

# Don't Judge a Book By Its Cover

November 9, 2006

# Disclaimer

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# Borders Group

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## **BORDERS®**



Ticker: **BGP**

Recent  
price: **\$21**

*Note: BGP fiscal year  
ends on January 31.  
Presentation based on  
a Calendar year.*

- ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> largest U.S. book retailer**
  - 13% of U.S. retail book market (versus Barnes and Noble at 17% and Amazon at 10%)
  
- ▶ **2006E Rev of \$4.1bn and EBITDA of \$235mm**
  
- ▶ **Year-end Enterprise Value of \$1.6bn and Equity Value of \$1.1bn <sup>(1)</sup>**
  - EV / '06 EBITDA: **6.9x**
  
  - EV / '06 EBITDA – Maint. Capex: **8.8x**
  
  - P / '06 EPS: **27.2x**

Forward estimates based on Pershing estimates.

*(1) Based on management's guidance for Net Debt and shares outstanding at year end 2006. Assumes a \$21 current stock price for BGP throughout this presentation.*

# What is Borders?

## **BORDERS®**

### Superstores

- Large format (25,000 sq ft)
- Large selection
- 476 units
- Most profitable segment
- Positive sales trends

### Mall Stores

- Waldenbooks
- Small format, mall-based
- Limited selection
- 600 units
- Negative sales trends and declining profitability

### International

- U.K. and Australia
- 90 units / mix of large / small format stores
- Declining profitability

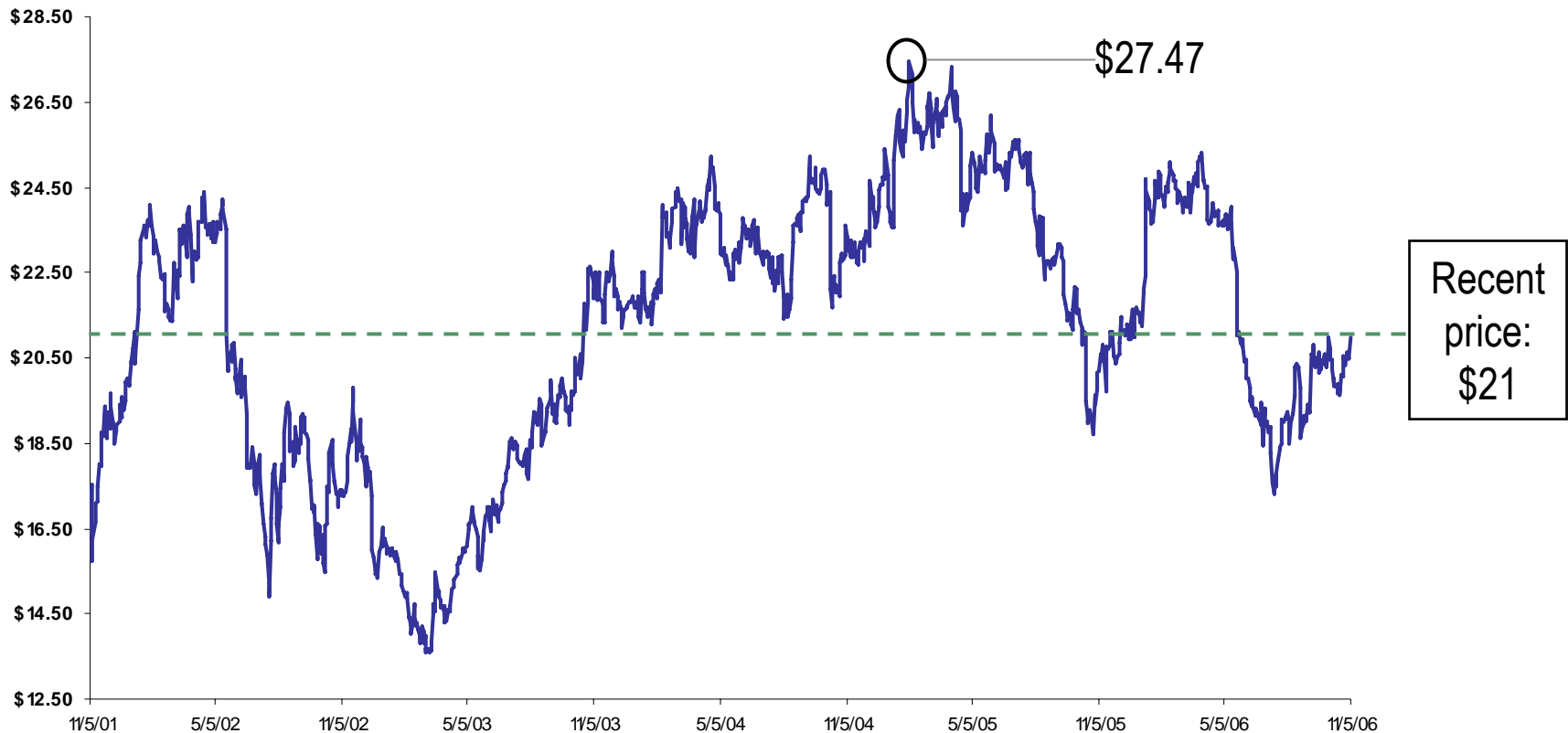
% LTM Rev.	68%	17%	15%
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% LTM EBITDA	92%	5%	3%
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% LTM ROA	10%	-1%	-2%
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# Five Year Stock Price Performance

