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COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC

Form 8-K

April 24, 2003

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Date of Report
(Date of earliest event reported):
April 23, 2003

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

WASHINGTON

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

0-20288

(Commission File Number)

91-1422237

IRS Employer Identification No.

1301 A Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

(Address of principal executive offices) (zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (253) 305-1900

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ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On April 23, 2003, we announced at our annual shareholders meeting and issued a press release that Columbia Banking System, Inc. had declared a \$0.05

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per share cash dividend for the quarter. The dividend will be paid on May 21, 2003 to shareholders of record at the close of business May 7, 2003. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

- (a) Financial statements. - not applicable
- (b) Pro forma financial information. - not applicable
- (c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release dated April 23, 2003 announcing quarterly cash dividend.

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SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: April 24, 2003

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

By: /s/ Melanie J. Dressel

Melanie J. Dressel
President and
Chief Executive Officer

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