HUGHES DAVID H

Form 4

November 28, 2006

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287 Number:

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obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

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

1(b).

(Last)

(City)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

HUGHES DAVID H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

[DRI]

(Month/Day/Year) 11/24/2006

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

below)

(Check all applicable)

10% Owner

Other (specify

5900 LAKE ELLENOR

DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330

(Street)

(State)

(First)

(Middle)

(Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X_ Director

Officer (give title

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

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

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3)

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)

Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

Common

Stock

15,617 D

Common Stock

By David Ι 7,500 H. Hughes Trust

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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number or of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. P Der Seci (Ins |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 40.705 | 11/24/2006 | | A | 562 | 05/24/2007 | 11/24/2016 | Common Stock | 562 | \$ |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| HUGHES DAVID H 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330 | X | | | | | |

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for HUGHES, DAVID H., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330

11/28/2006

**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 Reporting Person elected to take his quarterly cash retainer for serving as a director in the form of stock options, the number of stock options issued being the amount of cash allocated divided by the price indicated.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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