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KROGER CO Form 8-K March 19, 2003

> UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

> > Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of Report: March 19, 2003

THE KROGER CO. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

An Ohio Corporation (State or other jurisdiction (Commission File of incorporation)

No. 1-303 Number)

31-0345740 (IRS Employer Number)

1014 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45201 (Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number: (513) 762-4000

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

> On March 19, 2003, Kroger representatives spoke at the Merrill Lynch Global Retail Leaders Conference in New York City. A copy of their remarks is attached hereto 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 hereto duly authorized.

THE KROGER CO.

March 19, 2003

By: (Paul Heldman) Paul Heldman Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Exhibit

99.1 Remarks from Merrill Lynch Global Retail Leaders Conference.