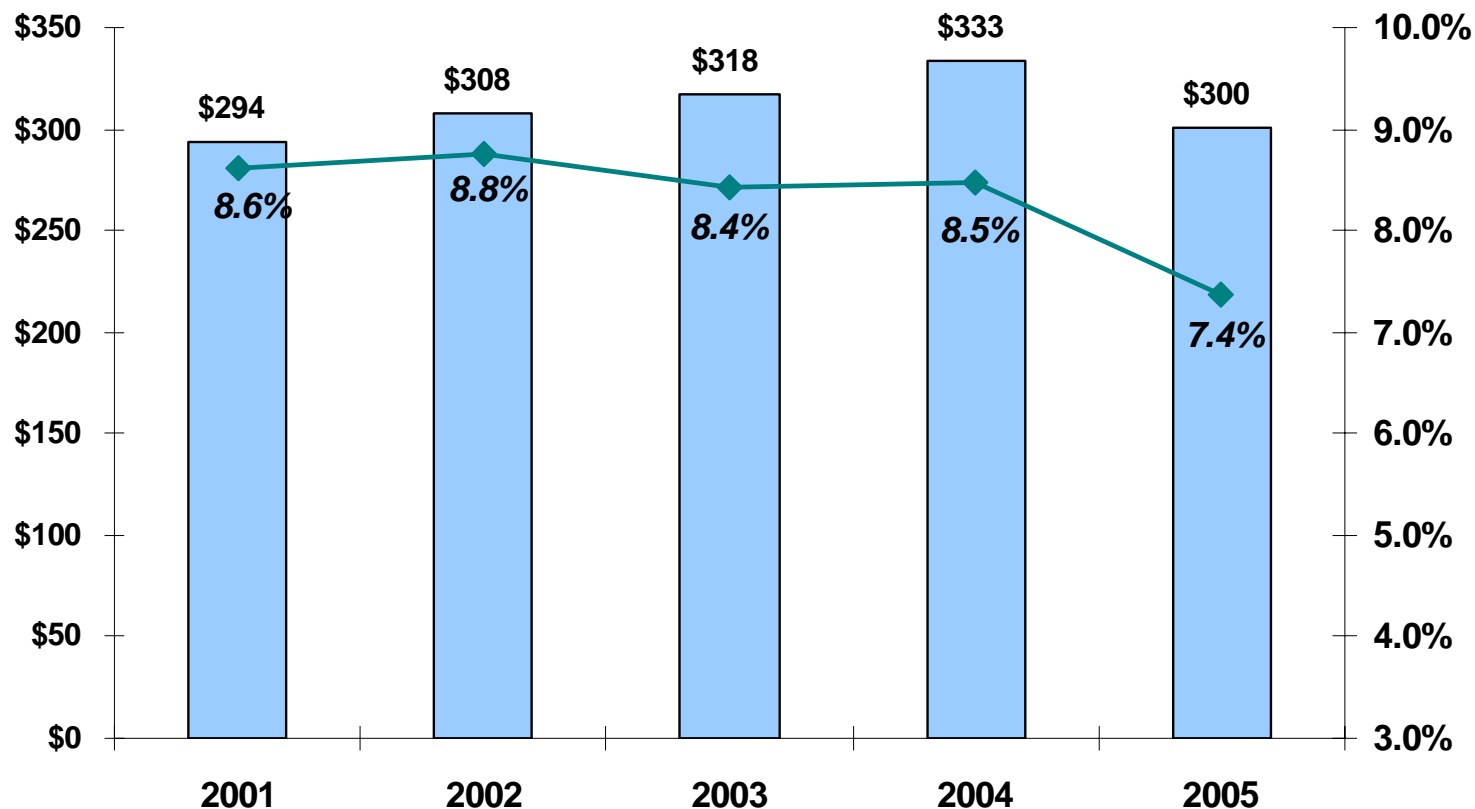
**Borders was trading at approximately \$27.50 per share in February 2005 but has since traded down primarily due to weakening margins and same store sales trends**



# Borders Historical Financial Performance

**In 2005, Borders' consolidated Adjusted EBITDA margins fell to 7.4% from the previous four-year average of approximately 8.6%**

Adjusted EBITDA and Margins (*\$ in millions*)



# Traditional Sentiment on Borders

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- ▶ **Unattractive industry**
  - “Amazon risk”
  - Consumer interest in books is declining
  - Difficult SSS comparisons with *Harry Potter*
- ▶ **Second place operator behind Barnes and Noble**
  - More exposure to declining Music category
  - Worse execution (lower working capital turns and sales / sq.ft.)
  - Low margin, legacy mall stores
- ▶ **Limited free cash flow due to large, recent cap ex initiatives**
  - Consolidating distribution centers
  - Significant store remodel program



Why Do We Like Borders?



# Why Do We Like Borders?

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## 1. The book superstore industry is misunderstood

- ▶ **“Amazon risk” is largely exaggerated for superstores**
- ▶ **Book superstores are valuable franchises**
- ▶ **Minimal inventory risk because inventory is returnable at cost**
- ▶ **Maintenance capital is significantly less than depreciation because long-lived leasehold improvements are depreciated over initial lease term**

# Why Do We Like Borders?

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## 2. Borders is a mix of high-quality businesses and several low-ROI, money-losing businesses which are in the process of being rationalized

- ▶ **Value of core Superstores business is obscured by declining profitability in the Mall Stores and International Stores**
- ▶ **In addition, within the Superstores segment, value is being masked by a declining category as well as several recent management initiatives**
  - Rapid decline of Music sales (music was 22% of sales in 2001, now roughly 11%)
  - Recent initiatives, including (1) Remodel program, (2) Rewards program, and (3) Distribution center consolidation, have reduced reported Superstores profitability

## Why Do We Like Borders? *(cont'd)*

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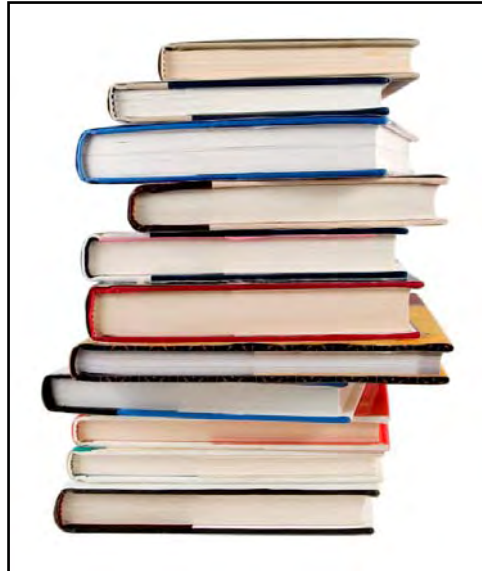
- ▶ **Superstores are healthy, growing and improving**
  - Stable EBITDA margins (9.5% - 10+%) with high ROIC
  - Expected annual square footage growth of ~6%
  - Remodeling program will reduce Music category exposure
  - Opportunity to increase working capital turns
  
