

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC  
 Form 4  
 September 26, 2007

**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 \*  
 LYONS DANIEL M

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  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 09/24/2007

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 SVP Human Resources

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 or (D) Price			
Common Stock	09/24/2007		M	4,991	A \$ 10.3958	78,989	D	
Common Stock	09/24/2007		M	58,500	A \$ 10.4375	137,489	D	
Common Stock	09/24/2007		M	4,425	A \$ 14.0833	141,914	D	
Common Stock	09/24/2007		M	61,500	A \$ 14.625	203,414	D	
Common Stock	09/24/2007		S	129,416	D \$ 43.2569	73,998	D	

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Common Stock 354,256 <sup>(1)</sup> I Savings Plan

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

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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 of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 10.3958	09/24/2007		M	4,991	11/29/1998 05/29/2008	Common Stock 4,991
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 10.4375	09/24/2007		M	58,500	06/23/2001 <sup>(2)</sup> 06/23/2008	Common Stock 58,500
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 14.0833	09/24/2007		M	4,425	11/28/1999 05/28/2009	Common Stock 4,425
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 14.625	09/24/2007		M	61,500	06/22/2002 <sup>(3)</sup> 06/22/2009	Common Stock 61,500

## Reporting Owners

**Reporting Owner Name / Address**

**Relationships**

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

LYONS DANIEL M  
5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 593330

SVP Human Resources

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

## Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for LYONS, DANIEL M., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive,  
P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI)

09/26/2007

\_\_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).

The number of shares reported is based on a plan statement dated August 31, 2007, and is derived from an undivided interest in a fund

- (1) 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 two equal annual installments on 6/23/01 and 6/23/02.
- (3) The option vested in two equal annual installments on 6/22/02 and 6/22/03.

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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