

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP  
Form 4  
September 30, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
WHITSON JAMES N

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
100 PARK AVENUE  
(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10017

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP [TY]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
09/28/2005

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount  | (D) | Price |

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

**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 control number.**

SEC 1474  
(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 | 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 | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|

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| Reporting Owner                            | Derivative Security | Date Acquired | Code | Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |         | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title                                      |
|--|---------------------|---------------|------|---|---------|------------------|-----------------|--|
|  |                     |               |      | (A)                                     | (D)     |                  |                 |  |
| Tri-Continental Corporation <sup>(3)</sup> | <u>(1)</u>          | 09/28/2005    | M    |   | 788.258 | <u>(2)</u>       | <u>(2)</u>      | Tri-Continental Corporation <sup>(3)</sup> |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                           | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| WHITSON JAMES N<br>100 PARK AVENUE<br>NEW YORK, NY 10017 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

Albert A. Pisano, power of attorney 09/30/2005

\_\_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).
- (1) 1/1
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Pursuant to an interest in a deferred compensation plan with investment return based on the performance of Tri-Continental Corporation.

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