- ▶ **Mall and International segments are low ROIC businesses that can be monetized with minimal disruption**
  - Estimated ~\$200mm of Net Working Capital on an estimated ~\$15mm of EBITDA contribution
  - Potentially “worth more dead than alive”
  - New Management is focused on rationalizing business

# Why Do We Like Borders?

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## **3. Extensive share repurchase program and newly hired CEO should help drive value creation**

- ▶ **~\$500mm of share repurchases in the past 2.5 years**
  - Common shares outstanding reduced by ~ 20%
- ▶ **Company is repurchasing ~14% of market cap in the second half of 2006**
- ▶ **New CEO George Jones joined in July**



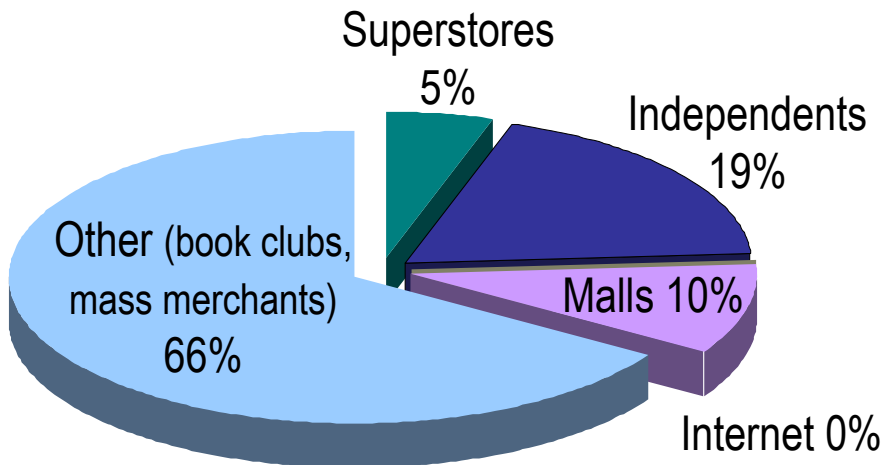
## 1. "Misunderstood Industry"

# "Amazon Risk?"

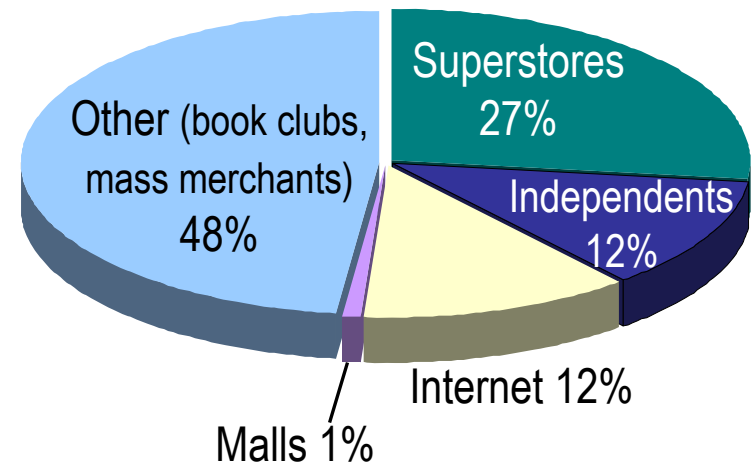
**Superstores have increased share in tandem with Amazon by focusing on selection and quality of experience**

**Losers have been Independents, Mall stores, Mass Merchants and Book Clubs with limited selection**

U.S. Consumer Book Industry 1993



U.S. Consumer Book Industry 2005



# Books Superstores Are Valuable Franchises

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- ▶ **Book Superstores are attractive “anchor” tenants**
  - Favorable customer demographic – book buyers are well-educated, high-income customers
  - Superstores are “Mini Malls” with books as the anchor
- ▶ **High-quality customer experience**
  - Borders ranked #2 in Overall Quality for Retailers in 2006 Harris Poll
  - Not just a book store: café, community events, meeting place
  - Customer spends an average of one hour in the store
- ▶ **Opportunity to sell more than books**
  - Barnes and Noble is the second-largest retailer of coffee in U.S.
  - Borders achieving success with Seattle’s Best and Paperchase

# Gross Margin Stability at Superstores

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- ▶ **Best sellers are ubiquitous and extremely price competitive, yet they represent less than 5% of typical superstore sales**
- ▶ **Nearly all (~97%) book inventory is returnable to the publishers at cost**
  - Increases gross profit margin stability
- ▶ **Book inventory is non-perishable and generally has limited “fad” risk**



# Industry Maint. Capex is less than Depreciation

## Reported earnings for Book Retailers understates true cash flow

- ▶ **Book retailers depreciate store assets over initial lease term ~ typically 10-15 years**
- ▶ **Maintenance capital requirements are lower than depreciation expense**
  - Fixed assets (book shelves) last longer than lease terms
  - Maintenance costs typically limited to paint and carpeting

<b>Borders Group (\$ in mm)</b>	<b>2006E</b>
D&A	\$130
Maintenance Capex	50
Difference	80
Net Income	\$43
Maintenance FCF (after-tax)	\$123
<b>Price to Earnings</b>	<b>27.2x</b>
<b>Price to Maint FCF (after-tax)</b>	<b>9.4x</b>

