

RECHIN MICHAEL C  
Form 4  
December 23, 2005

**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<br>[FRME]                       | (Check all applicable)  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)              |
| 200 EAST JACKSON STREET                   |         |          | 12/22/2005   | Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer  |
| (Street)                                  |         |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><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 <sup>(1)</sup>     | 12/22/2005                           |  | A                              | 2,000 A \$ 0  | 4,000   | 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)**

