotional programs, and at *The Island Packet* and *The Beaufort Gazette*, where reclassifications of certain delivery costs to a contra-revenue account decreased net circulation revenues.

Other revenues declined \$2.9 million with much of the decline in the Northwest newspapers (\$1.2 million) due to lower commercial printing revenues and at McClatchy Interactive (\$437,000) due to the Company's decision to discontinue the sale of news and information content to third parties.

Operating Expense:

Total operating expenses increased by 2.9% in fiscal 2003 due primarily to higher newsprint, retirement and medical costs. Compensation costs were up 3.1% reflecting salary increases and higher fringe benefit costs. Salaries increased 1.7% reflecting merit increases which were offset somewhat by a 1.2% decline in head count. However, fringe benefit costs rose by 9.5%, largely due to \$7.0 million in additional retirement and medical costs. Newsprint and supplement expense was up 5.0% for fiscal 2003, with newsprint prices up 5.3% and consumption down 0.9%. Other operating expenses increased 3.9% due primarily to higher postage costs associated with the Company's direct mail programs and to the write-off of certain software fixed assets. Depreciation and amortization costs declined \$3.1 million, or 4.2%, primarily reflecting lower capital expenditures over the last several years and the expiration of useful lives of certain assets.

Non-Operating (Expenses) Income – Net:

Interest expense was \$18.1 million for the fiscal year 2003. This is a 31.6% decline from the fiscal year 2002 as the Company benefited from lower interest rates, the expiration of two interest rate swaps and debt repayment from free cash flow. The Company also recorded \$368,000 as its share of Ponderay's income for the fiscal year 2003 compared to \$1.3 million of loss in the fiscal year 2002. The additional income from Ponderay primarily reflects the favorable impact of higher newsprint prices. The Company recorded losses on the writedown of an internet investment of \$1 million in fiscal 2003 as it determined that the carrying value of the investment was permanently impaired. Also, in fiscal 2002 the Company purchased a significant portion of the assets of an internet company in which it had previously invested, and as a result of the asset purchase, the Company was required to write down its investment, recording a loss of \$1 million.

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Income Taxes:

The Company's effective income tax rate was 37.5% for the fiscal year 2003 compared to 39.5% for fiscal year 2002. The lower effective tax rate in 2003 primarily relates to successful resolution of certain state tax positions the Company took in connection with past acquisitions.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Sources and Uses of Liquidity and Capital Resources:

The Company's cash and cash equivalents were \$4.9 million at December 26, 2004, versus \$3.4 million at the end of fiscal 2003. The Company generated \$185.9 million of cash from operating activities in fiscal 2004 even after the voluntary contribution of \$60.0 million to its pension plans (discussed below). The major non-operating uses of cash for fiscal 2004 were \$41.0 million to purchase the Merced Group, purchase property, plant and equipment, and pay dividends. On May 10, 2004 the Company received net proceeds of \$375.0 million for the issuance of debt under its new Credit Agreement, and repaid \$347.0 million of debt under its previous debt agreements. Debt under the Credit Agreement was subsequently retired with proceeds from issuing commercial paper. See the discussion of debt refinancing below. The Company paid \$23.2 million in dividends for fiscal 2004, while proceeds from issuing Class A stock under employee stock plans totaled \$8.2 million. See the Company's Statement of Cash Flows on page 40.

The Company increased its quarterly dividend twice in 2004. The second quarter dividend payable on July 1, 2004 was increased to 12 cents per share from 11 cents per share. The third quarter dividend payable on October 1, 2004 was raised to 13 cents per share.

During fiscal 2004, the Company made voluntary contributions of \$60.0 million to its defined benefit pension plans to reduce the unfunded liability of its qualified pension plans and to help reduce pension expense with the earnings on the contributions. Given the anticipated increase in its pension obligations in 2004 resulting from pension expense and low interest rates, management considered the \$60.0 million contribution to be prudent. The Company also made a voluntary contribution of \$40.0 million to the plans in early 2005 when it became apparent that long-term interest rates were continuing to remain at historical lows, resulting in a lower discount rate, and thus, higher retirement expenses and pension obligations. The Company may be required to, or may voluntarily opt to, make additional contributions to its pension plans in future years.

The Company expended a total of \$47.2 million in fiscal 2004 for capital projects and equipment to improve productivity, keep pace with new technology and maintain existing operations. Capital expenditures over the last three years have totaled \$112.9 million and planned expenditures in fiscal 2005 are estimated to be \$55 to \$60 million at existing facilities. The Company has purchase obligations through 2010 totaling \$43.1 million primarily for capital expenditures.

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Debt and Related Matters:

On May 10, 2004 the Company entered into a five-year, senior unsecured revolving credit facility (Credit Agreement), which provides borrowings of up to \$500 million from a syndicate of banks through May 11, 2009. The primary purpose of the Credit Agreement is to support the issuance of unsecured promissory notes under a commercial paper program (commercial paper) of up to \$500 million and for general corporate purposes. Initially, however, the Company used the Credit Agreement to refinance all of its existing term debt and principal outstanding under the previous bank credit facility. This debt was subsequently retired with commercial paper during the second quarter of fiscal 2004.

Debt under the Credit Agreement bears interest at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus a spread ranging from 29.5 basis points to 77.5 basis points plus a utilization fee of 12.5 basis points if borrowings exceed \$250 million. Applicable rates are based upon the Company's ratings on its long-term debt from Moody's and Standard & Poor's. A facility fee for the revolving credit ranges from 8.0 basis points to 22.5 basis points depending on the Company's ratings, and such fees are currently at 12.5 basis points. No debt was outstanding under the Credit Agreement at December 26, 2004.

The revolving credit facility contains financial covenants including a minimum interest coverage ratio (as defined) of 3:1 and a maximum leverage ratio (as defined) of 4:1.

The Company's commercial paper outstanding at December 26, 2004 had maturities ranging from overnight to 46 days, with interest rates ranging from 2.10% to 2.48%. The weighted average interest rate on commercial paper outstanding since May 12, 2004 (inception of the program) through December 26, 2004 was 1.45%. Because the Company's Credit Agreement provides backup for its commercial paper, and in accordance with the Company's ability and intent, the commercial paper was classified as long-term debt.

The Company intends to use the \$500 million of borrowing capacity under the commercial paper program and its back-up Credit Agreement, along with its operating cash flow, to meet its short and long-term liquidity needs. The amount of outstanding commercial paper will fluctuate at any given point in time depending on the current liquidity needs of the Company and cash generated from operations. The Company considers these fluctuations in its outstanding borrowings to be in the normal course of business and to be not material given its borrowing capacity of \$500 million under the commercial paper program as supported by the Credit Agreement. The Company may use its commercial paper program and /or revolving credit facility for strategic investments or acquisitions in the future.

The Company currently has outstanding letters of credit totaling \$7.9 million securing estimated obligations stemming from workers' compensation claims and other contingent claims. The Company had \$224.9 million of available credit under its current Credit Agreement at December 26, 2004.

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The Company does not have, nor does it intend to enter into, derivative contracts for trading purposes. The Company has not attempted to hedge fluctuations in the normal purchases of goods and services used to conduct its business operations. Currently there is no intent to hedge or enter into contracts with embedded derivatives for the purchase of newsprint, ink, and other inventories, leases of equipment and facilities, or business insurance contracts.

The Company previously had one interest rate swap agreement designated as a cash flow hedge specifically designed to hedge the variability in the expected cash flows that were attributable to interest rate fluctuations on \$100.0 million of its variable rate bank debt which expired in June 2004. The effect of this agreement was to fix the LIBOR interest rate exposure at approximately 3.8% on that portion of the Company's term loans.

Contractual Obligations:

The following table summarizes specific financial obligations under the Company's contractual obligations and commercial commitments as of December 26, 2004 (in thousands):

| | Payments Due By | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Total | 1 Year or Less | 1-3 Years | 3-5 Years | After 5 Years |
| Included in the Company's balance sheet: | | | | | |
| Long-term debt | \$267,200 | | | \$267,200 | |
| Pension obligations (a) | 23,769 | \$ 1,396 | \$ 2,791 | 2,791 | \$16,791 |
| Post-retirement obligations | 17,270 | 2,130 | 4,261 | 4,261 | 6,618 |
| Other long-term obligations (b) | 19,101 | 7,889 | 9,915 | 1,154 | 143 |
| Other obligations: | | | | | |
| Purchase obligations (c) | 43,127 | 23,599 | 19,502 | 26 | |
| Operating leases | 19,228 | 5,896 | 8,458 | 3,269 | 1,605 |
| Stand by letters of credit (d) | 7,885 | | | 7,885 | |
| Guarantee of Ponderay debt | 9,662 | | 9,662 | | |
| Total | \$407,242 | \$40,910 | \$54,589 | \$286,586 | \$25,157 |

The Company has no material capital lease obligations.

- (a) Non-qualified pension plans.
- (b) Primarily deferred compensation and workers' compensation obligations.
- (c) Primarily capital expenditures for property, plant and equipment.
- (d) In connection with the Company's insurance program, letters of credit are required to support certain projected claims and obligations.

RISK FACTORS THAT COULD AFFECT OPERATING RESULTS

Forward-Looking Information:

This annual report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements regarding the Company's actual and expected financial performance and operations. These statements are based upon our current expectations and knowledge of factors impacting our business, including, without limitation, statements about return on pension plan assets and assumed salary increases, newsprint costs, amortization expense, assumed medical cost trends, stock option expenses, prepayment of debt, capital expenditures, sufficiency of capital resources and possible acquisitions. Such statements are subject to risks, trends and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements are generally preceded by, followed by or are a part of sentences that include the words "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "estimates," or similar expressions. For those statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You should understand that the following important factors, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this document and in the documents which we incorporate by reference, could affect the future results of McClatchy, and could cause those future results to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements: general economic, market or business conditions, especially in any of the markets where we operate newspapers; geo-political uncertainties including the risk of war; changes in newsprint prices and/or printing and distribution costs from anticipated levels; changes in interest rates; changes in pension assets and liabilities; increased competition from newspapers or other forms of media in our principal markets; increased consolidation among major retailers in our newspaper markets or other events depressing the level of advertising; changes in our ability to negotiate and obtain favorable terms under collective bargaining arrangements with our employees; competitive actions by other companies; difficulties in servicing our debt obligations; other occurrences leading to decreased circulation and diminished revenues from both display and classified advertising; and other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

Additional Information Regarding Certain Risks:

Newsprint is the major component of our cost of raw materials. Newsprint accounted for 14.5% of McClatchy's operating expenses for fiscal 2004. Accordingly, our earnings are sensitive to changes in newsprint prices. We have not attempted to hedge fluctuations in the normal purchases of newsprint or enter into contracts with embedded derivatives for the purchase of newsprint. If the price of newsprint increases materially, our operating results could be adversely affected. For a discussion of the impact of a change in newsprint prices on the Company's earnings per share, please see the newsprint discussion above at "Recent Events and Trends." If our newsprint suppliers experience labor unrest, transportation difficulties or other supply disruptions, our ability to produce and deliver newspapers could be impaired and/or the cost of the newsprint could increase, both of which would negatively affect our operating results.

If McClatchy experiences labor unrest, our ability to produce and deliver newspapers would be impaired. The results of future labor negotiations could harm our operating results. Our newspapers have not endured a labor strike since 1980. However, we cannot ensure that a strike will not occur at one or more of our newspapers in the future. As of December 26, 2004,

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approximately a quarter of our full- and part-time employees were represented by unions including 58% at the *Star Tribune* and 23% at *The Sacramento Bee*, the Company's two largest newspapers. Most of the Company's union-represented employees are currently working under labor agreements, which expire at various times. McClatchy faces collective bargaining upon the expirations of these labor agreements. Even if our newspapers do not suffer a labor strike, the Company's operating results could be harmed if the results of labor negotiations restrict our ability to maximize the efficiency of its newspaper operations.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

All things being equal, a hypothetical 25 basis point change in LIBOR for a fiscal year would increase or decrease in the Company's annual net income by \$300,000 to \$400,000, less than one cent per share.

See the discussion at "Recent Events and Trends - Operating Expenses" for the impact of market changes on the Company's newsprint and pension costs.

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MANAGEMENT REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The management of The McClatchy Company (“Company”) is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The Company’s internal control system is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the preparation and fair presentation of the Company’s financial statements presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

An internal control system over financial reporting has inherent limitations and may not prevent or detect misstatements. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Management of the Company assessed the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2004. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control – Integrated Framework. Based on management’s assessment and those criteria, management believes that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2004.

The McClatchy Company’s independent auditors have issued an attestation report on management’s assessment of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting. This report appears on page 33.

