FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to |
|----------------------------------------|
| Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5           |
| obligations may continue. See          |
| Instruction 1(h)                       |

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

**OMB APPROVAL** OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     PARHAM JOSEPH G JR                        |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         |                                         | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACUITY BRANDS INC [ AYI ] |                                                             |         |                                    |                          |                      |                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                        | ieck all appl<br>Direct                                                                    | icable)                                                                                                           | ng Pers             | son(s) to Iss<br>10% Ow<br>Other (s                                      | vner                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ACUITY BRANDS, INC. 1170 PEACHTREE STREET, NESUITE 2400 |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         |                                         | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/06/2006           |                                                             |         |                                    |                          |                      |                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                        | ^ below                                                                                    |                                                                                                                   | an Re               | below)                                                                   | ,,,,                                                               |
| (Street)                                                                            |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         | 4. 1                                    | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)              |                                                             |         |                                    |                          |                      |                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                        | ndividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable e)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person |                                                                                                                   |                     |                                                                          |                                                                    |
| (City)                                                                              | ATLANTA GA 30309  (City) (State) (Zip)                                |                                            |                                                |         |                                         |                                                                       |                                                             |         |                                    |                          |                      |                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                        |                                                                                            | Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person                                                                   |                     |                                                                          |                                                                    |
|                                                                                     |                                                                       | Tab                                        | le I - No                                      | n-Deriv | ative                                   | e Se                                                                  | ecuri                                                       | ties Ac | quired                             | , Dis                    | posed c              | of, o                                                            | r Ben                                                                                  | eficial                                | ly Owne                                                                                    |                                                                                                                   |                     |                                                                          |                                                                    |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transa Date (Month/D                            |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         |                                         |                                                                       | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |         | Code                               | Transaction Code (Instr. |                      | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4<br>5) |                                                                                        |                                        | Benefic<br>Owned                                                                           | es<br>ially<br>Following                                                                                          | Form<br>(D) o       | n: Direct<br>or Indirect<br>onstr. 4)                                    | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership                |
|                                                                                     |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         |                                         |                                                                       |                                                             |         |                                    | v                        | Amount               | Amount (A)                                                       |                                                                                        | Price                                  | Transac                                                                                    | Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)                                                                    |                     |                                                                          | (Instr. 4)                                                         |
| Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup> 01/06/                                                  |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         |                                         | 6                                                                     |                                                             |         | F                                  |                          | 917                  |                                                                  | D                                                                                      | \$35.2                                 | 22 42                                                                                      | 2,001                                                                                                             |                     | D                                                                        |                                                                    |
| Common Stock <sup>(2)</sup> 01/06/                                                  |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         | /2006                                   |                                                                       |                                                             |         | М                                  |                          | 22,50                | 0                                                                | A                                                                                      | \$13.                                  | 8 64                                                                                       | l,501                                                                                                             | D                   |                                                                          |                                                                    |
| Common Stock <sup>(2)</sup> 01/06/                                                  |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         | /2006                                   |                                                                       |                                                             |         | S                                  |                          | 22,50                | 0                                                                | D                                                                                      | \$35                                   | 42                                                                                         | 001(3)                                                                                                            |                     | D                                                                        |                                                                    |
| Common Stock                                                                        |                                                                       |                                            |                                                |         |                                         |                                                                       |                                                             |         |                                    |                          |                      |                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                        | 320                                                                                        |                                                                                                                   |                     | by<br>401(k)                                                             |                                                                    |
|                                                                                     |                                                                       | -                                          | Table II -                                     |         |                                         |                                                                       |                                                             |         |                                    |                          | osed of,<br>converti |                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                        | Owned                                                                                      |                                                                                                                   |                     | ,                                                                        |                                                                    |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                                 | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deeme<br>Execution<br>if any<br>(Month/Day | Date, T | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |                                                                       | n of                                                        |         | 6. Date E<br>Expiratio<br>(Month/D | n Dat                    |                      | of S<br>Und<br>Deri                                              | 7. Title and Amo<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Secu<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                                        | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5)                                        | 9. Number<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficial<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transactio<br>(Instr. 4) | e<br>s<br>ally<br>g | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|                                                                                     |                                                                       |                                            |                                                | c       | ode                                     | v                                                                     | (A)                                                         | (D)     | Date<br>Exercisa                   |                          | Expiration<br>Date   | Title                                                            |                                                                                        | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares | ber                                                                                        |                                                                                                                   |                     |                                                                          |                                                                    |
| Employee<br>Stock                                                                   | \$13.8                                                                | 01/06/2006                                 |                                                |         | M                                       |                                                                       |                                                             | 22,500  | (4)                                |                          | 12/02/2011           |                                                                  | nmon<br>ock                                                                            | 22,500                                 | \$0                                                                                        | 22,50                                                                                                             | 00                  | D                                                                        |                                                                    |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. The transaction(s) being reported relate(s) to the vesting of restricted stock held by the reporting person.
- 2. The transaction(s) reported herein was(were) effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person on April 26, 2004.
- 3. The total direct shares owned following the reported transaction includes 21,730 time-vesting restricted shares and 1,200 shares held in a Section 423 stock purchase plan.
- 4. This option vested in equal annual installments over a three year period and became fully vested on December 3, 2004.

Joseph G. Parham 01/10/2006

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- \* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.