

GANNETT CO INC /DE/  
Form 4  
April 18, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
JOHNSON JAMES A /DC/

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
GANNETT CO INC /DE/ [GCI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

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

GANNETT CO., INC., 7950 JONES BRANCH DRIVE

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

(Street)

MCLEAN, VA 22107

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 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 | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Derivative Securities |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|

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| (Instr. 3)                                       | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) |       |     |                     |                    |                 |  |    |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---|-------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|----|
|  |                                    |                  | Code       | V   | (A)   | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |    |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy) | \$ 79.29                           | 04/14/2005       | A          |   | 3,328 |     | <u>(1)</u>          | 04/14/2015         | Common<br>Stock | 3,328                                  | \$ |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy) | \$ 79.29                           | 04/14/2005       | A          |   | 5,000 |     | <u>(1)</u>          | 04/14/2015         | Common<br>Stock | 5,000                                  |    |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy) | \$ 79.29                           | 04/14/2005       | A          |   | 1,996 |     | <u>(1)</u>          | 04/14/2015         | Common<br>Stock | 1,996                                  | \$ |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| JOHNSON JAMES A /DC/<br>GANNETT CO., INC.<br>7950 JONES BRANCH DRIVE<br>MCLEAN, VA 22107 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Todd A. Mayman,  
Attorney-in-Fact

04/18/2005

\*\*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) The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning on April 14, 2006.

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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