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CULP INC Form 8-K March 31, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) March 31, 2003

CULP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

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

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

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

Culp, Inc. (the "company") issued a press release dated March 31, 2003 disclosing corporate plans about a strategic marketing initiative in China. A copy of the release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.

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This Report (and the Exhibit hereto) contains statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the federal securities laws, including the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 27A of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934). Such statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties. Further, forward-looking statements are intended to speak only as of the date on which they are made. Forward-looking statements are statements that include projections, expectations or beliefs about future events or results or otherwise are not statements of historical fact. Such statements are often but not always characterized by qualifying words such as "expect," "believe," "estimate," "plan" and "project" and their derivatives, and include but are not limited to statements about expectations for the company's future operations, production levels, sales, expenses and other performance measures. Factors that could influence the matters discussed in such statements include the level of housing starts and sales of existing homes, consumer confidence, trends in disposable income, and general economic conditions. Decreases in these economic indicators could have a negative effect on the company's business and prospects. Likewise, increases in interest rates, particularly home mortgage rates, and increases in consumer debt or the general rate of inflation, could affect the company adversely. Because of the significant percentage of the company's sales derived from international shipments, strengthening of the U.S. dollar against other currencies could make the company's products less competitive on the basis of price in markets outside the United States. Additionally, economic and political instability in international areas could affect the demand for the company's products. Other risk factors that could have an impact on the company's activities in China include uncertainties in connection with operating in a geographic area and business culture where the company does not have extensive experience, foreign language barriers, potential delays caused by the distance between the China operations and the company's traditional geographic base and similar risks associated with establishing business operations in a remote and unfamiliar location. Other factors that could affect the matters discussed in forward-looking statements are included in the company's periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CULP, INC. (Registrant)

By: Franklin N. Saxon

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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Dated: March 31, 2003