/s/ Gary B. Pruitt

/s/ Patrick J. Talamantes

Gary B. Pruitt
Chairman of the Board, President and
Chief Executive Officer
February 24, 2005

Patrick J. Talamantes
Vice President, Finance and
Chief Financial Officer
February 24, 2005

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ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

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AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

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All other schedules are omitted as not applicable under the rules of Regulation S-X.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of The McClatchy Company:

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying "Management Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting" that The McClatchy Company and subsidiaries maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2004 based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

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In our opinion, management's assessment that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2004, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2004, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 26, 2004 of the Company and our report dated February 24, 2005 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Sacramento, California
February 24, 2005

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of The McClatchy Company:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of The McClatchy Company and subsidiaries as of December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 26, 2004. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index to Financial Statements and Financial Statements Schedules at Item 8. These financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The McClatchy Company and subsidiaries at December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 26, 2004, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, such financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2004, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 24, 2005 expressed an unqualified opinion on management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Sacramento, California
February 24, 2005

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

(In thousands, except for share amounts)

| | Year Ended | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 |
| REVENUES - NET: | | | |
| Advertising | \$ 972,808 | \$ 910,628 | \$ 877,838 |
| Circulation | 166,623 | 165,552 | 166,050 |
| Other | 23,945 | 23,211 | 26,072 |
| | <u>1,163,376</u> | <u>1,099,391</u> | <u>1,069,960</u> |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: | | | |
| Compensation | 471,289 | 445,901 | 432,448 |
| Newsprint and supplements | 151,134 | 137,384 | 130,841 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 66,532 | 70,139 | 73,189 |
| Other operating expenses | 205,112 | 197,026 | 189,677 |
| | <u>894,067</u> | <u>850,450</u> | <u>826,155</u> |
| OPERATING INCOME | 269,309 | 248,941 | 243,805 |
| NON-OPERATING (EXPENSES) INCOME: | | | |
| Interest expense | (9,095) | (18,090) | (26,448) |
| Refinancing related charge | (3,737) | — | — |
| Partnership income (loss) | 929 | 368 | (1,341) |
| Loss on internet investments | — | (1,008) | (1,000) |
| Other - net | 155 | 448 | 652 |
| | <u>(11,748)</u> | <u>(18,282)</u> | <u>(28,137)</u> |
| INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAX PROVISION | 257,561 | 230,659 | 215,668 |
| INCOME TAX PROVISION | 101,685 | 86,462 | 85,119 |
| | <u>155,876</u> | <u>144,197</u> | <u>130,549</u> |
| INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS | 155,876 | 144,197 | 130,549 |
| DISCONTINUED OPERATION : | | | |
| Income from discontinued operation (including \$10,224 gain on disposal in 2003) | — | 10,076 | 1,217 |
| Income tax provision | — | 4,051 | 550 |
| | <u>—</u> | <u>6,025</u> | <u>667</u> |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | 6,025 | 667 |
| NET INCOME | <u>\$ 155,876</u> | <u>\$ 150,222</u> | <u>\$ 131,216</u> |
| NET INCOME PER COMMON SHARE: | | | |
| Basic: | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 3.36 | \$ 3.13 | \$ 2.86 |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | \$ 0.13 | \$ 0.01 |
| Net income per share | \$ 3.36 | \$ 3.26 | \$ 2.87 |
| Diluted: | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.10 | \$ 2.83 |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | \$ 0.13 | \$ 0.01 |
| Net income per share | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.23 | \$ 2.84 |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF COMMON SHARES: | | | |
| Basic | 46,382 | 46,127 | 45,795 |
| Diluted | 46,815 | 46,456 | 46,178 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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(In thousands, except share amounts)

| | <u>December 26, 2004</u> | <u>December 28, 2003</u> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 4,857 | \$ 3,384 |
| Trade receivables (less allowance of \$2,769 in 2004 and \$3,084 in 2003) | 138,467 | 129,066 |
| Other receivables | 3,735 | 3,859 |
| Newsprint, ink and other inventories | 17,032 | 15,518 |
| Deferred income taxes | 18,661 | 18,366 |
| Prepaid income taxes | 7,265 | 10,355 |
| Other current assets | 13,746 | 7,910 |
| | <u>203,763</u> | <u>188,458</u> |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT: | | |
| Building and improvements | 237,304 | 230,502 |
| Equipment | 520,122 | 513,134 |
| | <u>757,426</u> | <u>743,636</u> |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (469,059) | (440,110) |
| | <u>288,367</u> | <u>303,526</u> |
| Land | 53,630 | 51,373 |
| Construction in progress | 25,236 | 15,429 |
| | <u>367,233</u> | <u>370,328</u> |
| INTANGIBLE ASSETS: | | |
| Identifiable intangibles - net | 62,712 | 81,921 |
| Goodwill-net | 1,249,053 | 1,218,047 |
| | <u>1,311,765</u> | <u>1,299,968</u> |
| PREPAID PENSION ASSETS | 149,483 | — |
| OTHER ASSETS | 17,156 | 16,544 |
| | <u>17,156</u> | <u>16,544</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$2,049,400</u> | <u>\$1,875,298</u> |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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| | <u>December 26, 2004</u> | <u>December 28, 2003</u> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| Current portion of debt | \$ — | \$ 142,077 |
| Accounts payable | 31,486 | 31,841 |
| Accrued compensation | 65,031 | 60,833 |
| Unearned revenue | 43,344 | 40,424 |
| Carrier deposits | 1,530 | 2,435 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 15,499 | 19,044 |
| | <u>156,890</u> | <u>296,654</u> |
| LONG-TERM DEBT | 267,200 | 204,923 |
| OTHER LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS | 48,725 | 58,702 |
| DEFERRED INCOME TAXES | 153,581 | 99,002 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (NOTE 6) | | |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY: | | |
| Common stock \$.01 par value: | | |
| Class A - authorized 100,000,000 shares, issued 20,200,107 in 2004 and 19,896,011 in 2003 | 202 | 199 |
| Class B - authorized 60,000,000 shares, issued 26,264,147 in 2004 and 26,384,147 in 2003 | 263 | 264 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 335,489 | 325,599 |
| Retained earnings | 1,088,679 | 956,003 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (1,629) | (66,048) |
| | <u>1,423,004</u> | <u>1,216,017</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | <u>\$2,049,400</u> | <u>\$1,875,298</u> |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)

| | Year Ended | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 155,876 | \$ 144,197 | \$ 130,549 |
| Reconciliation to net cash provided: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 66,532 | 70,139 | 73,189 |
| Deferred income taxes | 11,331 | 18,313 | 6,060 |
| Partnership (income) losses | (929) | (368) | 1,341 |
| Contribution to pension plans | (60,000) | (50,000) | (10,000) |
| Refinancing related charge | 3,737 | — | — |
| Loss on internet investments | — | 1,008 | 1,000 |
| Changes in certain assets and liabilities - net | 7,642 | (4,015) | (7,090) |
| Other | 1,748 | 4,593 | 1,631 |
| Net cash provided by continuing operations | 185,937 | 183,867 | 196,680 |
| Income from discontinued operation | — | 6,025 | 667 |
| Reconciliation to net cash used: | | | |
| Gain on sale of discontinued operation | — | (10,224) | — |
| Other - net | — | 1,331 | (31,742) |
| Net cash used by discontinued operation | — | (2,868) | (31,075) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 185,937 | 180,999 | 165,605 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment | (47,206) | (34,149) | (31,566) |
| Purchase of Merced Group | (40,984) | — | — |
| Proceeds from sale of discontinued operation | — | 9,785 | — |
| Other - net | 580 | 500 | 158 |
| Net cash used by investing activities | (87,610) | (23,864) | (31,408) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Net proceeds of commercial paper | 267,200 | — | — |
| Repayment of debt | (347,000) | (149,000) | (142,000) |
| Payment of financing costs | (2,045) | — | — |
| Payment of cash dividends | (23,200) | (20,305) | (18,331) |
| Other - principally stock issuances | 8,191 | 10,197 | 12,608 |
| Net cash used by financing activities | (96,854) | (159,108) | (147,723) |
| NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 1,473 | (1,973) | (13,526) |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR | 3,384 | 5,357 | 18,883 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR | \$ 4,857 | \$ 3,384 | \$ 5,357 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

| | Par Value | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Total |
|--|-----------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------|
| | Class A | Class B | | | | |
| BALANCES, DECEMBER 30, 2001 | \$ 189 | \$ 267 | \$296,220 | \$ 713,201 | \$ (11,712) | \$ 998,165 |
| Net income | | | | 131,216 | | 131,216 |
| Change in fair value of swaps | | | | | 471 | |
| Change in minimum pension liability | | | | | (71,229) | |
| Other | | | | | (68) | |
| Other comprehensive loss | | | | | (70,826) | (70,826) |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | 60,390 |
| Dividends paid (\$.40 share) | | | | (18,331) | | (18,331) |
| Conversion of 104,500 Class B shares to Class A | 1 | (1) | | | | — |
| Issuance of 422,241 Class A shares under stock plans | 5 | | 12,603 | | | 12,608 |
| Tax benefit from stock plans | | | 4,497 | | | 4,497 |
| BALANCES, DECEMBER 29, 2002 | 195 | 266 | 313,320 | 826,086 | (82,538) | 1,057,329 |
| Income from continuing operations | | | | 144,197 | | 144,197 |
| Income from discontinued operation | | | | 6,025 | | 6,025 |
| Change in fair value of swaps | | | | | 3,132 | |
| Change in minimum pension liability | | | | | 13,250 | |
| Other | | | | | 108 | |
| Other comprehensive income | | | | | 16,490 | 16,490 |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | 166,712 |
| Dividends paid (\$.44 share) | | | | (20,305) | | (20,305) |
| Conversion of 160,000 Class B shares to Class A | 2 | (2) | | | | — |
| Issuance of 264,704 Class A shares under stock plans | 2 | | 10,195 | | | 10,197 |
| Tax benefit from stock plans | | | 2,084 | | | 2,084 |
| BALANCES, DECEMBER 28, 2003 | 199 | 264 | 325,599 | 956,003 | (66,048) | 1,216,017 |
| Net income | | | | 155,876 | | 155,876 |
| Change in fair value of swaps | | | | | 782 | |
| Change in minimum pension liability | | | | | 63,677 | |
| Other | | | | | (40) | |
| Other comprehensive income | | | | | 64,419 | 64,419 |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | 220,295 |
| Dividends paid (\$.50 per share) | | | | (23,200) | | (23,200) |
| Conversion of 120,000 Class B shares to Class A | 1 | (1) | | | | — |
| Issuance of 184,096 Class A shares under stock plans | 2 | | 8,228 | | | 8,230 |
| Tax benefit from stock plans | | | 1,662 | | | 1,662 |
| BALANCES, DECEMBER 26, 2004 | \$ 202 | \$ 263 | \$335,489 | \$1,088,679 | \$ (1,629) | \$1,423,004 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The McClatchy Company (the "Company") and its subsidiaries are engaged primarily in the publication of newspapers located in Minnesota, California, the Northwest (Washington and Alaska) and the Carolinas.

The consolidated financial statements include the Company and its subsidiaries. Significant intercompany items and transactions are eliminated. In preparing the financial statements, management makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Acquisition - On January 7, 2004, the Company purchased the assets of the *Merced Sun-Star*, a daily newspaper in Merced, California and five non-daily newspapers (Merced Group) for \$41.0 million in cash. Revenues of the Merced Group in fiscal 2004 were \$13.8 million. The purchase included \$37.2 million in intangible assets, the most significant of which was \$31.0 million of goodwill. Amortization of the goodwill and other identifiable intangibles will be deductible for tax purposes. The useful lives associated with the \$6.2 million of identifiable intangible assets range from eight to 17 years. See the discussion of intangibles and goodwill below. The acquisition and results of the Merced Group are included in the Company's financial statements beginning on January 7, 2004. The results of the acquisition on the Company's pro forma combined results of operations for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2003, or any interim period in the 2003 fiscal year (assuming the acquisition was made at the beginning of fiscal year 2003), were not material.

Discontinued operation - On June 10, 2003, the Company sold the assets of The Newspaper Network (TNN), a national sales and marketing company. The Associated Press purchased TNN's ad processing operations and, separately, Vertis, Inc. purchased TNN's sales and marketing assets. Total consideration from the sales was \$14.2 million including the assumption of liabilities. The revenues and operating results of TNN are included in discontinued operations in the Company's Consolidated Statement of Income in fiscal 2003.

Revenue recognition - Advertising revenues are recorded when advertisements are placed in the newspaper and circulation revenues are recorded as newspapers are delivered over the subscription term. Unearned revenues represent prepaid circulation subscriptions.

Cash equivalents are highly liquid debt investments with maturities of three months or less when acquired.

Concentrations of credit risks - Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risks are principally cash and cash equivalents and trade accounts receivables. Cash and cash equivalents are placed with major financial institutions. The Company routinely assesses the financial strength of significant customers and this assessment, combined with the large number and geographic diversity of its customers, limits the Company's concentration of risk with respect to trade accounts receivable.

