KROGER CO Form 5 March 11, 2005

# FORM 5 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Check this box if Washington, D.C. 20549

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3235-0362

to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Estimated average burden hours per response... 1.0

1(b). Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
Reported
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \* 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer VAN OFLEN MARY ELIZABETH Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (Middle) 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Last) (First) (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner \_ Officer (give title X 01/29/2005 Other (specify below) below) 1014 VINE STREET V.P. & Corp. Controller (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting Filed(Month/Day/Year) (check applicable line) CINCINNATI, OHÂ 45202 \_X\_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Transaction Acquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect Execution Date, if (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned at end Indirect (I) Ownership of Issuer's (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) (A) Fiscal Year

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

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Common

Stock

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(Instr. 3 and 4)

9,973.0243

D

or

(D)

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Price

Â

Amount

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

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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. Num of Deriv Secur Acqu (A) of Disport of (D (Instrument))	vative rities nired or osed o) r. 3,	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount Underlying Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4)	
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amour or Number of Shar
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 6.375	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(2)	04/19/2005	Common Stock	4,40
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 10.375	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(2)	04/17/2006	Common Stock	14,00
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 13.4375	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/14/2007	Common Stock	8,00
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.2344	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	04/15/2008	Common Stock	8,00
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 27.1719	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/26/2009	Common Stock	9,00
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 27.1719	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(4)	05/26/2009	Common Stock	9,00
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 16.5938	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	02/10/2010	Common Stock	4,50
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 16.5938	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(5)	02/10/2010	Common Stock	4,50
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 24.43	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/09/2011	Common Stock	4,50
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 24.43	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(6)	05/09/2011	Common Stock	4,50
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.995	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/09/2012	Common Stock	4,50
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 22.995	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(7)	05/09/2012	Common Stock	4,50
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 14.925	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	12/12/2012	Common Stock	9,00
	\$ 17.31	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/06/2014		12,00

Non-Qualified Common Stock Option Stock

#### **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
<b>--</b>	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
VAN OFLEN MARY ELIZABETH 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI. OH 45202	Â	Â	V.P. & Corp. Controller	Â			

## **Signatures**

/s/ Mary Elizabeth Van
Oflen

\*\*Signature of Reporting Date

\*\*Page Description 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) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans which are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.
- These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole share amounts over a (2) three-year period, at the rate of one-third per year commencing one year after the date of grant, with the remainder vesting three years from the date of grant.
- (3) These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of grant.
- These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 75% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 15% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 252% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.
- These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved an 81% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 16% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 280% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.
- These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 78% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 15% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 208% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.
- These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 55% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 13% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 185% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.

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