

-----  
 OMB APPROVAL  
 -----

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden  
 hours per response.....0.5  
 -----

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, DC 20549

FORM 3

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 of Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*

McAuliffe	Thomas	D.
-----	-----	-----
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
-----		
4187 Olentangy Boulevard		
-----		
(Street)		
Columbus	OH	43214
-----	-----	-----
(City)	(State)	(Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

04/15/03

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)

###-##-####

4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

First Merchants Corporation - FRME

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
<input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)

6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

7. 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 Beneficially Owned  
 =====

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
-----	-----	-----	-----
Common Stock	76,352	D	
-----	-----	-----	-----
Common Stock	2,666	I	Custodian UGMA - Ian
-----	-----	-----	-----
Common Stock	2,666	I	Custodian UGMA - Padraic
-----	-----	-----	-----
Common Stock	2,666	I	Custodian UGMA - Luke
-----	-----	-----	-----

FORM 3 (continued)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned  
 (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
-----							
-----							

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

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Thomas D. McAuliffe April 15, 2003  
----- -----  
\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.