

RECHIN MICHAEL C  
Form 4  
February 14, 2006

**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 *			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
RECHIN MICHAEL C			FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]	(Check all applicable)
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)	____ Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)
			02/10/2006	____ 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer
200 EAST JACKSON STREET			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
		(Street)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
MUNCIE, IN 47305				
(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)
				(A) or (D) Price			
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock <u>(1)</u> <u>(2)</u>	02/10/2006		A		2,000	A	\$ 0
					6,000	D	

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

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**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. 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)
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 25.14	02/10/2006		A	8,000	02/10/2008 02/10/2016	Common 8,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships		
	Director	10% Owner	Officer
RECHIN MICHAEL C 200 EAST JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305			Executive Vice President
			Chief Operating Officer

## Signatures

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 02/14/2006

\_\_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) Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Direct: 6,000
- (2) Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy): 18,000

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.