$$\text{Maintenance FCF} = \text{NI} + \text{D\&A} - \text{Maintenance Capex}$$

**Superstores**

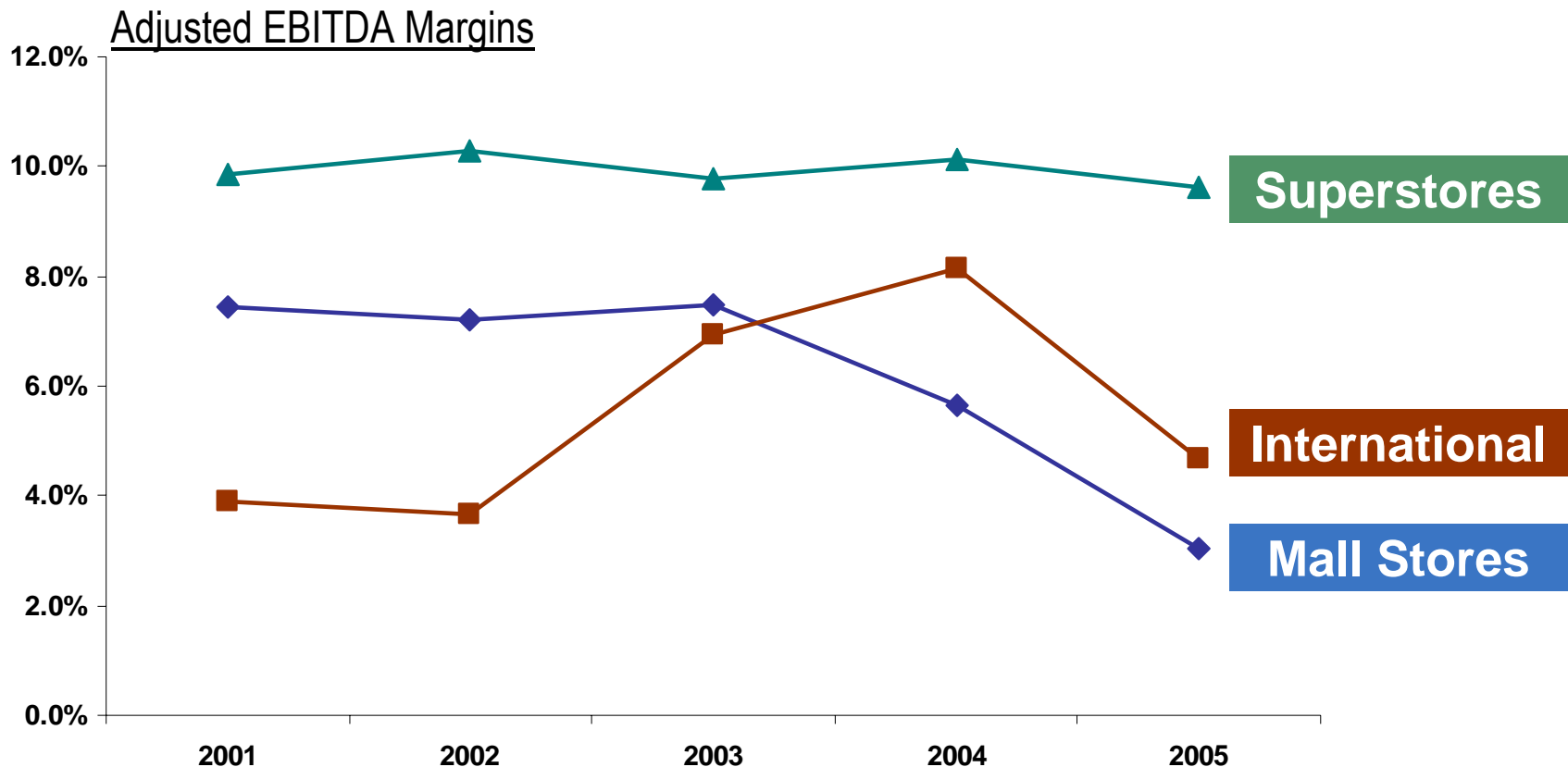
**Mall Stores**

**International**

2. High-Quality  
Businesses Obscured by  
Money-Losing  
Businesses

# Healthy Superstores Obscured by Bad Businesses

Superstores profitability and stability have been obscured by the Mall and International businesses, which are currently being rationalized



*Note: EBITDA Adjusted for non-cash asset impairment associated with store closures.*

## Within Superstores, there is Opportunity...

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**Superstores performance has also been masked by declining music sales and certain one-time costs in 2006**

- ▶ **Company has initiated a Store Remodel Program**
  - Reduce exposure to declining Music sales
  - Increase high-margin Paperpurchase and Coffee sales
- ▶ **Newly launched Rewards program and several one-time expenses have created noise in reported 2006 financials, obscuring results**
  - Expenses for consolidating distribution centers, launching rewards program and remodeling store base
- ▶ **Superstores EBITDA could increase by 40+% by 2008 as result of improved product mix, unit growth and elimination of these one-time expenses**



Borders  
Superstores

# Superstores: “Mini Mall” with several “Tenants”

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## Books

“Anchor tenant.” Stable business

## Café

Seattle’s Best. “Mini-Starbucks.” High margin + growing

## Paperchase

Specialty paper like *Kate’s Paperie*. High margin + growing

## Music

Deteriorating rapidly

## DVD

Growth slowing

# Superstores: Operating Data

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- ▶ **Typical store has 25,000 sq. ft**
  - Up to 200,000 titles of books, music, movies plus a Cafe
- ▶ **Attractive unit growth**
  - 476 superstores
  - Current plan is to grow 30 units / year (~6% annually)
- ▶ **Unit economics:**
  - \$2.4mm of invested capital (\$1.2mm of fixed assets, \$1.2mm of NWC)
  - Average unit sales of \$5.7mm
  - Avg. 4-Wall EBITDA – Maint. Capex contribution of ~\$700k
  - ~29% “stabilized” unlevered ROI

$$\frac{\$700}{\$2,400} = 29\%$$

*Based on Pershing estimates.*

# Superstores Historical Financials

Over the last five years, the Superstores segment has generated steady Adj. EBITDA margins between 9.6% - 10.3%

(\$ in millions)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Operating Data:</b>					
Units	363	404	445	462	473
Growth		11.3%	10.1%	3.8%	2.4%
Reported SSS	2.0%	-1.2%	1.2%	0.6%	1.1%
<b>Financial Data</b>					
Sales	2,234	2,319	2,470	2,589	2,710
Growth		3.8%	6.5%	4.8%	4.7%
Adj. EBITDA	220	239	242	262	261
<b>Margin</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
Growth		8.5%	1.2%	8.6%	-0.6%

EBITDA adjusted for non-cash asset impairment associated with store closures.