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Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (based principally on the first-in, first-out method) or current market value.

Related party transactions - The Company owns a 13.5% interest in Ponderay Newsprint Company (“Ponderay”), a general partnership, which owns and operates a newsprint mill in the State of Washington. The investment is accounted for using the equity method, under which the Company’s share of earnings of Ponderay is reflected in income as earned. The Company guarantees certain bank debt used to construct the mill (see Note 6) and is required to purchase 28,400 metric tons of annual production on a “take-if-tendered” basis at prevailing market prices until the debt is repaid. The Company satisfies this obligation by direct purchase (payments made in 2004: \$15,378,000, 2003: \$14,381,000 and 2002: \$12,546,000) or reallocation to other buyers.

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost. Major improvements, as well as interest incurred during construction, are capitalized. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred.

Depreciation is computed generally on a straight-line basis over estimated useful lives of:

- 10 to 60 years for buildings
- 9 to 25 years for presses
- 3 to 15 years for other equipment

Intangibles and goodwill consist of the unamortized excess of the cost of acquiring newspaper operations over the fair values of the newspapers’ tangible assets at the date of purchase. Identifiable intangible assets, consisting primarily of lists of advertisers and subscribers, covenants not to compete and commercial printing contracts, are amortized over three to forty years. Management periodically evaluates the recoverability of intangible assets by reviewing the current and projected cash flows of each of its newspaper operations. Based upon these reviews, no impairments of intangible assets have been incurred in fiscal 2002 through 2004. The increase in goodwill from December 28, 2003 resulted from the acquisition of the Merced Group as discussed above.

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Information regarding the Company's identifiable assets as of December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 is as follows (in thousands):

| | Average Useful Life | December 26, 2004 | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net |
| Advertiser and subscriber lists | 16 Years | \$256,150 | \$ 199,307 | \$56,843 |
| Other | 4 Years | 15,886 | 10,017 | 5,869 |
| Identifiable intangible assets | | <u>\$272,036</u> | <u>\$ 209,324</u> | <u>\$62,712</u> |

| | Average Useful Life | December 28, 2003 | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net |
| Advertiser and subscriber lists | 16 Years | \$249,971 | \$ 181,346 | \$68,625 |
| Other | 8 Years | 38,178 | 24,882 | 13,296 |
| Identifiable intangible assets | | <u>\$288,149</u> | <u>\$ 206,228</u> | <u>\$81,921</u> |

Amortization expense was \$18,273,000, \$19,508,000 and \$19,604,000 in fiscal 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. Estimated amortization expenses related to intangible assets existing as of December 26, 2004 for the five succeeding fiscal years is as follows (in thousands):

| Year | Estimated Amortization Expense |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2005 | \$ 17,909 |
| 2006 | 7,601 |
| 2007 | 3,753 |
| 2008 | 3,743 |
| 2009 | 3,713 |

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Stock-based compensation - At December 26, 2004, the Company had six stock-based compensation plans. The Company accounts for stock-based awards to employees using the intrinsic value method in accordance with APB No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees." No material amounts of compensation have been recorded for these plans.

Had compensation costs for the Company's stock-based compensation plans been determined based upon the fair value at the grant dates for awards under those plans consistent with the method of SFAS Statement No. 123, the Company's net income and earnings per share would have been reduced to the pro forma amounts indicated below (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Net income: | | | |
| As reported | \$155,876 | \$150,222 | \$131,216 |
| Deduct stock-based compensation under SFAS No. 123, net of taxes | (4,650) | (4,705) | (3,828) |
| Pro forma | <u>\$151,226</u> | <u>\$145,517</u> | <u>\$127,388</u> |
| Earnings per common share: | | | |
| As reported | | | |
| Basic | \$ 3.36 | \$ 3.26 | \$ 2.87 |
| Diluted | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.23 | \$ 2.84 |
| Pro forma | | | |
| Basic | \$ 3.26 | \$ 3.15 | \$ 2.78 |
| Diluted | \$ 3.23 | \$ 3.13 | \$ 2.76 |

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment" ("SFAS 123R"), which replaces SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees." SFAS 123R requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options and purchases under the employee stock purchase plan, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values, beginning with the first interim or annual period after June 15, 2005, with early adoption encouraged. The pro forma disclosures previously permitted under SFAS 123, no longer will be an alternative to financial statement recognition. We are required to adopt SFAS 123R in our third quarter of fiscal 2005. Under SFAS 123R, we must determine the appropriate fair value model to be used for valuing share-based payments, the amortization method for compensation cost and the transition method to be used at date of adoption. The transition methods include prospective and retroactive adoption options. Under the retroactive options, prior periods may be restated either as of the beginning of the year of adoption or for all periods presented. The prospective method requires that compensation expense be recorded at the beginning of the first quarter of adoption of SFAS 123R for all unvested stock options and restricted stock based upon the previously disclosed SFAS 123 methodology and amounts. The retroactive methods would record compensation expense beginning with the first period restated

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for all unvested stock options and restricted stock. We are evaluating the requirements of SFAS 123R and have not yet determined the method of adoption. If the Company were to expense the value of stock options for the full fiscal year 2005, it would reduce earnings by an estimated 10 to 12 cents per share. This estimate is based upon currently available information and actual results may differ when SFAS 123R is adopted.

Derivative instruments - The Company records its derivative instruments, primarily interest rate protection agreements (swaps), at fair value in its financial statements. See Notes 2 and 8.

Deferred income taxes result from temporary differences between amounts of assets and liabilities reported for financial and income tax reporting purposes. See Note 3.

Comprehensive income (loss) - The Company records changes in its net assets from non-owner sources in its Statement of Stockholders' Equity. Such changes relate primarily to valuing its pension liabilities and interest rate protection agreements, net of tax effects.

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The following table summarizes the changes in other comprehensive income (loss) (in thousands):

| | Pre-Tax | Tax | After Tax |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Year Ended December 26, 2004 | | | |
| Minimum pension liability | \$ 106,128 | \$(42,451) | \$ 63,677 |
| Fair value of swaps | 1,303 | (521) | 782 |
| Other | (67) | 27 | (40) |
| | <u>\$ 107,364</u> | <u>\$(42,945)</u> | <u>\$ 64,419</u> |
| Year Ended December 28, 2003 | | | |
| Minimum pension liability | \$ 22,083 | \$ (8,833) | \$ 13,250 |
| Fair value of swaps | 5,220 | (2,088) | 3,132 |
| Other | 180 | (72) | 108 |
| | <u>\$ 27,483</u> | <u>\$(10,993)</u> | <u>\$ 16,490</u> |
| Year Ended December 29, 2002 | | | |
| Minimum pension liability | \$(118,715) | \$ 47,486 | \$(71,229) |
| Fair value of swaps | 1,197 | (726) | 471 |
| Other | (113) | 45 | (68) |
| | <u>\$(117,631)</u> | <u>\$ 46,805</u> | <u>\$(70,826)</u> |

The following table summarizes the accumulated other comprehensive loss balances as of December 26, 2004 (in thousands):

| | December 28, 2003 | Current Period Change | December 26, 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Minimum pension liability | \$ (65,306) | \$63,677 | \$ (1,629) |
| Fair value of swaps | (782) | 782 | — |
| Other | 40 | (40) | — |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | <u>\$ (66,048)</u> | <u>\$64,419</u> | <u>\$ (1,629)</u> |

Segment reporting - The Company's primary business is the publication of newspapers. The Company aggregates its newspapers into a single segment because each has similar economic characteristics, products, customers and distribution methods.

Earnings per share (EPS) - Basic EPS excludes dilution from common stock equivalents and reflects income divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS is based upon the weighted average number of outstanding shares of common stock and dilutive common stock equivalents in the period. Common stock equivalents arise from dilutive stock options and are computed using the treasury stock method. The antidilutive stock options that could potentially dilute basic EPS in the future, but were not included in the weighted average share calculation were 16,786 in 2004, 85,554 in 2003 and 26,754 in 2002.

[Table of Contents](#)**NOTE 2. LONG-TERM DEBT AND OTHER LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

Long-term debt consisted of (in thousands):

| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Unsecured promissory notes | \$ 267,200 | — |
| Term Loans | — | \$ 329,000 |
| Revolving credit line | — | 18,000 |
| Total debt | 267,200 | 347,000 |
| Less current portion | — | (142,077) |
| Long-term debt | \$ 267,200 | \$ 204,923 |

On May 10, 2004, the Company entered into a five-year, senior unsecured revolving credit facility (Credit Agreement), which provides for borrowings of up to \$500 million from a syndicate of banks through May 11, 2009. The primary purpose of the Credit Agreement is to support the issuance of unsecured promissory notes under a commercial paper program (commercial paper) of up to \$500 million and for general corporate purposes. Initially, however, the Company used the Credit Agreement to refinance all of its existing term debt and principal outstanding under the previous bank credit facility. This debt was subsequently retired with proceeds from the issuance of commercial paper during the second quarter of fiscal 2004. As a result of the refinancing, the Company wrote off capitalized loan fees of \$3.7 million related to its previous bank credit facility.

Debt under the Credit Agreement bears interest at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus a spread ranging from 29.5 basis points to 77.5 basis points plus a utilization fee of 12.5 basis points if borrowings exceed \$250 million. Applicable rates are based upon the Company's ratings on its long-term debt from Moody's and Standard & Poor's. A facility fee for the Credit Agreement ranges from 8.0 basis points to 22.5 basis points depending on the Company's ratings, and such fees are currently at 12.5 basis points. No amounts were outstanding under the Credit Agreement at December 26, 2004.

The revolving credit facility contains financial covenants including a minimum interest coverage ratio (as defined) of 3:1 and a maximum leverage ratio (as defined) of 4:1.

The commercial paper outstanding at December 26, 2004 had maturities ranging from overnight to 46 days, with interest rates ranging from 2.10% to 2.48%. The weighted average interest rate on commercial paper outstanding since May 12, 2004 (inception of the program) through December 26, 2004 was 1.45%. Because the Company's Credit Agreement provides backup for its commercial paper, and in accordance with the Company's ability and intent, the commercial paper is classified as long-term debt.

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The Company's previous bank credit facility included term loans and a revolving credit line, all of which were retired from proceeds under the new debt structure described above. Interest rates applicable to debt drawn down during fiscal 2004 but prior to the refinancing of the previous bank credit facility ranged from 1.7% to 2.7% (excluding the effect of the interest rate swap discussed below).

At December 26, 2004, the Company had outstanding letters of credit totaling \$7.9 million securing estimated obligations stemming from workers' compensation claims and other contingent claims.

The Company does not have, nor does it intend to enter into, derivative contracts for trading purposes. The Company has not attempted to hedge fluctuations in the normal purchases of goods and services used to conduct its business operations. Currently there is no intent to hedge or enter into contracts with embedded derivatives for the purchase of newsprint, ink, and other inventories, leases of equipment and facilities, or its business insurance contracts.

The Company had one interest rate swap agreement, which expired in June 2004, designated as a cash flow hedge specifically designed to hedge the variability in the expected cash flows that were attributable to interest rate fluctuations on \$100.0 million of its variable rate bank debt. The effect of this agreement was to fix the LIBOR interest rate exposure at approximately 3.8% on that portion of the Company's term loans.

As of December 26, 2004, the Company was a guarantor of \$9.7 million of bank debt related to its interest in Ponderay, a general partnership that owns and operates a newsprint mill in Washington State. The guarantee amount represents the Company's pro rata portion of Ponderay debt, which is guaranteed by the general partners. The debt is secured by the assets of Ponderay and matures on April 12, 2006.

The Company has purchase obligations primarily related to capital expenditures for property, plant and equipment expiring at various dates through 2011, totaling approximately \$43.1 million.

Other long-term obligations consist of (in thousands):

| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Pension obligations | \$ 22,373 | \$ 33,366 |
| Post retirement benefits obligation | 15,140 | 14,301 |
| Deferred compensation and other | 11,212 | 11,035 |
| | <u>\$ 48,725</u> | <u>\$ 58,702</u> |

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See Note 4 for further discussion of the Company's pension and post-retirement obligations.

