

BOWEN WILLIAM G  
Form 4  
November 10, 2004

**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 \*  
BOWEN WILLIAM G

(Last) (First) (Middle)

THE ANDREW W. MELLON  
FOUNDATION THE ANDRE, 140  
EAST 62ND STREET 140 EAST  
62ND STREET

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10021

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
11/08/2004

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |        |   |                         |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------|---|-------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |        |   |                         |
| Common Shares                   | 11/08/2004                           | 11/08/2004   | M                              | V   | 3,000   | A  | \$ 34.167   | 32,102 | D |                         |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |   | 6,820  | I | by spouse               |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |   | 3,420  | I | by trust <sup>(1)</sup> |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |   | 4,300  | I | co-trustee              |

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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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Director Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 34.167  | 11/08/2004                           | 11/08/2004   | M                              | 3,000   | 04/27/1999 <sup>(2)</sup> 04/27/2008                     | Common Shares 3,000   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BOWEN WILLIAM G<br>THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION<br>140 EAST 62ND STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10021 |               |           |         | X     |

## Signatures

William G. Bowen  
11/10/2004

\*\*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) On January 30, 2004, the reporting person contributed these shares of common stock to a charitable remainder trust of which the reporting person is a trustee and of which the reporting person and his wife are beneficiaries. The reporting person continues to report beneficial ownership of all of the AXP common stock held by the trust but disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his and his wife's

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pecuniary interest therein.

(2) These options vested in three equal annual installments beginning on the date shown as "Date Exercisable."

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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