# Music Category Exposure Has Hurt

Excluding Music sales, Superstores same store sales (“SSS”) trends have averaged 1.5% more than average reported comparable sales, based on our estimates

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
<b>Reported Superstore SSS</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>(1.2%)</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>Avg. 0.7%</b>
Estimated Music SSS	(4.0%)	(8.0%)	(11.4%)	(12.0%)	(12.0%)	
Music % of Sales	22.0%	17.0%	16.0%	15.0%	11.0%	
Music Impact on Reported SSS	(0.9%)	(1.4%)	(1.8%)	(1.8%)	(1.3%)	
<b>Est. Superstore SSS (ex-music)</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>Avg. 2.2%</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	

# Remodeling: Improving the Superstore

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**Remodeling program will reduce Music category exposure by ~50% and improve Coffee and Paperchase sales**

- ▶ **Reducing Music category exposure and replacing with high-margin Paperchase category**
  - Music margins are ~20% versus Paperchase margins of ~50%
  - Paperchase has higher sales per square foot than Music
- ▶ **Upgrading Café offering to Seattle's Best Coffee (Starbuck's subsidiary)**
- ▶ **Significant financial benefits in Year 1**
  - Estimated storewide 2.6% sales lift
  - 40bps of margin improvement due to mix shift to higher-margin products with minimal maintenance capital requirements
- ▶ **Remodels one year after conversion continue to outperform**

# Remodeling: Attractive Use of Cash Flow

**Based on the first year of remodel activity, the New Format Superstores should have over 22% return on remodel cap ex**

<i>\$ in thousands</i>	Old Format	New Format	Commentary
Revenue	\$5,700	\$5,848	
Sales Lift (Year 1)		2.6%	
Incremental Sales		\$148	
Contribution Margin		35.0%	<b>Note: 40% current contribution margin</b>
<b>Profit on Incremental Sales</b>		<b>\$52</b>	
Margin Benefit from Mix (Year 1)		40 bps	<b>Seattle's Best Coffee / Specialty Paper</b>
<b>Margin Increase from Mix</b>		<b>\$23</b>	
<b>Combined Margin Benefit</b>		<b>\$75</b>	
<b>Remodel Cost (net of W/C reduction of \$15k)</b>		<b>\$335</b>	
<b>ROIC (Year 1)</b>		<b>22.5%</b>	

*Based on Pershing estimates and management guidance.*

# Rewards Program Creating “Noise” in Financials

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## Newly launched Rewards Program has created noise in Superstores financials

### ▶ What is the Rewards Program?

- 5% of all purchases (triggered at \$200 per Rewards customer) are credited towards a Holiday Spending Account
- “Use it or lose it”

### ▶ What is the impact?

- Accrual assuming 100% redemption
- Launch and accrual expenses have reduced YTD Superstores segment EBITDA compared to prior years
  - Rewards accruals of \$8.4mm
  - Advertising and payroll for launch of \$4.2mm
  - Reduced YTD EBITDA by 18%

# Rewards Program Creating “Noise” in Financials

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## What will be the impact of Rewards going forward?

- ▶ **Q3 reported earnings will feel the most impact**
  - Accrual amount likely to accelerate as larger member base exceeds \$200 spending level
  - Q3 is historically the weakest quarter, usually breakeven to slightly negative earnings
- ▶ **We expect that Q4 will see a positive impact from Rewards**
  - We believe Q4 guidance conservatively assumes high redemption rate and no incremental sales
- ▶ **Prior year test markets showed positive impact**
  - Comparable sales in test markets were higher – implying incremental sales
  - Avg. ticket w/ rewards credit was 2x avg. ticket w/o rewards credit

# One-Time Costs Expected in 2006E

## Superstores Segment Financials

(\$ in millions)

	2005A	2006E
<i>Same store sales</i>	1.1%	0.0%
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,710</b>	<b>\$2,795</b>
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>228</b>
<i>Margins</i>	9.6%	8.2%
<u>One time costs:</u>		
Redundant Distribution Center Costs		\$10
Advertising / G&A for Launch of Rewards		5
Impact of Remodels		5
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20</b>
<b>Pro Forma EBITDA</b>		<b>\$249</b>
<b>Pro Forma Margins</b>		<b>8.9%</b>

