

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0104
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>LORENTSON JEFFREY B</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>PO BOX 792</u> (Street) <u>MUNCIE IN 47308-0792</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>04/22/2004</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Corporate Controller</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)
<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>D</u>	

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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>07/01/2004</u>	<u>07/01/2012</u>	<u>Common Stock</u> <u>2,205</u>	<u>27.28</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>07/01/2005</u>	<u>07/01/2013</u>	<u>Common Stock</u> <u>2,100</u>	<u>23.46</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Deferred Stock Units</u>	<u>12/31/2004</u>	<u>12/31/2004</u>	<u>Common Stock</u> <u>65.71</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Deferred Stock Units</u>	<u>12/31/2005</u>	<u>12/31/2005</u>	<u>Common Stock</u> <u>62.55</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>D</u>	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Conversion of derivative security is 1 for 1.

Jeffrey B. Lorentson

04/23/2004

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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.

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 Number.