

MICHAEL CHARLES  
Form 4  
October 25, 2004

**FORM 4**

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

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).

**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 \*  
MICHAEL CHARLES

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
4300 NEW GETWELL  
(Street)

MEMPHIS, TN 38118

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FREDS INC [FRED]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
10/25/2004

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code V Amount (D) Price   |  |                                   |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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(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 | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|

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| (Instr. 3)                              | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title                      | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Option on<br>Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | \$ 14.6                            | 10/25/2004       | A          | 3,500   |      |   |     |     | (1)                 | 09/08/2011         | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 3,500                                  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                           | Relationships |           |                |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer        | Other |
| MICHAEL CHARLES<br>4300 NEW GETWELL<br>MEMPHIS, TN 38118 |               |           | Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Charles  
Michael 10/25/2004

\_\_Signature of Date  
Reporting Person

## 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) 10% of shares are exercisable on 9/8/2005, 9/8/2006, 9/8/2007, 9/8/2008 and 60% on 9/8/2009. Vesting can be accelerated if the company generates a 5% Operating Profit or better in the most recently completed fiscal year.

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.