Redundant distribution center costs: YTD \$7.8mm

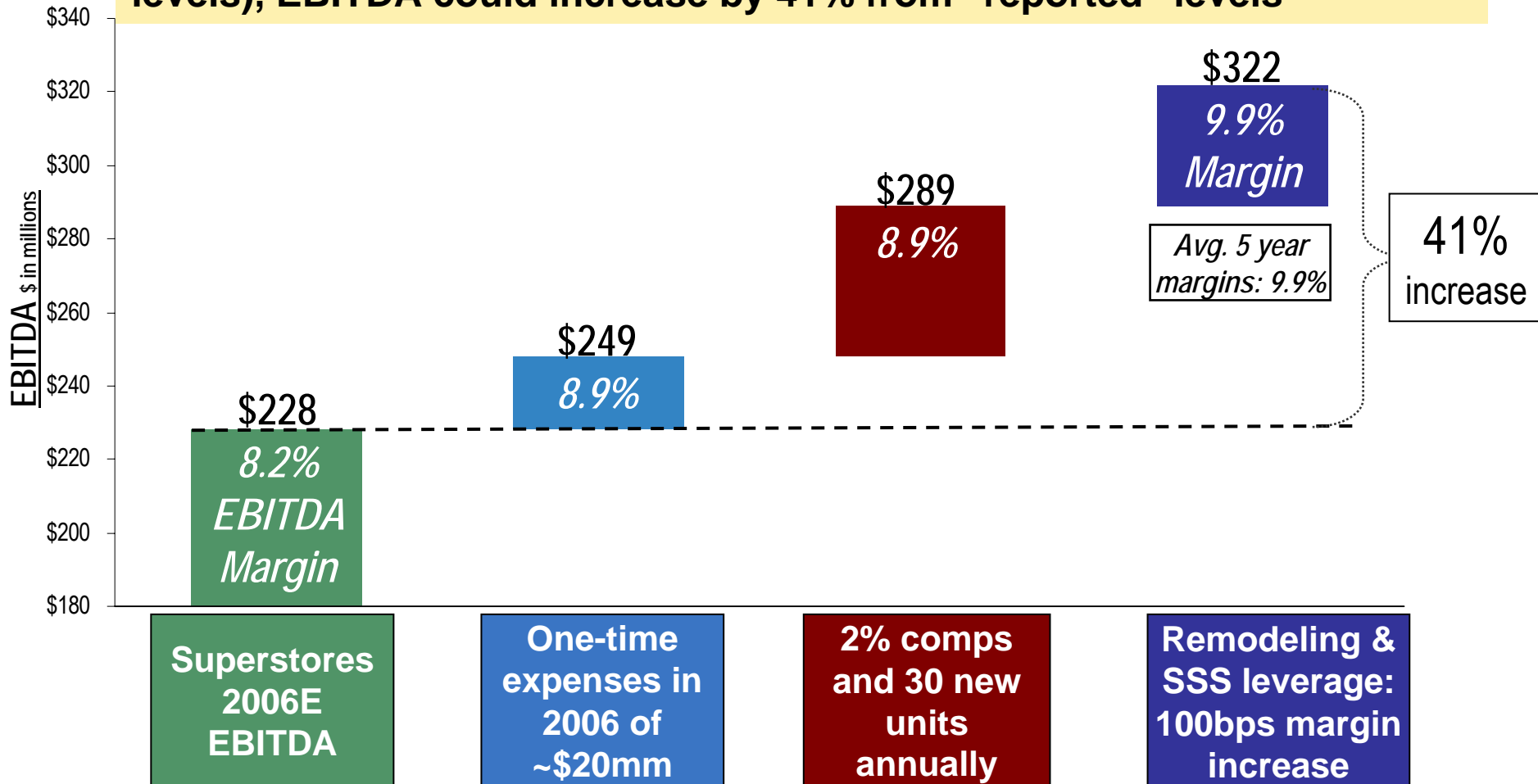
Launch of Rewards: YTD: \$4.2mm

One time P&L impact of Remodels: YTD \$2.5mm

Based on Pershing estimates.

# What Could Superstores EBITDA be in 2008?

Assuming 2% comps and the Company's unit growth plan, if EBITDA margins were to improve 100bps by 2008 (returning to 5-year average levels), EBITDA could increase by 41% from "reported" levels



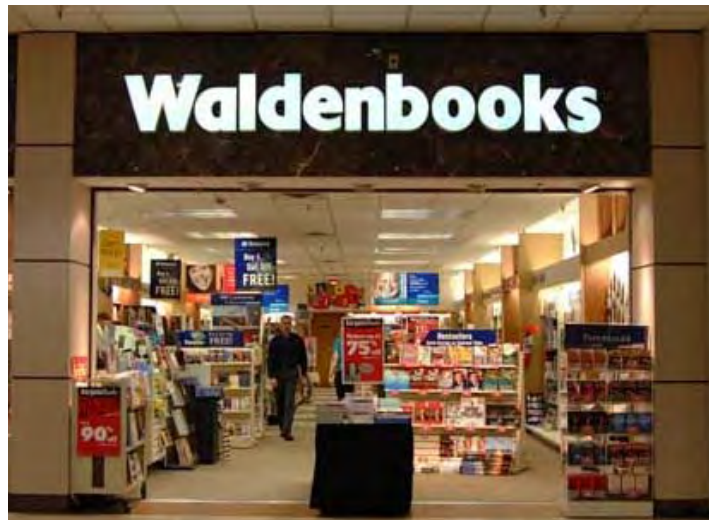
# Working Capital Opportunity

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**Potential for \$130mm of cash flow generation (or ~12% of the current equity market value) through working capital improvements at Superstores over the next 2 years**

- ▶ **Net Working Capital at Superstores currently at ~\$550M**
- ▶ **Company can reduce working capital by 10-15% near term and 30-40% in the long term**
  - Consolidating distribution centers and new merchandising system
  - Increasing “face outs” / decreasing stock
- ▶ **Current Superstores inventory turns of ~1.7x**
- ▶ **We have assumed Superstores segment achieves inventory turns equal to 2.2x, a discount to Barnes and Nobles at ~2.4x**
  - Equals approximately ~\$130mm of free cash flow generation





Mall Stores

# Mall Stores: Obsolete Format

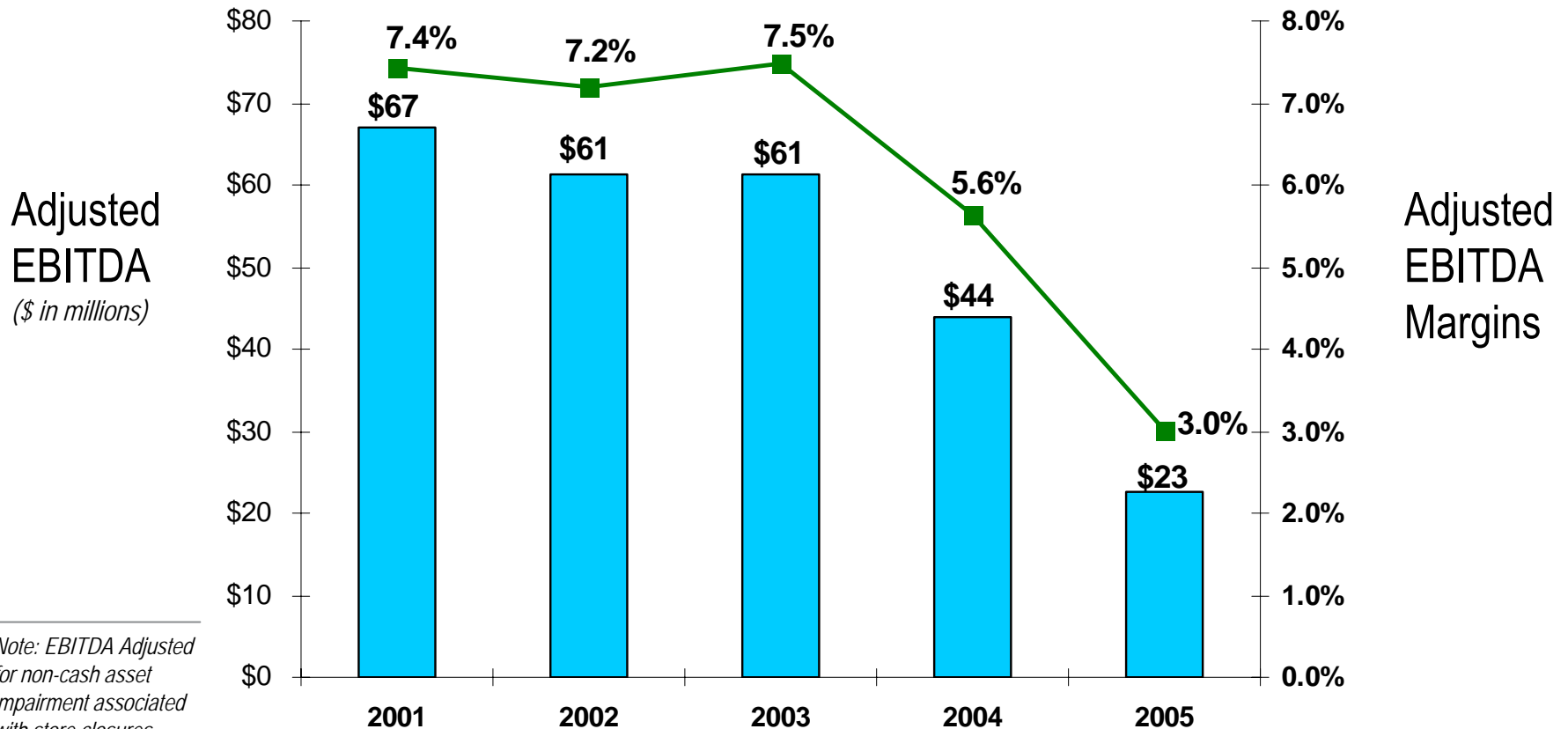
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**Obsolete Format: Mall stores have difficulty competing with Mass Merchants on price and with book superstores on selection / “experience”**

