DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC
Form 4
October 14, 2004

FORM 4

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

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
WALSH RICHARD J

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330

(Street)

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
10/12/2004

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

_____ Director _____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
SVP, Corporate Relations

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

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	10/12/2004		M		6,285	A	$ 6.608	66,916	D	
Common Stock	10/12/2004		S		6,285	D	$ 24.0206	60,631	D	
Common Stock								38	I	By self as custodian for minor
Common Stock								1,340.161 (1)	I	Savings Plan

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

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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. D Sec (Ins
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	$ 6.608	10/12/2004		M			6,285	(2)	10/19/2004	Common Stock	6,285	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WALSH RICHARD J 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330			SVP, Corporate Relations	

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for WALSH, RICHARD J., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI)	10/14/2004
**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 number of shares reported is based on a plan statement dated September 30, 2004, and is derived from an undivided interest in a fund consisting of both Darden common stock and a small cash position that fluctuates from time to time. The number of shares reported may change based on the size of the cash position at the time of reporting.

(2) The option vested in five equal annual installments beginning 9/19/94.

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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