NOTE 3. INCOME TAXES

Income tax provisions related to continuing operations consist of (in thousands):

| | Year Ended | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 |
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 77,504 | \$ 59,563 | \$ 68,466 |
| State | 12,849 | 8,585 | 10,594 |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | 8,695 | 13,988 | 4,504 |
| State | 2,637 | 4,326 | 1,555 |
| Income tax provision | \$ 101,685 | \$ 86,462 | \$ 85,119 |

The effective tax rate and the statutory federal income tax rate are reconciled as follows:

| | Year Ended | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 |
| Statutory rate | 35.0% | 35.0% | 35.0% |
| State taxes, net of federal benefit | 4.2% | 2.2% | 4.2% |
| Amortization of intangibles | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Other | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Effective tax rate | 39.5% | 37.5% | 39.5% |

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The components of deferred tax liabilities (benefits) recorded in the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheet on December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are (in thousands):

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 73,501 | \$ 82,372 |
| Partnership losses | 3,416 | 3,692 |
| State taxes | 18,816 | 16,502 |
| Pension and post-retirement | 52,977 | (6,617) |
| Deferred compensation | (12,849) | (13,323) |
| Mark-to-market of interest rate swaps | — | (521) |
| Other | (941) | (1,469) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Deferred tax liability (net of \$18,661 in 2004 and \$18,366 in 2003 reported as current assets) | \$134,920 | \$ 80,636 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

NOTE 4. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Company sponsors defined benefit pension plans (retirement plans), which cover a majority of its employees. Benefits are based on years of service and compensation. Contributions to the plans are made by the Company in amounts deemed necessary to provide benefits. The Company made \$60.0 million in voluntary contributions to its plans in fiscal 2004 and made an additional \$40.0 million voluntary contribution in early fiscal 2005. No other contributions to these plans are currently contemplated for fiscal 2005.

The Company also has a limited number of supplemental retirement plans to provide key employees with additional retirement benefits. The terms of the plans are generally the same as those of the retirement plans, except that the supplemental retirement plans are limited to key employees and benefits under them are reduced by benefits received under the retirement plans. These plans are funded on a pay-as-you-go basis and the accrued pension obligation is largely included in other long-term obligations.

The elements of pension costs are as follows (in thousands):

| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cost of benefits earned during the year | \$ 19,418 | \$ 16,275 | \$ 13,808 |
| Interest on projected benefit obligation | 32,616 | 30,214 | 28,983 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (47,367) | (41,934) | (39,137) |
| Prior service cost amortization | 670 | 632 | 739 |
| Actuarial loss | 5,955 | 747 | 37 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Net pension expense | \$ 11,292 | \$ 5,934 | \$ 4,430 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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The Company contributed \$1,990,000 in 2004, \$2,024,000 in 2003 and \$1,964,000 in 2002 to multi-employer retirement plans.

The Company also provides or subsidizes certain life insurance benefits for employees of McClatchy Newspapers, Inc. and provides certain life insurance and retiree health care benefits for The Star Tribune Company's employees. The elements of post-retirement expenses are as follows (in thousands):

| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | December 29, 2002 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Service cost | \$ 1,151 | \$ 1,227 | \$ 622 |
| Interest cost | 1,485 | 1,611 | 1,052 |
| Prior service cost amortization | (113) | (113) | — |
| Actuarial loss (gain) | 614 | 753 | (47) |
| Net post-retirement benefit expense | \$ 3,137 | \$ 3,478 | \$ 1,627 |

Expected benefit payments to retirees under the Company's retirement and post-retirement plans over the next ten years are summarized below (in thousands):

| | Retirement Plans | Post-retirement Plans |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2005 | \$ 21,872 | \$ 2,334 |
| 2006 | 22,837 | 2,533 |
| 2007 | 24,201 | 2,727 |
| 2008 | 25,783 | 2,914 |
| 2009 | 27,617 | 3,088 |
| 2010-2014 | 176,592 | 17,974 |
| Total | \$298,902 | \$ 31,570 |

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A reconciliation of the plans' benefit obligations, fair value of assets, funded status and amounts recognized in the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 are as follows (in thousands):

| | Retirement Plans | | Post-retirement Plans | |
|---|------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Change in projected benefit obligations: | | | | |
| Beginning of year | \$527,965 | \$ 461,808 | \$ 26,156 | \$ 15,799 |
| Service cost | 19,418 | 16,275 | 1,152 | 1,227 |
| Interest costs | 32,616 | 30,214 | 1,485 | 1,611 |
| Plan amendments | — | 485 | — | — |
| Actuarial loss | 24,918 | 40,389 | 48 | 9,081 |
| Benefits paid | (21,763) | (21,206) | (2,134) | (1,562) |
| End of year | 583,154 | 527,965 | 26,707 | 26,156 |
| Change in fair market value of assets: | | | | |
| Beginning of year | 431,304 | 314,912 | — | — |
| Return on assets | 55,754 | 86,308 | — | — |
| Contributions | 61,348 | 51,290 | 2,134 | 1,562 |
| Benefit payments | (21,763) | (21,206) | (2,134) | (1,562) |
| End of year | 526,643 | 431,304 | — | — |
| Funded status | | | | |
| Unrecognized net loss | (56,511) | (96,661) | (26,707) | (26,156) |
| Prior service costs | 181,334 | 170,758 | 9,756 | 10,321 |
| Prepaid (accrued) cost | 4,459 | 5,129 | (319) | (432) |
| Prepaid (accrued) cost | \$129,282 | \$ 79,226 | \$(17,270) | \$(16,267) |
| Amounts recognized: | | | | |
| Prepaid benefit cost | \$149,483 | \$ 97,579 | — | — |
| Accrued benefit liability | (20,201) | (18,353) | \$(17,270) | \$(16,267) |
| Additional liability | (3,155) | (113,534) | — | — |
| Intangible asset | 440 | 4,684 | — | — |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 2,715 | 108,850 | — | — |
| Net amount recognized | \$129,282 | \$ 79,226 | \$(17,270) | \$(16,267) |

See Note 1 for a discussion of the change in comprehensive income arising from the change in the additional minimum pension liabilities.

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The assets of the plans are commingled in a Master Trust and, as of December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, the measurement dates for the plans, assets and related target allocations are as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | December 26, 2004 | December 28, 2003 | Target Allocation |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Equity securities | \$ 366,034 | \$ 310,993 | 69% |
| Debt securities | 140,673 | 105,815 | 28% |
| Real estate securities | 19,689 | 14,496 | 3% |
| Cash equivalents | 248 | — | — |
| | <u>\$ 526,644</u> | <u>\$ 431,304</u> | <u>100%</u> |

The Company's investment policies are designed to maximize plans returns within reasonable and prudent levels of risk, with an investment horizon of greater than ten years so that interim investment returns and fluctuations are viewed with appropriate perspective. The policy also aims to maintain sufficient liquid returns to provide for the payment of retirement benefits and plan expenses, hence, small portions of the equity and debt investments are held in marketable mutual funds.

The Company's policy seeks to provide an appropriate level of diversification of assets, as reflected in its target allocations, as well as limits placed on concentrations of equities in specific sectors or industries. It uses a mix of active managers and passive index funds. The Company's expected return on long-term assets was determined through consultation with the Company's actuaries and investment consultants by using projected returns for each asset class, factoring in both passive and active management of funds where appropriate, and developing a weighted average return based upon its target asset allocations as discussed above. This return was also compared to 30 and 50-year market returns and the plans' actual ten-year returns to gain additional assurance of reasonableness.

The Company's discount rate was determined by a review of long-term, non-callable, high quality bonds, as well as, consultation with the Company's actuaries. The rate was compared to discount rates expected to be used by peer companies in the industry, to the extent known, as well as to other companies included in surveys conducted by the Company's actuaries to gain additional assurance of its reasonableness.

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Weighted average assumptions used for valuing benefit obligations were:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Retirement and Post-retirement Plans: | | |
| Discount rate in determining benefit obligation | 6.0% | 6.25% |
| Retirement Plans: | | |
| Rates of salary increase | 3.6% | 3.6% |

Weighted average assumptions for pension and post-retirement expense were:

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Discount rate | 6.25% | 6.75% |
| Expected long-term return on assets | 9.0% | 9.0% |
| Rates of salary increase | 3.6% | 3.1% |

The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans was \$511,203,000 and \$465,413,000 at December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, respectively. The following table summarizes data for pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets, (in thousands):

| | <u>December 26, 2004</u> | <u>December 28, 2003</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Projected benefit obligation | \$ 28,852 | \$ 527,965 |
| Accumulated benefit obligation | 23,355 | 465,413 |
| Fair value of plan assets | — | 431,304 |

For the *Star Tribune* post-retirement plan, the medical cost trend rates are expected to decline from 10.0% in 2005 to 5.0% by the year 2010. For the *Star Tribune*'s plan (benefit obligation of \$12.6 million and expense of \$2.9 million), a 1.0% increase in the assumed health care cost trend rate would increase the benefit obligation and expense by \$2.0 million and \$259,000, respectively. A 1.0% decrease in the assumed health care cost trend rate would decrease the benefit obligation and expense by \$1.8 million and \$228,000, respectively.

The Company has deferred compensation plans (401(k) plans and other savings plans) which enable qualified employees to voluntarily defer compensation. The Company's mandatory matching contributions to the 401(k) plans were \$7,047,000 in 2004, \$6,724,000 in 2003, and \$6,768,000 in 2002.

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NOTE 5. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

The cash paid in connection with the acquisition of the Merced Group on January 7, 2004 consists of (in thousands):

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fair value of assets acquired | \$42,041 |
| Fair value of liabilities assumed | (1,750) |
| Fees and expenses | 693 |
| | <u> </u> |
| Net cash paid | <u>\$40,984</u> |

Cash paid during the years ended December 26, 2004, December 28, 2003 and December 29, 2002 for interest and income taxes were (in thousands):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Interest paid (net of amount capitalized) | \$ 8,269 | \$15,113 | \$26,384 |
| Income taxes paid (net of refunds) | \$85,601 | \$78,059 | \$88,082 |

Cash provided or used by continuing operations, excluding cash used for the acquisition of the Merced Group, was affected by changes in certain assets and liabilities were as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>December 26 2004</u> | <u>December 28, 2003</u> | <u>December 29, 2002</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Increase (decrease) in assets: | | | |
| Trade receivables | \$ 7,492 | \$ 4,029 | \$ 3,729 |
| Inventories | 1,354 | 907 | 494 |
| Other assets | 147,483 | 11,316 | (80,479) |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Total | 156,329 | 16,252 | (76,256) |
| Increase (decrease) in liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts payable | (1,148) | 5,557 | (1,293) |
| Accrued compensation | 4,198 | 6,687 | 21 |
| Income taxes | — | (4,051) | (10,558) |
| Other liabilities | 160,921 | 4,044 | (71,516) |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Total | 163,971 | 12,237 | (83,346) |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Net cash increase (decrease) from changes in certain assets and liabilities | <u>\$ 7,642</u> | <u>\$ (4,015)</u> | <u>\$ (7,090)</u> |

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Certain amounts in 2002 above have been reclassified to be consistent with the 2004 and 2003 presentation.

The significant increase in other assets and other liabilities is the result of the Company reversing its comprehensive losses and minimum pension liabilities related to its qualified pension plans. Recent plan contributions coupled with the investment return on assets have resulted in plans' assets exceeding the plans' accumulated benefit liabilities. Hence, prepaid pension assets which were previously netted against minimum liabilities, were reclassified to assets on the balance sheet, and the minimum liabilities were reversed. The minimum liabilities were initially recorded in fiscal 2002; see the discussion below.

The significant reduction in other assets and other liabilities in 2002 is the result of two separate events: At December 31, 2001, the Company had \$78.2 million of prepaid pension assets related to three qualified pension plans (included in other assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheet) and separately had \$34.8 million of liabilities related to a fourth qualified pension plan. During 2002 the Company merged two of its qualified pension plans. At the time the plans were merged, the Company had recorded a \$63.4 million prepaid asset related to one plan and had an accrued liability related to the other. Given that these plans became one legal entity, the Company reduced its prepaid assets and liabilities to record a net pension prepaid asset of \$33.5 million for the merged plan. Separately, prepaid pension assets were reduced to zero at year-end 2002 when the Company recorded its additional minimum liability in accordance with SFAS No. 87, which resulted in netting the assets against the minimum liability to record a net unfunded accumulated benefit obligation for its defined benefit plans.

NOTE 6. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

As of December 26, 2004, the Company was a guarantor of \$9.7 million of bank debt related to its interest in Ponderay, a general partnership that owns and operates a newsprint mill in Washington State. The guarantee amount represents the Company's pro rata portion of Ponderay debt, which is guaranteed by the general partners. The partnership was formed in 1985 and began operations in 1989. The debt is secured by the assets of Ponderay and is payable by Ponderay on April 12, 2006.

The Company has purchase obligations primarily related to capital expenditures for property, plant and equipment expiring at various dates through 2010, totaling \$43.1 million.

The Company and its subsidiaries rent certain facilities and equipment under operating leases expiring at various dates through December 2013. Total rental expense amounted to \$6,018,000 in 2004, \$6,122,885 in 2003 and \$6,592,000 in 2002.