- ▶ **~600 Waldenbooks stores**
- ▶ **Typical store has 3,000 sq. ft and 30,000 titles**
- ▶ **Best sellers are a higher % of sales**
- ▶ **Weak margins / deteriorating business**
  - 2006E Revenues of \$615mm and EBITDA of \$5m
  - Seasonal Calendar Kiosk business is the main EBITDA contributor
- ▶ **Barnes and Noble has exited nearly all mall locations...**

# Mall Stores: Deteriorating Business

**Mall segment Adjusted EBITDA margins in 2005 were 3%, having fallen ~60% since 2003**



*Note: EBITDA Adjusted for non-cash asset impairment associated with store closures.*

# Mall Stores: Rationalization Plan

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- ▶ **410 Mall Stores (~70% of total) have leases expiring in 2006**
- ▶ **Management says that 200 are profitable, 200 are marginal, and 200 are losing money**
- ▶ **Plan to close unprofitable stores as leases expire**
- ▶ **Remaining stores negotiate rent reductions with 1-year renewals**

## Mall Stores: "Worth More Dead than Alive"

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**Assuming \$150,000 of Net Working Capital on average per Waldenbooks store, we believe there is \$90mm of total Net Working Capital trapped in the Mall segment**

Waldenbooks Total Units	600
Net Working Capital per store (\$000)	\$150k
<b>Total Net Working Capital (\$ in mm)</b>	<b>\$90mm</b>
2006E EBITDA	~\$5mm

**BORDERS®**



U.K. Australia

International

# International Stores

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- ▶ **U.K. stores**

- 37 Borders Superstores
- 31 Books, Etc. (small format)
- 90 Paperchase

- ▶ **Australia / New Zealand: 18 Superstores**

- ▶ **2005 EBITDA margins of 4.3%**

- Significantly lower than 2005 Superstore margins of 9.6%
- We estimate International 2006E EBITDA margins of 1.5% (assuming revenue of \$650mm and EBITDA \$10mm)

# International May Be Sold if Not Fixed Soon

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**Management has indicated it would sell the International business (franchising) if it can't be fixed in a timely manner**

- ▶ **International Segment has seen dramatic deterioration**
  - UK Business is struggling
  - Books, Etc. (small format) stores are obsolete and have negative EBITDA
  - UK Superstores challenged, contributing <\$10mm of EBITDA
- ▶ **Aus/NZ business is healthy, contributing ~\$10mm of EBITDA**
- ▶ **Management sees no synergy to operating international markets, has ceased additional development**



## International: Worth More Dead than Alive?

Based on our assumptions, we believe there is approximately \$110mm of Net Working Capital in the International Stores

	NWC / Store	# of Units	Net Working Capital (mm)
UK Superstores	\$2.2mm	37	\$80
Books, Etc. (small format)	\$285k	31	9
Australia / NZ Superstores	\$900k	18	16
Other (Puerto Rico, Singapore, etc...)	\$1.2mm	4	5
<b>Total (in mm)</b>			<b>\$110</b>
<b>2006E International Stores EBITDA (mm)</b>			<b>~\$10</b>



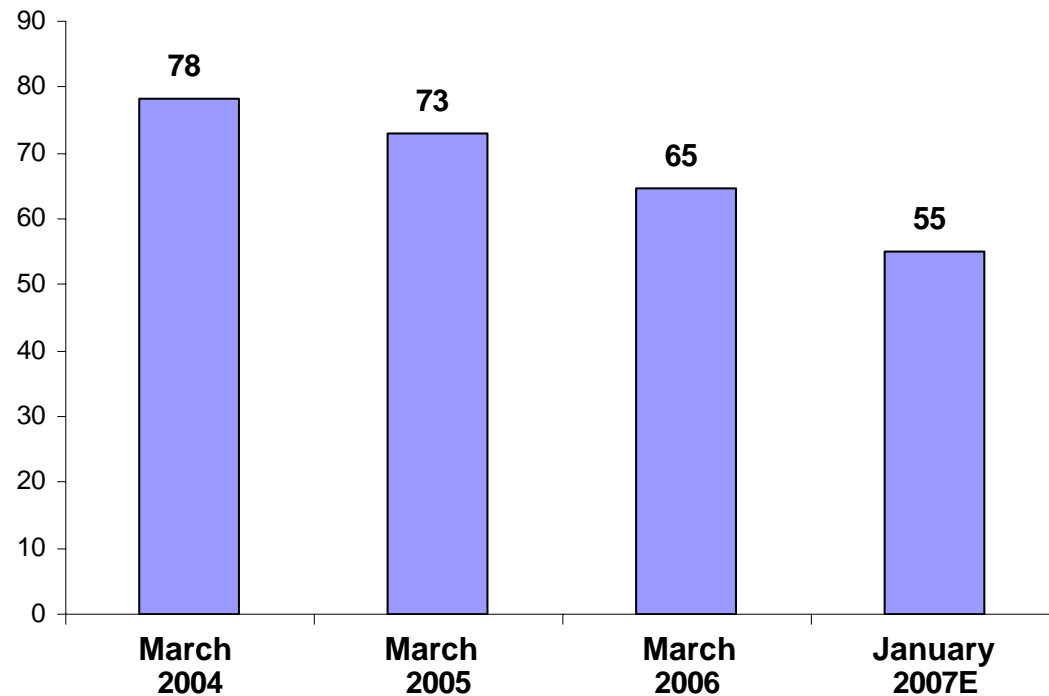
3. *Other Factors:*  
Share Repurchase  
Activity and New  
CEO

