

DRESSEL MELANIE J
 Form 4
 April 21, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 DRESSEL MELANIE J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC [COLB]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 President and CEO

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1301 A STREET, MS-3100, STE. 800
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 04/21/2005

TACOMA 98402-4200

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| | | | | Code V | Amount | | |
| Common Stock | 04/20/2005 | | M | 3,310 | A \$ 7.2 | 17,499 | D |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 5,495 | I 401(k) |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 47,194 | I Family Trust LLC |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 2,408 | I North Mason Fiber |
| | | | | | | 10 | I |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|----|--|---|----------------------------|
| Common Stock | | | | | | | Shares owned by son. |
| Common Stock | | | | 10 | | I | Shares owned by son. |

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

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 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. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares | |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | |
| NQSO (Right to Buy) | \$ 7.2 | 04/20/2005 | | M | 3,310 | 04/23/2000 04/23/2005 | | Common Stock | 3,310 |
| ISO (Right to Buy) | \$ 11.77 | | | | | 01/20/2002 01/20/2007 | | Common Stock | 8,488 |
| NQSO (Right to Buy) | \$ 11.77 | | | | | 01/20/2002 01/20/2007 | | Common Stock | 5,519 |
| NQSO (Right to Buy) | \$ 10.82 | | | | | 12/03/2003 12/05/2008 | | Common Stock | 12,128 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| DRESSEL MELANIE J 1301 A STREET, MS-3100, STE. 800 | X | | President and CEO | |

TACOMA 98402-4200

Signatures

/s/ Kristy W.

04/21/2005

House

__Signature of
Reporting Person

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).

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

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