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Minimum rental commitments under operating leases with non-cancelable terms in excess of one year are (in thousands):

| | |
|------------|----------|
| 2005 | \$ 5,896 |
| 2006 | 4,941 |
| 2007 | 3,517 |
| 2008 | 2,074 |
| 2009 | 1,195 |
| Thereafter | 1,605 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | \$19,228 |
| | <hr/> |

There are libel and other legal actions that have arisen in the ordinary course of business and are pending against the Company. From time to time the Company is involved as a party in various governmental proceedings, including environmental matters. Management believes, after reviewing such actions with counsel that the outcome of pending actions will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial position.

NOTE 7. COMMON STOCK AND STOCK PLANS

The Company's Class A and Class B common stock participate equally in dividends. Holders of Class B common stock are entitled to one vote per share and to elect as a class 75% of the Board of Directors, rounded down to the nearest whole number. Holders of Class A common stock are entitled to one-tenth of a vote per share and to elect as a class 25% of the Board of Directors, rounded up to the nearest whole number. Class B common stock is convertible at the option of the holder into Class A common stock on a share-for-share basis.

The holders of shares of Class B Common Stock are parties to an agreement, the intent of which is to preserve control of the Company by the McClatchy family. Under the terms of the agreement, the Class B shareholders have agreed to restrict the transfer of any shares of Class B Common Stock to one or more "Permitted Transferees," subject to certain exceptions. A "Permitted Transferee" is any current holder of shares of Class B Common Stock of the Company; any lineal descendant of Charles K. McClatchy; or a trust for the exclusive benefit of, or in which all of the remainder beneficial interests are owned by, one or more lineal descendants of Charles K. McClatchy

In the event that a Class B shareholder attempts to transfer any shares of Class B Common Stock in violation of the agreement, or upon the happening of certain other events enumerated in the agreement as "Option Events," each of the remaining Class B shareholders has an option to purchase a percentage of the total number of shares of Class B Common Stock proposed to be transferred equal to such remaining Class B shareholder's ownership percentage of the total number of outstanding shares of Class B Common Stock. If all the shares proposed to be transferred are not purchased by the remaining Class B shareholders, the Company has the option of purchasing the remaining shares. In general, any shares not purchased under this procedure will be converted into shares of Class A Common Stock and then transferred freely (unless, following conversion, the outstanding shares of Class B Common Stock would

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constitute less than 25% of the total number of all outstanding shares of common stock of the Company). The agreement can be terminated by the vote of the holders of 80% of the outstanding shares of Class B common Stock who are subject to the agreement. The agreement will terminate on September 17, 2047, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms.

At December 26, 2004, the Company has six stock-based compensation plans, which are described below. The Company applies APB Opinion 25 and related interpretations in accounting for its plans. No significant amounts of compensation costs have been recognized for its stock option plans and its stock purchase plan.

The Company's Amended Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Purchase Plan) reserved 1,875,000 shares of Class A common stock for issuance to employees. Eligible employees may purchase shares at 85% of "fair market value" (as defined) through payroll deductions. The Purchase Plan can be automatically terminated by the Company at any time. As of December 26, 2004, a total of 1,327,929 shares of Class A common stock have been issued under the Purchase Plan.

The Company has two stock option plans which reserve 4,062,500 Class A common shares for issuance to key employees — the 1994 and 1997 plans ("Employee Plans"). Terms of each of the Employee Plans are substantially the same. Options are granted at the market price of the Class A common stock on the date of grant. The options vest in installments over four years, and once vested are exercisable up to 10 years from the date of grant. Although the plans permit the Company, at its sole discretion, to settle unexercised options by granting stock appreciation rights, the Company does not intend to avail itself of this alternative. The 1994 plan (which has 1,869,325 outstanding grants at December 26, 2004) expired in January 2004 and has been replaced by the 2004 stock incentive plan (see the discussion below).

The Company's two amended and restated stock option plans for outside directors (the 1990 Stock Option Plan and the 2001 Director Plan, together the "Directors' Plans") provide for the issuance of up to 687,500 shares of Class A stock. Under these plans each non-employee director is granted, at the conclusion of each regular annual meeting of stockholders, an option to purchase shares of Class A common stock at fair market value on the date of the grant. In 2004, each such director was granted an option to purchase 3,000 shares of Class A common stock. Terms of the Directors' Plans are similar to the terms of the Employee Plans.

The Company has a stock incentive plan (the 2004 plan) which reserves 3,000,000 Class A common shares for issuance to key employees and outside directors. Terms of the 2004 plan are similar to the Employee and Directors' Plans, except that the 2004 plan permits the following type of incentive awards in addition to stock options and stock appreciation rights: restricted stock, unrestricted stock, stock units and dividend equivalent rights.

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Outstanding options are summarized as follows:

| | <u>Options</u> | <u>Weighted Average Exercise Price</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Outstanding December 30, 2001 | 2,056,055 | \$ 37.23 |
| Granted | 588,000 | \$ 57.46 |
| Exercised | (356,325) | \$ 27.14 |
| Forfeited | (37,250) | \$ 39.78 |
| Outstanding December 29, 2002 | 2,250,480 | \$ 44.07 |
| Granted | 589,500 | \$ 66.62 |
| Exercised | (203,305) | \$ 35.96 |
| Forfeited | (50,625) | \$ 42.49 |
| Outstanding December 28, 2003 | 2,586,050 | \$ 49.88 |
| Granted | 515,000 | \$ 70.99 |
| Exercised | (130,550) | \$ 39.33 |
| Forfeited | (51,375) | \$ 56.99 |
| Outstanding December 26, 2004 | <u>2,919,125</u> | <u>\$ 53.95</u> |
| Options exercisable: | | |
| December 29, 2002 | 592,105 | |
| December 28, 2003 | 785,175 | |
| December 26, 2004 | 1,125,375 | |

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The following tables summarize information about stock options outstanding in the stock plans at December 26, 2004:

| Range of Exercise Prices | Options Outstanding | Average Remaining Contractual Life | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Options Exercisable | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$17.80 - \$45.98 | 1,291,125 | 5.64 | \$ 40.09 | 963,500 | \$ 38.66 |
| \$51.59 - \$67.31 | 1,112,000 | 8.42 | \$ 62.14 | 161,875 | \$ 57.71 |
| \$68.25 - \$71.10 | 516,000 | 9.91 | \$ 70.99 | — | — |

Pro forma compensation costs are calculated for the fair value of the employees' purchase rights, which was estimated using the Black-Scholes model with the following weighted average assumptions:

| | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Dividend yield | 0.74 | 0.65 | 0.70 |
| Expected life in years | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| Volatility | .14 | .16 | .23 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 3.61 | 3.07 | 3.29 |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted | \$13.62 | \$13.05 | \$14.80 |

See Note 1 for a description of the effect of the pro forma compensation expense derived using the fair value method on the Company's results.

NOTE 8. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND DERIVATIVE DISCLOSURES

The following estimates were developed using available market data for instruments held as of December 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003 (in thousands):

| | 2004 | | 2003 | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Estimated Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Estimated Fair Value |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 4,857 | \$ 4,857 | \$ 3,384 | \$ 3,384 |
| Trade receivables | 138,467 | 138,467 | 129,066 | 129,066 |
| Accounts payable | (31,486) | (31,486) | (31,841) | (31,841) |
| Long-term debt | (267,200) | (267,200) | (204,923) | (204,923) |
| Interest rate swap agreements | — | — | (1,304) | (1,304) |

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The Company does not have, nor does it intend to enter into derivative contracts for trading purposes. The Company does not attempt to hedge fluctuations in the normal purchases of goods and services used to conduct its business operations. Hence, there is no intent to hedge or enter into contracts with embedded derivatives for the purchase of newsprint, ink and other inventories, leases of equipment and facilities, or its business insurance contracts.

The Company had one interest rate swap agreement designated as a cash flow hedge and is specifically designed to hedge the variability in the expected cash flows that is attributable to interest rate fluctuations of its variable rate bank debt on \$100.0 million through June 2004. The effect of this agreement was to fix LIBOR interest rate exposure of approximately 3.8% on that portion of the Company's term loans.

NOTE 9. QUARTERLY RESULTS OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)

The Company's business is somewhat seasonal, with peak revenues and profits generally occurring in the second and fourth quarters of each year as a result of increased advertising activity during the spring holiday and Christmas periods. The first quarter is historically the weakest quarter for revenues and profits. The Company's quarterly results are summarized as follows (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>4th Quarter</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2004 | | | | |
| Net revenues | \$272,283 | \$296,270 | \$286,672 | \$308,151 |
| Operating income | 51,799 | 72,126 | 65,697 | 79,687 |
| Net income | 28,929 | 40,095 | 39,072 | 47,780 |
| Net income per common share | 0.62 | 0.86 | 0.83 | 1.02 |
| 2003 | | | | |
| Net revenues | \$257,881 | \$276,370 | \$272,100 | \$293,040 |
| Operating income | 47,261 | 66,095 | 61,266 | 74,319 |
| Net income | 25,310 | 43,448 | 35,838 | 45,626 |
| Net income per common share | 0.55 | 0.94 | 0.77 | 0.98 |

In June 2003 the Company sold the assets of The Newspaper Network, Inc., a discontinued operation, and recorded an after-tax gain equal to 13 cents per share. All revenues and operating income have been reclassified to reflect only those from continuing operations. This reclassification had no material impact on the amounts of revenues and operating income in 2003, nor was the results of the discontinued operation material to any quarterly results other than the second quarter of 2003.

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ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures. Our management evaluated, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a - 15(e) or 15d - 15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Based on this evaluation, the Company's management, including the CEO and CFO, concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective at that time.

Changes in internal control over financial reporting. There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our last fiscal quarter of 2004 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

See Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting on page 31.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not Applicable

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

Biographical information for Class A Directors, Class B Directors and executive officers contained under the captions "Nominees for Class A Directors," "Nominees for Class B Directors" and "Other Executive Officers" under the heading "Election of Directors" in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company's 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the Proxy Statement) is incorporated herein by reference.

In addition, the names of each member of the Company's standing Audit Committee contained under the caption "Audit Committee" under the heading "Corporate Governance and Board Matters" in the Proxy Statement are incorporated herein by reference.

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Audit Committee Financial Experts - The Board of Directors of McClatchy has determined that S. Donley Ritchey, Chair of the Audit Committee, and Leroy Barnes, Audit Committee member, are audit committee financial experts as defined by Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) and are independent within the meaning of Item 7(d)(3)(iv) of Schedule 14A of the Exchange Act.

Codes of Conduct - The Board of Directors of McClatchy has adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Officers for the Company’s senior financial and accounting officers and the CEO. In addition, the Board has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for all officers, directors and employees. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the Code of Ethics for Senior Officers are available on the Company’s website at www.mcclatchy.com and are also available in print to any shareholder requesting copies. The Company will disclose on its website when there have been any waivers of, or amendments to, the Code of Ethics for Senior Officers.

Corporate Government Guidelines - The Board of Directors of McClatchy has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines which are available on the Company’s website at www.mcclatchy.com. The Guidelines are also available in print to any shareholder requesting a copy.

Policy Regarding Director Recommendations by Security Holders - Information contained under the caption “Consideration of Director Nominees” under the heading “Corporate Governance and Board Matters” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership - Information contained under the heading “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information contained under the headings “Directors Compensation,” “Executive Compensation,” “Stock Option Awards,” “Stock Option Exercises and Holdings,” “Long-Term Incentive Awards,” “Pension Plans” and “Employment Agreements and Changes-in-Control Agreement” under the “Compensation” section in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information contained under the heading “Principal Shareholders” and under the sub-heading “Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans” of the section entitled “Compensation” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

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ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The information contained under the headings “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Information regarding principal accounting fees and services is set forth under the headings “Fees Billed to McClatchy by Deloitte & Touche LLP” and “Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy” under the section entitled “Ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP as McClatchy’s Independent Auditors” in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

- (1)&(2) Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules filed as a part of this Report are listed in the Index to Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules on page 32 hereof.
- (3) Exhibits filed as part of this Report are listed in the Exhibit Index beginning on Page 69 hereof.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

The McClatchy Company

By: /s/ Gary B. Pruitt

Gary B. Pruitt, Chairman, President and Chief
Executive Officer

Date February 24, 2005

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Principal Executive Officer:

By: /s/ Gary B. Pruitt

Gary B. Pruitt, Chairman of the Board, President, Chief
Executive Officer and Director

Date: February 24, 2005

Principal Financial Officer:

By: /s/ Patrick J. Talamantes

Patrick J. Talamantes, Vice President, Finance and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 24, 2005

Principal Accounting Officer:

By: /s/ Robert W. Berger

Robert W. Berger, Controller and Assistant Treasurer

Date: February 24, 2005

Directors:

By: /s/ Elizabeth Ballantine

Elizabeth Ballantine, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

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Directors (continued):

By: /s/ Leroy T. Barnes, Jr.