# Strong Share Repurchase Focus

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**Borders management guidance implies ~55mm common shares outstanding by January 2007. This is an approximate 30% reduction from its common share count in March 2004 of 78mm.**

Borders common share outstanding



# New CEO: Focused on Returns

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## ▶ **New CEO, George Jones**

- Joined in July
- Purchased ~\$1mm of stock
- Retail merchandising and operations expertise (Target, Warner Bros., Saks)
- Renewed sense of urgency
- Fixing / rationalizing the business
- Emphasis on returns



Valuation

# Valuation Assumptions

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**We believe our valuation assumptions are conservative**

- ▶ **No EV / EBITDA multiple expansion**
- ▶ **Mall and International Segments value based on NWC**
  - The least these segments are worth
  - Upside at International segment -- it was generating \$40mm of EBITDA in 2004 (versus ~\$10mm in 2006E)
- ▶ **Reduced share repurchase rate**
  - Current rate of ~\$250mm/year
  - We assume \$80mm/year (proceeds from Superstores net working capital improvements and FCF after capex)
  - No incremental leverage to fund share repurchases

# Borders Group: What's It Worth?

With no multiple expansion, Borders could be worth \$36 in the next 18 months, a 72% premium to the current price (of \$21).

Segment	Methodology	Commentary	Value
Superstores	7.0x '08E EBITDA of \$322	Assumes no multiple expansion	\$2,257
Mall Stores	Value of Net Working Capital	The least it's worth	90
International	Value of Net Working Capital	The least it's worth	110
Unallocated G&A	7.0x '08E EBITDA of (\$25)		(\$175)
<b>Enterprise Value</b>			<b>\$2,282</b>
Less: Net Debt expected at Year End 2006			(450)
<b>Equals: Equity Value</b>			<b>\$1,832</b>
FD shares outstanding expected at year end 2006			55
Less: Shares repurchased using \$130mm from NWC improvement at Superstores, net of options <sup>(1)</sup>			(4)
<b>Equals: FD shares outstanding</b>			<b>51</b>
<b>Share price</b>			<b>\$36.17</b>
<b>Premium to current price</b>			<b>72.2%</b>

*\$ in millions,  
except per share data*

(1) Assumes \$130mm of proceeds from Net Working Capital improvement and \$30mm of FCF generated between 2007 – 2008 used to repurchase shares at \$30 per share. Fully diluted calculation based on the treasury stock method and assumes ~7mm of options outstanding by FYE 2008.

# Trading Multiples at Target Valuation

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**At a \$36 share price (adjusting for ~\$4 of equity value ascribed to the NWC at the Mall and International Stores), Borders would trade at 7x '08E EBITDA, 7.5x '08E EBITDAR and approximately 11x '08E Maintenance Free Cash Flow**

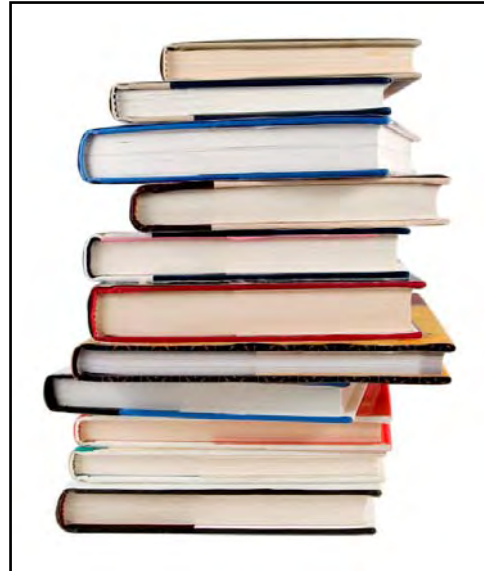
<u>BGP Trading Multiple</u>	<u>2008E</u>
EV / EBITDA	<b>7.0 x</b>
EV / (EBITDA - Maint Capex)	<b>8.4 x</b>
Adj EV / EBITDAR	<b>7.5 x</b>
Price / Earnings	<b>14.7 x</b>
Price / Maint Free Cash Flow	<b>10.9 x</b>



## Recent LBO Leverage Levels

At a \$36 price, Borders would trade at 7.5x '08E EBITDAR, only a slight premium to 6.8x, the average of total leverage levels used in several recent retail LBO transactions

<u>Transaction:</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u> EV / EBITDA	<u>Total Leverage</u> Adj. Debt/ EBITDAR
Linens 'n Things	7.7 x	6.2 x
Burlington Coat Factory	7.4 x	6.5 x
The Sports Authority	7.7 x	6.8 x
Michael's Stores	11.0 x	7.8 x
<b>Average</b>	<b>8.5 x</b>	<b>6.8 x</b>



## Concluding Thoughts

## Concluding Thoughts

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**Borders is similar to other investments where we have had success**

- ▶ **Value of high-quality segment obscured by performance of low-return segments**
- ▶ **Traditional sentiment on the Company is “negative” or neutral at best**
- ▶ **Market is more focused on consolidated same store sales rather than the underlying business quality**
- ▶ **New CEO is focused on making changes to fix the business**

## Concluding Thoughts...

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### Investment requires a long-term view...

- ▶ **Near-term performance impacted by current business structure and initiatives (Rewards, Remodeling, etc...)**
- ▶ **Near-term risk is somewhat mitigated by an upcoming slate of strong book releases**
- ▶ **We believe it will take time for management to realize full opportunity**

**BORDERS®**

