

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC  
 Form 4  
 July 14, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 OTIS CLARENCE JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC [DRI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 07/13/2006

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 Chairman and CEO

(Street)  
 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |   |        | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |            |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--------|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V | Amount |   |  |                                   | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2006                           |  | M                              |   |   | 48,162 | A   | \$ 6   | 234,338                           | D          |       |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2006                           |  | S                              |   |   | 48,162 | D   | \$ 35.3807   | 186,176                           | D          |       |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy)                | \$ 6   | 07/13/2006                           |  | M                              | 48,162  | <u>(1)</u> 06/17/2007                                    | Common Stock  | 7,500                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                  |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer          | Other |
| OTIS CLARENCE JR<br>5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE<br>P.O. BOX 593330<br>ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330 | X             |           | Chairman and CEO |       |

## Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for OTIS, JR., CLARENCE, 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive,  
P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI) 07/14/2006

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The option vested in two equal annual installments on 6/17/00 and 6/17/01.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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