Leroy T. Barnes, Jr., Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ William K. Coblentz

William K. Coblentz, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Molly Maloney Evangelisti

Molly Maloney Evangelisti, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ R. Larry Jinks

R. Larry Jinks, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Joan F. Lane

Joan F. Lane, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Brown McClatchy Maloney

Brown McClatchy Maloney, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Kevin McClatchy

Kevin McClatchy, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ William McClatchy

William McClatchy, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Theodore Reed Mitchell

Theodore Reed Mitchell, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

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Directors (continued):

By: /s/ S. Donley Ritchey, Jr.

S. Donley Ritchey, Jr., Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Frederick R. Ruiz

Frederick R. Ruiz, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

By: /s/ Maggie Wilderotter

Maggie Wilderotter, Director

Date: February 24, 2005

SCHEDULE II

THE McCLATCHY COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

For the Three Years Ended December 26, 2004
(in thousands)

| | | Additions | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Balance Beginning of Period | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Charged to Other Accounts | Deductions for purposes for which accounts were set up (1) | Balance at End of Period |
| Year Ended December 29, 2002: | | | | | |
| Allowance for uncollectible accounts | \$ (5,059) | \$ (8,370) | — | \$ 8,557 | \$ (4,872) |
| Year Ended December 28, 2003: | | | | | |
| Allowance for uncollectible accounts | \$ (4,872) | \$ (6,737) | — | \$ 8,525 | \$ (3,084) |
| Year Ended December 26, 2004: | | | | | |
| Allowance for uncollectible accounts | \$ (3,084) | \$ (6,211) | — | \$ 6,526 | \$ (2,769) |

(1) Amounts written off net of bad debt recoveries.

TABLE OF EXHIBITS

| <u>Exhibit</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------|---|
| 3.1* | The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation dated March 18, 1998, included as Exhibit 3.1 in the Company's 1997 Form 10-K. |
| 3.2* | The Company's By-laws as amended on December 4, 2002 included as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's 2002 Form 10-K. |
| 4.1* | Form of Physical Note for Commercial Paper Program included as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 27, 2004. |
| 10.1* | Credit Agreement dated March 10, 1998 between The McClatchy Company (formerly MNI Newco, Inc.), the lenders party thereto, Salomon Brothers, Inc., as Arranger and Syndication Agent and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association as Swingline Lender, Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent, included as Exhibit 10.2 in the Company's 1997 Form 10-K. |
| 10.2* | Ponderay Newsprint Company Partnership Agreement dated as of September 12, 1985 between Lake Superior Forest Products, Inc., Central Newsprint Company, Inc., Bradley Paper Company, Copley Northwest, Inc., Puller Paper Company, Newsprint Ventures, Inc., Wingate Paper Company, Tribune Newsprint Company and Nimitz Paper Company included in Exhibit 10.10 to McClatchy Newspapers, Inc. Registration Statement No. 33-17270 on Form S-1. |
| **10.3* | The McClatchy Company Management by Objective Plan Description included as Exhibit 10.4 in the Company's Report filed on Form 10-K for the Year ending December 31, 2000. |
| **10.4* | Amended and Restated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2002 included as Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's 2001 Form 10-K. |
| **10.5* | Amended and Restated 1987 Stock Option Plan dated August 15, 1996 included as Exhibit 10.7 to the McClatchy Newspapers, Inc. 1996 Report on Form 10-K. |
| **10.6* | Amended and Restated 1994 Stock Option Plan dated February 1, 1998 included as Exhibit 10.15 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q filed for the Quarter Ending on July 1, 2001. |
| **10.7* | Amended and Restated 1997 Stock Option Plan included as Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's 2002 Report on Form 10-K. |
| **10.8* | Executive Performance Plan adopted on January 1, 1990 included in Exhibit 10.13 to McClatchy Newspapers, Inc. 1989 Report on Form 10-K. |
| **10.9* | The Company's Amended and Restated 1990 Directors' Stock Option Plan dated February 1, 1998 included as Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's 1997 Form 10-K. |
| **10.10* | Amended and Restated Employment Agreement between the Company and Gary B. Pruitt dated October 22, 2003 included as Exhibit 10.10 to the Company's 2003 Form 10-K. |
| **10.11* | The Company's Long-Term Incentive Plan dated January 1, 1998 included as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ending on June 30, 1998. |
| **10.12* | The Company's Amended and Restated Chief Executive Bonus Plan, dated March 19, 2003 included as Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ending June 29, 2003. |
| **10.13 | The Company's Amended and Restated 2001 Director Stock Option Plan. |
| **10.14* | Credit Agreement dated May 10, 2004 by and among the Company, lenders party thereto, Bank of America, N.A. as Administrative Agent, Swing Line Lender and Letter of Credit Issuer, JPMorgan Chase Bank as Syndication Agent and Banc of America Securities LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Book Managers, included as Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 27, 2004. |
| **10.15* | The Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan included as Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 27, 2004. |
| **10.16* | Form of McClatchy's 2005 Director Option Agreement included as Exhibit 99.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 16, 2004. |
| **10.17* | Form of Restricted Stock Agreement related to the Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, included as Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 28, 2005 |
| 10.18 | Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Company and each of its officers and directors. |
| 21* | Subsidiaries of the Company |
| 23 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP |
| 31.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer of The McClatchy Company pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Exchange Act. |
| 31.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer of The McClatchy Company pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Exchange Act. |
| 32.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer of The McClatchy Company pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350. |
| 32.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer of The McClatchy Company pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350. |

* Incorporated by reference

** Compensation plans or arrangements for the Company's executive officers and directors

THE McCLATCHY COMPANY

2001 DIRECTOR OPTION PLAN

(Amended and Restated as of December 4, 2002)

1. Purposes of the Plan. The purposes of this 2001 Director Option Plan are to attract and retain the best available personnel for service as Non-employee Directors (as defined herein) of the Company, to provide additional incentive to the Non-employee Directors of the Company to serve as Directors, and to encourage their continued service on the Board.

All Options granted hereunder shall be nonstatutory stock options.

2. Definitions. As used herein, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(b) "Change of Control" means (i) the sale, lease, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets to any "person" (as such term is used in Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended), entity or group of persons acting in concert; (ii) any "person" or group of persons (other than any member of the McClatchy/Maloney family or any entity or group controlled by one or more members of the McClatchy/Maloney family) becoming the "beneficial owner" (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under said Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing 50% or more of the total voting power represented by the Company's then outstanding voting securities; (iii) a merger or consolidation of the Company with any other corporation, other than a merger or consolidation that would result in the voting securities of the Company outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being converted into voting securities of the surviving entity or its controlling entity) at least 50% of the total voting power represented by the voting securities of the Company or such surviving entity (or its controlling entity) outstanding immediately after such merger or consolidation; (iv) a contest for the election or removal of members of the Board that results in the removal from the Board of at least 50% of the incumbent members of the Board, or (v) the occurrence of a "Rule 13e-3 transaction" as such term is defined in Rule 13e-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or any similar successor rule.

(c) "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(d) "Common Stock" means the Class A Common Stock of the Company.

(e) "Company" means The McClatchy Company., a Delaware corporation.

(f) “Director” means a member of the Board.

(g) “Disability” means that an Optionee is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which has lasted, or can be expected to last, for a continuous period of not less than six (6) months or which can be expected to result in death.

(h) “Employee” means any person, including officers and Directors, employed by the Company or any Parent or Subsidiary of the Company. The payment of a Director’s fee by the Company shall not be sufficient in and of itself to constitute “employment” by the Company.

(i) “Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(j) “Fair Market Value” means, as of any date, the value of Common Stock determined as follows:

(i) If the Common Stock is listed on any established stock exchange or a national market system, including without limitation the Nasdaq National Market or The Nasdaq SmallCap Market of The Nasdaq Stock Market, its Fair Market Value shall be the closing sales price for such stock (or the closing bid, if no sales were reported) as quoted on such exchange or system for the last market trading day prior to the time of determination as reported in *The Wall Street Journal* or such other source as the Administrator deems reliable;

(ii) If the Common Stock is regularly quoted by a recognized securities dealer but selling prices are not reported, the Fair Market Value of a Share of Common Stock shall be the mean between the high bid and low asked prices for the Common Stock for the last market trading day prior to the time of determination, as reported in *The Wall Street Journal* or such other source as the Board deems reliable; or

(iii) In the absence of an established market for the Common Stock, the Fair Market Value thereof shall be determined in good faith by the Board.

(k) “Non-employee Director” means a Director who is not an Employee.

(l) “Option” means a stock option granted pursuant to the Plan.

(m) “Optioned Stock” means the Common Stock subject to an Option.

(n) “Optionee” means a Director who holds an Option.

(o) “Parent” means a “parent corporation,” whether now or hereafter existing, as defined in Section 424(e) of the Code.

(p) “Plan” means this 2001 Director Option Plan.

(q) "Share" means a share of the Common Stock, as adjusted in accordance with Section 10 of the Plan.

(r) "Subsidiary" means a "subsidiary corporation," whether now or hereafter existing, as defined in Section 424(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

3. Stock Subject to the Plan. Subject to the provisions of Section 10 of the Plan, the maximum aggregate number of Shares which may be optioned and sold under the Plan is 500,000 Shares (the "Pool"). The Shares may be authorized, but unissued, or reacquired Common Stock.

If an Option expires or becomes unexercisable without having been exercised in full, the unpurchased Shares which were subject thereto shall become available for future grant or sale under the Plan (unless the Plan has terminated). Shares that have actually been issued under the Plan shall not be returned to the Plan and shall not become available for future distribution under the Plan.

4. Administration and Grants of Options under the Plan.

(a) Procedure for Grants. All grants of Options to Non-employee Directors under this Plan shall be automatic and nondiscretionary and shall be made strictly in accordance with the following provisions; provided, however, that the Board shall have the authority to adjust the size of the Annual Option (defined below) as it deems appropriate in light of all surrounding circumstances:

(i) No person shall have any discretion to select which Non-employee Directors shall be granted Options.

(ii) Each Non-employee Director shall be automatically granted an Option to purchase 3,000 Shares (an "Annual Option") on the date of the Company's annual stockholder meeting each year.

(iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (ii) and (iii) hereof, any exercise of an Option granted before the Company has obtained shareholder approval of the Plan in accordance with Section 16 hereof shall be conditioned upon obtaining such shareholder approval of the Plan in accordance with Section 16 hereof.

(iv) The terms of an Annual Option granted hereunder shall be as follows:

(A) the term of the Annual Option shall be ten (10) years.

(B) the Annual Option shall be exercisable only while the Non-employee Director remains a Director of the Company, except as set forth in Sections 8 and 10 hereof.

(C) the exercise price per Share shall be 100% of the Fair Market Value per Share on the date of grant of the Annual Option.

(D) subject to Section 10 hereof, the Annual Option shall become exercisable as to 25% of the Shares subject to the Annual Option on the March 1 following its date of grant and 25% of the Shares subject to the Annual Option shall vest on each March 1 thereafter, provided that the Optionee continues to serve as a Director on such dates.

(v) Notwithstanding the foregoing vesting provisions, if an Optionee's service as a Director terminates due to death, Disability or retirement after attaining the age of 65, then 100% of the shares subject to each outstanding Option granted hereunder to such Optionee shall immediately vest and become exercisable.

(vi) In the event that any Option granted under the Plan would cause the number of Shares subject to outstanding Options plus the number of Shares previously purchased under Options to exceed the Pool, then the remaining Shares available for Option grant shall be granted under Options to the Non-employee Directors on a pro rata basis. No further grants shall be made until such time, if any, as additional Shares become available for grant under the Plan through action of the Board or the shareholders to increase the number of Shares which may be issued under the Plan or through cancellation or expiration of Options previously granted hereunder.

5. Eligibility. Options may be granted only to Non-employee Directors. All Options shall be automatically granted in accordance with the terms set forth in Section 4 hereof.

The Plan shall not confer upon any Optionee any right with respect to continuation of service as a Director or nomination to serve as a Director, nor shall it interfere in any way with any rights which the Director or the Company may have to terminate the Director's relationship with the Company at any time.

6. Term of Plan. The Plan shall become effective upon the earlier to occur of its adoption by the Board or its approval by the shareholders of the Company as described in Section 16 of the Plan. It shall continue in effect for a term of ten (10) years unless sooner terminated under Section 11 of the Plan.

7. Form of Consideration. The consideration to be paid for the Shares to be issued upon exercise of an Option, including the method of payment, shall consist of (i) cash, (ii) check, (iii) other shares which (x) in the case of Shares acquired upon exercise of an option, have been owned by the Optionee for more than twelve (12) months on the date of surrender, and (y) have a Fair Market Value on the date of surrender equal to the aggregate exercise price of the Shares as to which said Option shall be exercised, (iv) consideration received by the Company under a cashless exercise program implemented by the Company in connection with the Plan, or (v) any combination of the foregoing methods of payment.

