

Edgar Filing: FREDS INC - Form SC 13G

FREDS INC  
Form SC 13G  
January 29, 2002

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Act of 1934

(Amendment No.                    )

Fred's Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Class A  
(Title of Class of Securities)

(CUSIP Number)                    356108100

12/31/01  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant  
to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rule 13d-1(cc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rule 12d-1(d)	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for  
a reporting person's initial filing on this form with  
respect to the subject class of securities, and for  
any subsequent amendment containing information which  
would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover  
page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose  
of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")  
or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section  
of the Act but shall be subject to  
all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP NO. 356108100

1.Name of Reporting Person:        Daruma Asset Management, Inc.

Social Security No. or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons  
(entities only):                    13-3831899

2.Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)  
not applicable

(a)  
(b)

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3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization New York

Number of	5. Sole Voting Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A
Shares Bene-	6. Shared Voting Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A
ficially by	7. Sole Dispositive Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A
Owned by Each	8. Shared Dispositive Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A

Reporting Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 942,222  
(See Item 4 & Exhibit A)

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares [ ]

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 5.57%  
(See Item 4 & Exhibit A)

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) IA

1. Name of Reporting Person: Mariko O. Gordon

Social Security No. or I.R.S. Identification Nos.  
of above persons (entities only):

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)  
not applicable

- (a)
- (b)

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization U.S.A.

Number of	5. Sole Voting Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A
Shares Bene-	6. Shared Voting Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A
ficially by	7. Sole Dispositive Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A
Owned by Each	8. Shared Dispositive Power	See Item 4 & Exhibit A

Reporting Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person: 942,222  
(See Item 4 & Exhibit A)

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares [ ]

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 5.57%  
(See Item 4 & Exhibit A)

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) HC

Item 1

- (a) Name of Issuer  
Fred's Inc.
- (b) Address of Issuer's Executive Offices:

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Fred's Inc.  
4300 New Getwell Road  
Memphis, TN 38118

### Item 2

- (a) Name of Person Filing
- (i) Daruma Asset Management, Inc.
- (ii) Mariko O. Gordon
- (b) Address of Principal Office
- (i) & (ii): 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 1111  
New York, NY 10165
- (c) Citizenship: (i) New York (ii) U.S.A.
- (d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock
- (e) CUSIP Number: (i)
- (ii) not applicable

Item 3. If this Statement is filed pursuant to ?240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is an:

- (i) Daruma Asset Management, Inc.:
- (d) An Investment Adviser in accordance with ?240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (E)
- (ii) Mariko O. Gordon
- (g) A control person in accordance with ?240.13d-1(ii) (G)

### Item 4: Ownership:

The securities covered by this statement are beneficially owned by one or more investment advisory clients whose accounts are managed by Daruma Asset Management, Inc. ("Daruma"). The investment advisory contracts relating to such accounts grant to Daruma sole investment and/or voting power over the securities owned by such accounts. Therefore Daruma may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the securities covered by this statement for purposes of Rule 13d-3 ("Rule 13d-3") under the Securities Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act").

Mariko O. Gordon (the "Principal Shareholder") owns in excess of 50% of the outstanding voting stock and is the president of Daruma. The Principal Shareholder may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of securities held by persons and entities advised by Daruma for purposes of Rule 13d-3.

Daruma and the Principal Shareholder each disclaims beneficial ownership in any of the securities covered by this statement. Daruma and the Principal Shareholder are of the view that they are not acting as a "group" for purposes of Section 13(d) under the 1934 Act and that they are not otherwise required to attribute to each other the "beneficial ownership" of securities held by any of them or by any persons or entities advised by Daruma.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 942,222 (See Item 4 & Exhibit A)

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(b) Percent of Class: 5.57% (See Item 4 & Exhibit A)

(c) Powers	Number of Shares
(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote (See Item 4 & Exhibit A)	576,072
(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote	0
(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct disposition (See Item 4 & Exhibit A)	942,222
(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct disposition	0

Item 5. Ownership of 5% or less of a class

Not applicable

Item 6. Ownership of more than 5% on behalf of Another Person:

Investment advisory clients of Daruma Asset Management, Inc. have the right to receive dividends from as well as the proceeds from the sale of securities covered by this statement.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which acquired the Security being reported on by the ultimate parent company.

Not applicable

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not applicable

Item 10. Certification

By signing below, we certify to the best of our knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect. This report shall not be construed as an admission by the persons filing the report that they are beneficial owners of any of the securities covered by this report.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of our knowledge and belief, we certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: January 29, 2002

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DARUMA ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

By: /s/ Mary B. O'Byrne  
Mary B. O'Byrne  
Vice President

By: Mariko O. Gordon  
/s/ Mary B. O'Byrne  
Attorney-in-fact for  
Mariko O. Gordon pursuant to  
Power of Attorney filed as Exhibit C to this Schedule G

EXHIBIT A

Daruma Asset Management, Inc. ("Daruma") presently holds 942,222 shares of Fred's Inc. Corporation's (the "Issuer") common stock, Class A.

Daruma has sole investment discretion over 942,222 shares and sole voting discretion over 576,072 shares, which are held for the benefit of its clients by its separate managed investment advisory accounts.

The shares were acquired in the ordinary course of business, and not with the purpose or effect of changing or influencing control of the Issuer. The filing of this statement should not be construed as an admission that Daruma is, for the purposes of Sections 13 or 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the beneficial owner of these shares.

EXHIBIT B

Joint Filing Agreement

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(f) (f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the undersigned hereby agrees to the joint filing with each other of the foregoing statement on Schedule 13G and to all amendments thereto and that such statement and each amendment to such statement is made on behalf of each of them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby agree to execute this Agreement on January 29, 2002

DARUMA ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

By: /s/ Mary B. O'Byrne  
MARY B. O'BYRNE, Vice President

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/s/ Mariko O. Gordon  
MARIKO O. GORDON, President

EXHIBIT C  
Power of Attorney

Mariko O. Gordon hereby appoints Mary B. O'Byrne her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent to execute and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any Schedule 13G, any amendments thereto or any related documentation which may be required to be filed in her individual capacity as a result of her position as an officer, director or shareholder of Daruma Asset Management, Inc. and, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing which she might or could do in person, hereby ratifies and confirms all that said attorney-in-fact and agent may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

/s/ Mariko O. Gordon  
MARIKO O. GORDON