DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

Form 4

June 20, 2005

FORM 4

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

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Expires:	January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response...	0.5

(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)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 06/16/2005	__X__ Director _____ 10% Owner __X__ Officer (give title _____ Other (specify below) below) CEO
5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330		
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330		
(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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	06/16/2005		A		43,750	A	$ 0	194,966	D	

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

SEC 1474
(9-02)

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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	$ 33.095	06/16/2005		A		175,000		06/16/2008[(1)]	06/16/2015	Common Stock	175,0

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
OTIS CLARENCE JR 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330	X		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)	06/20/2005
[**]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 vests in two equal annual installments beginning 6/16/08.

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.