8. Exercise of Option.

(a) Procedure for Exercise: Rights as a Shareholder. Any Option granted hereunder shall be exercisable at such times as are set forth in Section 4 hereof; provided, however, that no Options shall be exercisable until shareholder approval of the Plan in accordance with Section 16 hereof has been obtained.

An Option may not be exercised for a fraction of a Share.

An Option shall be deemed to be exercised when written notice of such exercise has been given to the Company in accordance with the terms of the Option by the person entitled to exercise the Option and full payment for the Shares with respect to which the Option is exercised has been received by the Company. Full payment may consist of any consideration and method of payment allowable under Section 7 of the Plan. Until the issuance (as evidenced by the appropriate entry on the books of the Company or of a duly authorized transfer agent of the Company) of the stock certificate evidencing such Shares, no right to vote or receive dividends or any other rights as a shareholder shall exist with respect to the Optioned Stock, notwithstanding the exercise of the Option. A share certificate for the number of Shares so acquired shall be issued to the Optionee as soon as practicable after exercise of the Option. No adjustment shall be made for a dividend or other right for which the record date is prior to the date the stock certificate is issued, except as provided in Section 10 of the Plan.

Exercise of an Option in any manner shall result in a decrease in the number of Shares which thereafter may be available, both for purposes of the Plan and for sale under the Option, by the number of Shares as to which the Option is exercised.

(b) Termination of Continuous Status as a Director. Subject to Section 10 hereof, in the event an Optionee's status as a Director terminates (other than upon the Optionee's death, Disability or retirement after the age of 65), the Optionee may exercise his or her Option, but only within ninety (90) days following the date of such termination, and only to the extent that the Optionee was entitled to exercise it on the date of such termination (but in no event later than the expiration of its ten (10) year term). To the extent that the Optionee was not entitled to exercise an Option on the date of such termination, and to the extent that the Optionee does not exercise such Option (to the extent otherwise so entitled) within the time specified herein, the Option shall terminate.

(c) Retirement. In the event Optionee's status as a Director terminates as a result of Optionee retiring after attaining the age of 65, the Optionee may exercise his or her Option, but only within three years following the date of such termination, and only to the extent that the Optionee was entitled to exercise it on the date of such termination (but in no event later than the expiration of its ten (10) year term). To the extent that the Optionee was not entitled to exercise an Option on the date of termination, or if he or she does not exercise such Option (to the extent otherwise so entitled) within the time specified herein, the Option shall terminate.

(d) Disability of Optionee. In the event Optionee's status as a Director terminates as a result of Disability, the Optionee may exercise his or her Option, but only within three years following the date of such termination, and only to the extent that the Optionee was entitled to exercise it on the date of such termination (but in no event later than the expiration of its ten (10) year term). To the extent that the Optionee was not entitled to exercise an Option on the date of termination, or if he or she does not exercise such Option (to the extent otherwise so entitled) within the time specified herein, the Option shall terminate.

(e) Death of Optionee. In the event of an Optionee's death, the executors or administrators of the Optionee's estate or a person who acquired the right to exercise the Option by bequest, inheritance or beneficiary designation may exercise the Option, but only within three years following the date of death, and only to the extent that the Optionee was entitled to exercise it on the date of death (but in no event later than the expiration of its ten (10) year term). To the extent that the Optionee was not entitled to exercise an Option on the date of death, and to the extent that the Optionee's estate or a person who acquired the right to exercise such Option does not exercise such Option (to the extent otherwise so entitled) within the time specified herein, the Option shall terminate.

In the event that an Optionee dies after the termination of his or her status as a Director as provided in Sections 8(b), (c) and (d), but before the expiration of his or her Option(s), all or part of such Option(s) may be exercised (prior to the expiration) by the executors or administrators of the Optionee's estate or by any person who has acquired such Option(s) directly from him or her by bequest, inheritance or beneficiary designation under the Plan, but only to the extent that such Option(s) had become exercisable before his or her service as a Director terminated or became exercisable as a result of the termination.

9. Non-Transferability of Options. The Option may not be sold, pledged, assigned, hypothecated, transferred, or disposed of in any manner other than by will or by the laws of descent or distribution and may be exercised, during the lifetime of the Optionee, only by the Optionee.

10. Adjustments Upon Changes in Capitalization, Dissolution, Merger or Asset Sale.

(a) Changes in Capitalization. Subject to any required action by the shareholders of the Company, the number of Shares covered by each outstanding Option, the number of Shares which have been authorized for issuance under the Plan but as to which no Options have yet been granted or which have been returned to the Plan upon cancellation or expiration of an Option, as well as the price per Share covered by each such outstanding Option, and the number of Shares issuable pursuant to the automatic grant provisions of Section 4 hereof shall be proportionately adjusted for any increase or decrease in the number of issued Shares resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination or reclassification of the Common Stock, or any other increase or decrease in the number of issued Shares effected without receipt of consideration by the Company; provided, however, that conversion of any convertible securities of the Company shall not be deemed to have been "effected without receipt of consideration." Except as expressly provided herein, no issuance by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or price of Shares subject to an Option.

(b) Dissolution or Liquidation. In the event of the proposed dissolution or liquidation of the Company, to the extent that an Option has not been previously exercised, it shall terminate immediately prior to the consummation of such proposed action.

(c) Change of Control. In the event of a Change of Control, all outstanding and unexpired Options shall become fully vested and exercisable, including as to Shares for which it would not otherwise be exercisable.

Outstanding Options may be assumed or equivalent options may be substituted by the successor corporation or a Parent or Subsidiary thereof (the "Successor Corporation") or they may be settled for cash. If an Option is assumed or substituted for, the Option or equivalent option shall continue to be exercisable as provided in Section 4 hereof for so long as the Optionee serves as a Director or a director of the Successor Corporation. Following such assumption or substitution, if the Optionee's status as a Director or director of the Successor Corporation, as applicable, is terminated, the Option or option shall remain exercisable in accordance with Sections 8(b) through (e) above. If the Successor Corporation does not assume an outstanding Option or substitute for it an equivalent option or the Option is not settled for cash, the Board shall notify the Optionee at least thirty (30) days from the date of such notice, and upon the expiration of such period the Option shall terminate.

For the purposes of this Section 10(c), an Option shall be considered assumed if, following the Change of Control, the Option confers the right to purchase or receive, for each Share of Optioned Stock immediately prior to the Change of Control, the consideration (whether stock, cash, or other securities or property) received in the Change of Control by holders of Common Stock for each Share held on the effective date of the transaction (and if holders were offered a choice of consideration, the type of consideration chosen by the holders of a majority of the outstanding Shares). If such consideration received in the Change of Control is not solely common stock of the Successor Corporation or its Parent, the Board may, with the consent of the Successor Corporation, provide for the consideration to be received upon the exercise of the Option, for each Share of Optioned Stock, to be solely common stock of the Successor Corporation or its Parent equal in fair market value to the per share consideration received by holders of Common Stock in the Change of Control.

11. Amendment and Termination of the Plan.

(a) Amendment and Termination. The Board may at any time amend, alter, suspend, or discontinue the Plan, but no amendment, alteration, suspension, or discontinuation shall be made which would impair the rights of any Optionee under any grant theretofore made, without his or her consent. In addition, to the extent necessary and desirable to comply with any applicable law, regulation or stock exchange rule, the Company shall obtain shareholder approval of any Plan amendment in such a manner and to such a degree as required.

(b) Effect of Amendment or Termination. Any such amendment or termination of the Plan shall not affect Options already granted and such Options shall remain in full force and effect as if this Plan had not been amended or terminated.

12. Time of Granting Options. The date of grant of an Option shall, for all purposes, be the date determined in accordance with Section 4 hereof.

13. Conditions Upon Issuance of Shares. Shares shall not be issued pursuant to the exercise of an Option unless the exercise of such Option and the issuance and delivery of such Shares pursuant thereto shall comply with all relevant provisions of law, including, without limitation, the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Exchange Act, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, state securities laws, and the requirements of any stock exchange upon which the Shares may then be listed, and shall be further subject to the approval of counsel for the Company with respect to such compliance.

As a condition to the exercise of an Option, the Company may require the person exercising such Option to represent and warrant at the time of any such exercise that the Shares are being purchased only for investment and without any present intention to sell or distribute such Shares, if, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, such a representation is required by any of the aforementioned relevant provisions of law.

Inability of the Company to obtain authority from any regulatory body having jurisdiction, which authority is deemed by the Company's counsel to be necessary to the lawful issuance and sale of any Shares hereunder, shall relieve the Company of any liability in respect of the failure to issue or sell such Shares as to which such requisite authority shall not have been obtained.

14. Reservation of Shares. The Company, during the term of this Plan, will at all times reserve and keep available such number of Shares as shall be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Plan.

15. Option Agreement. Options shall be evidenced by written option agreements in such form as the Board shall approve.

16. Shareholder Approval. The Plan shall be subject to approval by the shareholders of the Company within twelve (12) months after the date the Plan is adopted. Such shareholder approval shall be obtained in the degree and manner required under applicable state and federal law and any stock exchange rules.

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

THIS INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT, effective as of _____, between THE McCLATCHY COMPANY a Delaware corporation (the "Corporation"), and _____ ("Indemnitee").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Indemnitee is either a member of the board of directors of the Corporation (the "Board of Directors"), or an officer of the Corporation, or both, and in such capacity or capacities or otherwise as an Agent of the Corporation (as hereinafter defined) is performing a valuable service for the Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Indemnitee is willing to serve, continue to serve and to take on additional service for or on behalf of the Corporation on the condition that he be indemnified as herein provided; and

WHEREAS, it is intended that Indemnitee shall be paid promptly by the Corporation all amounts necessary to effectuate in full the indemnity provided herein:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the covenants in this Agreement, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Services by Indemnitee.

Indemnitee agrees to serve as a director or as an officer of the Corporation, or both, so long as he is duly appointed or elected and qualified in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Corporation or any subsidiary of the Corporation, and until such time as he resigns or fails to stand for election or is removed from his position. Indemnitee may at any time and for any reason resign or be removed from such position (subject to any other contractual obligation or other obligation imposed by operation of law), in which event the Corporation shall have no obligation under this Agreement to continue Indemnitee in any such position.

2. Indemnification.

The Corporation shall indemnify Indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. Without in any way diminishing the scope of the indemnification provided by this Section 2, the Corporation will indemnify Indemnitee if and whenever Indemnitee is or was a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is in any way involved in (except as a party plaintiff without the written consent of the Corporation)

any Proceeding (including without limitation any such Proceeding brought by or in the right of the Corporation), by reason of the fact that Indemnitee is or was an Agent or by reason of anything done or not done by Indemnitee in such capacity, against Expenses and Liabilities actually and reasonably incurred by Indemnitee or on his behalf in connection with such Proceeding except to the extent that (a) any Expenses or Liabilities result from conduct which is finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest or willful misconduct, (b) any amount is paid without the prior approval of the Corporation in settlement of a Proceeding brought by or in the right of the Corporation or another entity or enterprise which Indemnitee is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director or officer, or (c) such indemnification is otherwise prohibited by law, whether by statute, court decision or otherwise. In addition to, and not as a limitation of, the foregoing, the rights of indemnification of Indemnitee provided under this Agreement shall include those rights set forth in Sections 3, 6 and 12 below.

3. Advancement of Expenses.

All reasonable Expenses incurred by or on behalf of Indemnitee shall be advanced from time to time by the Corporation to him within thirty (30) days after the receipt by the Corporation of a written request for an advance of Expenses, whether prior to or after final disposition of a Proceeding (except to the extent that there has been a Final Adverse Determination that Indemnitee is not entitled to be indemnified for such Expenses), including without limitation any Proceeding brought by or in the right of the Corporation. The written request for an advancement of any and all Expenses under this paragraph shall contain reasonable detail of the Expenses incurred by Indemnitee. If required by law at the time of such advance, Indemnitee hereby undertakes to repay the amounts advanced if it shall ultimately be determined that Indemnitee is not entitled to be indemnified pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

4. Limitations.

The foregoing indemnity and advancement of Expenses shall apply only to the extent that Indemnitee has not been indemnified and reimbursed pursuant to such insurance as the Corporation may maintain for Indemnitee's benefit, or otherwise; provided, however, that notwithstanding the availability of such other indemnification and reimbursement, Indemnitee may claim indemnification and advancement of Expenses pursuant to this Agreement by assigning to the Corporation, at its request, Indemnitee's claims under such insurance to the extent Indemnitee has been paid by the Corporation.

5. Insurance and Funding.

The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance to protect itself and/or Indemnitee against any Expenses and Liabilities in connection with any Proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. The Corporation may create a trust fund, grant a security interest or use other means (including, without limitation, a letter of credit) to ensure the payment of such amounts as may be necessary to effect indemnification or advancement of Expenses as provided in this Agreement.

