FREDS INC Form 4 May 23, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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0.5

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading MCGRUDER MERLE Issuer Symbol FREDS INC [FRED] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify 4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD 05/23/2008 below) below) Vice President (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting MEMPHIS, TN 38118 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Indirect (I) Ownership (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Class A

Class A Common Stock

8,446 <u>(1)</u> D

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)

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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)	Orof D Secu Acq (A) o Disp (D)	urities uired or oosed of rr. 3, 4,	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
Option on Class A Common Stock	\$ 17.67	05/23/2008(2)		J(2)		4,320 (2)	09/11/2008	09/11/2010	Class A Common Stock	4,320
Option on Class A Common Stock	\$ 20.6	05/23/2008(2)		J <u>(2)</u>		1,080 (2)	09/19/2008	09/19/2010	Class A Common Stock	1,080
Option on Class A Common Stock	\$ 14.6	05/23/2008(2)		J(2)		1,400 (2)	09/08/2009	09/08/2011	Class A Common Stock	1,400
Option on Class A Common Stock	\$ 13.25	05/23/2008(2)		J <u>(2)</u>		1,560 (2)	03/21/2011	03/21/2013	Class A Common Stock	1,560

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
MCGRUDER MERLE 4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD MEMPHIS, TN 38118			Vice President				
A1 .							

Signatures

Anita Ryan by power of attorney

05/23/2008

**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)

Reporting Owners 2

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Mr. McGruder participated in the Employee Stock Purchase Plan and has 1,437 shares in that plan in addition to the 7,009 shares that he owns.

(2) Mr. McGruder left Fred's employment effective 5/23/08. All unvested shares are cancelled.

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.