SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

October 7, 2003

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

Hershey Foods Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| Delaware |
| (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

| 23-0691590 |
| 1-183 |
| (Commission File Number) | (IRS Employer Identification No.)

100 Crystal A Drive, Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033 (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (717) 534-6799

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INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORT

The information in this Current Report, including the exhibit, shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities under that Section, and shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

On October 7, 2003, Hershey Foods Corporation (the "Corporation") announced that Robert F. Cavanaugh has been elected to the Corporation's Board of Directors, effective October 7, 2003. A copy of the Corporation's press release announcing Mr. Cavanaugh's election is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: October 7, 2003

HERSHEY FOODS CORPORATION

By: /s/Frank Cerminara
Frank Cerminara
Senior Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u> <u>Description</u>

99.1 Hershey Foods Corporation Press Release dated October 7, 2003 (Election to Board of Directors of Robert F. Cavanaugh)

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