6. Procedure for Determination of Entitlement to Indemnification.

(a) Whenever Indemnitee believes that he is entitled to indemnification pursuant to this Agreement, Indemnitee shall submit a written request for indemnification to the Corporation. Any request for indemnification shall include sufficient documentation or information reasonably available to Indemnitee for the determination of entitlement to indemnification. In any event, Indemnitee shall submit his claim for indemnification within a reasonable time, not to exceed five years after any judgment, order, settlement, dismissal, arbitration award, conviction, acceptance of a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, or final termination, whichever is the later date for which Indemnitee requests indemnification. The Secretary or other appropriate officer shall, promptly upon receipt of Indemnitee's request for indemnification, advise the Board of Directors in writing that he has made such request. Determination of Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification shall be made not later than sixty (60) days after any judgment, order, settlement, dismissal, arbitration award, conviction, acceptance of a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, or other disposition or partial disposition of any Proceeding or any other event which could enable the Corporation to determine Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification.

(b) The Indemnitee shall be entitled to select the forum in which Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification will be heard, which selection shall be included in the written request for indemnification required in Section 6(a). The forum shall be any one of the following:

(i) The stockholders of the Corporation;

(ii) A quorum of the Board of Directors consisting of Disinterested Directors;

(iii) Independent Legal Counsel, who shall make the determination in a written opinion; or

(iv) A panel of three arbitrators, one selected by the Corporation, another by Indemnitee and the third by the first two arbitrators selected; or if for any reason three arbitrators are not selected within thirty (30) days after the appointment of the first arbitrator, then selection of additional arbitrators shall be made by the American Arbitration Association. If any arbitrator resigns or is unable to serve in such capacity for any reason, the American Arbitration Association shall select his replacement. The arbitration shall be conducted pursuant to the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association now in effect.

7. Fees and Expenses of Independent Legal Counsel.

The Corporation agrees to pay the reasonable fees and expenses of Independent Legal Counsel or a panel of three arbitrators should such Counsel or such panel of arbitrators be retained to make a determination of Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification pursuant to Section 6 of this Agreement, and to fully indemnify such Counsel or arbitrators against any and all expenses and losses incurred by any of them arising out of or relating to this Agreement or their engagement pursuant hereto.

8. Remedies of Indemnitee.

(a) In the event that (i) a determination pursuant to Section 6 hereof is made that Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification, (ii) advances of Expenses are not made pursuant to this Agreement, (iii) payment has not been timely made following a determination of entitlement to indemnification pursuant to this Agreement, or (iv) Indemnitee otherwise seeks enforcement of this Agreement, Indemnitee shall be entitled to a final adjudication in an appropriate court of the State of Delaware of the remedy sought. Alternatively, Indemnitee at his option may seek an award in arbitration to be conducted by a single arbitrator pursuant to the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association now in effect, which award is to be made within ninety (90) days following the filing of the demand for arbitration. The Corporation shall not oppose Indemnitee's right to seek any such adjudication or arbitration award.

(b) In the event that a determination that Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification, in whole or in part, has been made pursuant to Section 6 hereof, the decision in the judicial proceeding or arbitration provided in paragraph (a) of this Section 8 shall be made de novo and Indemnitee shall not be prejudiced by reason of a determination that he is not entitled to indemnification.

(c) If a determination that Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification has been made pursuant to Section 6 hereof or otherwise pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, the Corporation shall be bound by such determination in the absence of a misrepresentation of a material fact by Indemnitee.

(d) The Corporation shall be precluded from asserting that the procedures and presumptions of this Agreement are not valid, binding and enforceable. The Corporation shall stipulate in any such court or before any such arbitrator that the Corporation is bound by all the provisions of this Agreement and is precluded from making any assertion to the contrary.

(e) Expenses reasonably incurred by Indemnitee in connection with his request for indemnification under, seeking enforcement of or to recover damages for breach of this Agreement shall be borne by the Corporation.

9. Modification, Waiver, Termination and Cancellation.

No supplement, modification, termination, cancellation or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by both of the parties hereto. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed or shall constitute a waiver of any other provisions hereof (whether or not similar), nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

10. Notice by Indemnitee and Defense of Claim.

Indemnitee shall promptly notify the Corporation in writing upon being served with any summons, citation, subpoena, complaint, indictment, information or other document relating to any matter, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, but the omission so to notify the Corporation will not relieve it from any liability which it may have to Indemnitee if such omission does not prejudice the Corporation's rights. If such omission does prejudice the Corporation's rights, the Corporation will be relieved from liability only to the extent of such prejudice; nor will such omission relieve the Corporation from any liability which it may have to Indemnitee otherwise than under this Agreement. With respect to any Proceeding as to which Indemnitee notifies the Corporation of the commencement thereof:

(a) The Corporation will be entitled to participate therein at its own expense; and

(b) The Corporation jointly with any other indemnifying party similarly notified will be entitled to assume the defense thereof, with counsel reasonably satisfactory to Indemnitee; provided, however, that the Corporation shall not be entitled to assume the defense of any Proceeding if Indemnitee shall have reasonably concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Corporation and Indemnitee with respect to such Proceeding. After notice from the Corporation to Indemnitee of its election to assume the defense thereof, the Corporation will not be liable to Indemnitee under this Agreement for any Expenses subsequently incurred by Indemnitee in connection with the defense thereof, other than reasonable costs of investigation or as otherwise provided below. Indemnitee shall have the right to employ its own counsel in such Proceeding but the fees and expenses of such counsel incurred after notice from the Corporation of its assumption of the defense thereof shall be at the expense of Indemnitee unless:

(i) The employment of counsel by Indemnitee has been authorized by the Corporation;

(ii) Indemnitee shall have reasonably concluded that counsel engaged by the Corporation may not adequately represent Indemnitee; or

(iii) The Corporation shall not in fact have employed counsel to assume the defense in such Proceeding or shall not in fact have assumed such defense and be acting in connection therewith with reasonable diligence; in each of which cases the fees and expenses of such counsel shall be at the expense of the Corporation.

(c) The Corporation shall not settle any Proceeding in any manner which would impose any penalty or limitation on Indemnitee without Indemnitee's written consent; provided, however, that Indemnitee will not unreasonably withhold his consent to any proposed settlement.

11. Notices.

All notices, requests, demands and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if (i) delivered by hand and receipted for by the party to whom said notice or other communication shall have been directed, or (ii) mailed by certified or registered mail with postage prepaid, on the third business day after the date on which it is so mailed:

(a) If to Indemnitee, to:

(b) If to the Corporation, to:

The McClatchy Company
2100 Q Street
Sacramento, California 95816

or to such other address as may have been furnished to Indemnitee by the Corporation or to the Corporation by Indemnitee, as the case may be.

12. Nonexclusivity.

The rights of Indemnitee hereunder shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which Indemnitee may now or in the future be entitled under the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws, or any agreements, vote of stockholders, resolution of the Board of Directors or otherwise, and to the extent that during the Indemnification Period the rights of the then existing directors and officers are more favorable to such directors or officers than the rights currently provided to Indemnitee thereunder or under this Agreement, Indemnitee shall be entitled to the full benefits of such more favorable rights.

13. Certain Definitions.

(a) "Agent" shall mean (i) a director, officer, employee, fiduciary, agent or co-founder of the Corporation; (ii) a director, officer, employee, agent or fiduciary of another entity who is or was serving in such capacity at the request of, for the convenience of, or to represent the interests of the Corporation; (iii) a director, officer, employee, agent, fiduciary or co-founder of a corporation, which was a predecessor corporation of the Corporation; or (iv) a director, officer, employee, agent or fiduciary of another entity who is or was serving in such capacity at the request of, for the convenience of, or to represent the interests of such predecessor corporation.

(b) "Disinterested Director" shall mean a director of the Corporation who is not or was not a party to the Proceeding in respect of which indemnification is being sought by Indemnitee.

(c) "Expenses" shall include all direct and indirect costs (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees, retainers, court costs, transcripts, fees of experts, witness fees, travel expenses, duplicating costs, printing and binding costs, telephone charges, postage, delivery service fees, all other disbursements or out-of-pocket expenses and reasonable compensation for time spent by Indemnitee for which he is otherwise not compensated by the Corporation or any third party) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with a Proceeding or establishing or enforcing a right to indemnification under this Agreement, applicable law or otherwise; provided, however, that "Expenses" shall not include any Liabilities.

(d) "Final Adverse Determination" shall mean that a determination that Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification shall have been made pursuant to Section 6 hereof and either (1) a final adjudication in a Delaware court or decision of an arbitrator pursuant to Section 8(a) hereof shall have denied Indemnitee's right to indemnification hereunder, or (2) Indemnitee shall have failed to file a complaint in a Delaware court or seek an arbitrator's award pursuant to Section 8(a) for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the determination made pursuant to Section 6 hereof.

(e) "Indemnification Period" shall mean the period of time during which Indemnitee shall continue to serve as a director or officer of the Corporation, or both, and thereafter so long as Indemnitee shall be subject to any possible Proceeding.

(f) "Independent Legal Counsel" shall mean a law firm or a member of a law firm selected by the Corporation and approved by Indemnitee (which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld) and that neither is presently nor in the past five years has been retained to represent: (i) the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, or Indemnitee or any corporation as to which Indemnitee was or is a director, officer, employee or agent, or any subsidiary or affiliate of such a corporation, in any material matter, or (ii) any other party to the Proceeding giving rise to a claim for indemnification hereunder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term "Independent Legal Counsel" shall not include any person who, under the applicable standards of professional conduct then prevailing, would have a conflict of interest in representing either the Corporation or Indemnitee in an action to determine Indemnitee's right to indemnification under this Agreement.

(g) "Liabilities" shall mean liabilities of any type whatsoever including, but not limited to, any judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes and penalties, penalties and amounts paid in settlement (including all interest assessments and other charges paid or payable in connection with or in respect of such judgments, fines, penalties or amounts paid in settlement) of any Proceeding.

(h) "Proceeding" shall mean any threatened, pending or completed action, claim, suit, arbitration, alternate dispute resolution mechanism, investigation, administrative hearing or any other proceeding whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, including any appeal therefrom.

14. Binding Effect; Duration and Scope of Agreement.

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns (including any direct or indirect successor by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise to all or substantially all of the business or assets of the Corporation), spouses, heirs and personal and legal representatives. This Agreement shall continue in effect during the Indemnification Period, regardless of whether Indemnitee continues to serve as an officer or director.

15. Severability.

If any provision or provisions of this Agreement (or any portion thereof) shall be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable for any reason whatsoever:

(a) The validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby; and

(b) To the fullest extent legally possible, the provisions of this Agreement shall be construed so as to give effect to the intent of any provision held invalid, illegal or unenforceable.

16. Governing Law and Interpretation of Agreement.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware. If the laws of the State of Delaware are hereafter amended to permit the Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights than said laws permitted the Corporation to provide prior to such amendment, the rights of indemnification and advancement of expenses conferred by this Agreement shall be broadened to the fullest extent permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware, as so amended.

17. Consent to Jurisdiction.

The Corporation and Indemnitee each irrevocably consent to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Delaware for all purposes in connection with any action or proceeding which arises out of or relates to this Agreement and agree that any action instituted under this Agreement shall be brought only in the state courts of the State of Delaware.

18. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and there are no other agreements, contracts or understandings between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement, except as specifically referred to herein or as provided in Section 12 hereof.

Executed this __ day of _____, _____.

THE McCLATCHY COMPANY

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

INDEMNITEE

By: _____

Name: _____

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statements No. 33-21704, No. 33-24096, No. 33-37300, No. 33-65104, No. 33-56717, No. 333-42903, No. 333-59811, No. 333-61214, and No. 333-117850 on Form S-8 and No. 333-47909 on Form S-3 of our report dated February 24, 2005, relating to the financial statements and financial statement schedule of The McClatchy Company appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of The McClatchy Company for the year ended December 26, 2004.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche, LLP

Sacramento, California
February 24, 2005

CERTIFICATION

I, Gary B. Pruitt, Chief Executive Officer of The McClatchy Company, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of The McClatchy Company;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officers and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officers and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls over financial reporting.

Date: February 24, 2005

/s/ Gary B. Pruitt

Gary B. Pruitt
Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Patrick J. Talamantes, Chief Financial Officer of The McClatchy Company, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of The McClatchy Company;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officers and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officers and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal controls over financial reporting.

Date: February 24, 2005

/s/ Patrick J. Talamantes

Patrick J. Talamantes
Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the annual report of The McClatchy Company (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ended December 26, 2004 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Gary B. Pruitt, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: February 24, 2005

/s/ Gary B. Pruitt

Gary B. Pruitt
Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the annual report of The McClatchy Company (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the period ended December 26, 2004 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Patrick J. Talamantes, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: February 24, 2005

/s/ Patrick J. Talamantes

Patrick J. Talamantes
Chief Financial Officer