

FREDS INC  
Form SC 13G  
February 17, 2004

OMB APPROVAL

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

**SCHEDULE 13G**

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. Initial Filing)\*

**Fred s Inc.**

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock Class A

(Title of Class of Securities)

356108100

(CUSIP Number)

12/31/2003

(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)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

\* 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).

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SEC 1745 (12-02)

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CUSIP No. 356108100

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1. Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).  
EARNEST Partners, LLC

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2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a)

(b)

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3. SEC Use Only

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4. Citizenship or Place of Organization State of Georgia

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5. Sole Voting Power 2,191,839

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Number of  
Shares  
Beneficially  
Owned by Each  
Reporting  
Person  
With:

6. Shared Voting Power 444,829

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7. Sole Dispositive Power 2,837,823

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8. Shared Dispositive Power 0

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9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 2,837,823

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10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) Not Applicable

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11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount In Row (9) 7.3%

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12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)

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IA

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**Item 1.**

- (a) Name of Issuer Fred s Inc.
- (b) Address of Issuer s Principal Executive Offices 4300 New Getwell Rd., Memphis, Tennessee 38118

**Item 2.**

- (a) Name of Person Filing EARNEST Partners, LLC
- (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence 75 Fourteenth Street, Suite 2300, Atlanta, Georgia 30309
- (c) Citizenship State of Georgia
- (d) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock Class A
- (e) CUSIP Number 356108100

**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 a:**

- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o)
  - (b)  Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c)
  - (c)  Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c)
  - (d)  Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8)
  - (e)  An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
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- (f) o An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) o A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) o A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i) o A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
- (j) o Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J)

**Item 4. Ownership.**

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 2,837,823
- (b) Percent of class: 7.3%
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
  - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote 2,191,839
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote 444,829
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 2,837,823
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 0

*Instruction.* For computations regarding securities which represent a right to acquire an underlying security *see* §240.13d3(d)(1).

**Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class**

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [ ]. Not Applicable

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*Instruction:* Dissolution of a group requires a response to this item.

**Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.**

If any other person is known to have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities, a statement to that effect should be included in response to this item and, if such interest relates to more than five percent of the class, such person should be identified. A listing of the shareholders of an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or the beneficiaries of employee benefit plan, pension fund or endowment fund is not required. EARNEST Partners, LLC is filing as an investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E). No EARNEST Partners, LLC client's interest relates to more than five percent of the class.

**Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.**

If a parent holding company or Control person has filed this schedule, pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G), so indicate under Item 3(g) and attach an exhibit stating the identity and the Item 3 classification of the relevant subsidiary. If a parent holding company or control person has filed this schedule pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c) or Rule 13d-1(d), attach an exhibit stating the identification of the relevant subsidiary. Not Applicable

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

If a group has filed this schedule pursuant to §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J), so indicate under Item 3(j) and attach an exhibit stating the identity and Item 3 classification of each member of the group. If a group has filed this schedule pursuant to §240.13d-1(c) or §240.13d-1(d), attach an exhibit stating the identity of each member of the group. Not Applicable

**Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group**

Notice of dissolution of a group may be furnished as an exhibit stating the date of the dissolution and that all further filings with respect to transactions in the security reported on will be filed, if required, by members of the group, in their individual capacity. See Item 5. Not Applicable

**Item 10. Certification**

- (a) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to §240.13d-1(b):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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(b) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to §240.13d-1(c):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

**SIGNATURE**

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

February 11, 2004

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Date

James M. Wilson

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Signature

James M. Wilson, Chief Administrative &  
Compliance Officer

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Name/Title

The original statement shall be signed by each person on whose behalf the statement is filed or his authorized representative. If the statement is signed on behalf of a person by his authorized representative other than an executive officer or general partner of the filing person, evidence of the representative's authority to sign on behalf of such person shall be filed with the statement, provided, however, that a power of attorney for this purpose which is already on file with the Commission may be incorporated by reference. The name and any title of each person who signs the statement shall be typed or printed beneath his signature.

*NOTE:* Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See §240.13d-7 for other parties for whom copies are to be sent.

**Attention: Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute Federal criminal violations (See 18 U.S.C. 1001)**