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ZWEIG TOTAL RETURN FUND INC
Form DEFA14A
May 06, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant /X/
Filed by a party other than the Registrant / /

Check the appropriate box:

- / / Preliminary Proxy Statement
- / / CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14a-6(e)(2))
- / / Definitive Proxy Statement
- /X/ Definitive Additional Materials
- / / Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

THE ZWEIG TOTAL RETURN FUND, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

/X/ No fee required.

/ / Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
N/A

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
N/A

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
N/A

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
N/A

(5) Total fee paid:
\$0

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// Fee paid previously with preliminary materials: N/A

// Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

RETURN YOUR WHITE PROXY CARD TODAY TO
PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT IN ZWEIG TOTAL RETURN FUND
FROM PROFESSIONAL CORPORATE RAIDER

May 5, 2004

Dear Fellow ZTR Shareholder:

YOUR DIRECTORS ARE WRITING TO URGE YOU TO VOTE NO TO PHILLIP GOLDSTEIN, WHO WAGES COSTLY AND DISRUPTIVE PROXY BATTLES AGAINST CLOSED-END FUNDS, USUALLY CHARGING THAT DIRECTORS HAVE FAILED TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS SHARE-PRICE DISCOUNTS. DON'T BE FOOLED! HIS AGENDA IS TO MAKE A QUICK PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER SHAREHOLDERS AND THEN MOVE ON TO HIS NEXT VICTIM.

Goldstein has misinformed you in his recent communications. He fails to tell you that his proposals:

- Will cause you to pay taxes that you otherwise would not have to pay;
- Could turn your Fund into a junk bond fund;
- Will put your Fund into the hands of an inexperienced Board; and
- Could destroy your Fund's ability to create long-term value on your behalf.

Goldstein has ignored our record in installing a new portfolio management team and in addressing your Fund's tax position, including our adoption of the new distribution policy announced on April 8.

Goldstein's malicious accusations against us are reprehensible. Unlike Goldstein, we have no personal agenda, and we are committed to your Fund for the long term. Along with Marty Zweig, we hold over 223,000 shares in the Fund, and none of us has ever sold a share. Goldstein says he wants a board seat, but his actions suggest that he could not represent shareholders independently. He represents himself and the investors in his hedge fund, and his agenda is inconsistent with your Fund's structure, investment objectives and policies.

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Goldstein's off-the-cuff assertion that he can reduce your Fund's administrative expenses based on a five-minute telephone call is ridiculous! How can he determine the costs of administering a fund with over 38,000 shareholders on the basis of a telephone conversation when he has never run a fund himself? Fund administration consists of a variety of services, including net asset value accounting and other critically important functions. We review your Fund's administration contract annually to ensure that your Fund is well served. Based on a complete analysis by the leading provider of fund data services, we are confident that your Fund's fees and expenses are in line with those of comparable funds.

Because Goldstein has waged this attack on your interests, your participation in this year's Annual Meeting of Shareholders, scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, is more important than ever, so please vote today by signing, dating and mailing promptly your WHITE proxy card. You can also vote by telephone at 1-800-454-8683 or at WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM. And remember - do not sign any green card you may receive.

If you have any questions, D.F. King & Co., Inc., your Fund's proxy solicitor, will be pleased to assist. Please call them toll-free at 1-888-628-1041.

Your Board thanks you for your cooperation, continued support and prompt return of your WHITE proxy card.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Brunie
Daniel T. Geraci
Wendy Luscombe
Alden C. Olson
James B. Rogers, Jr.
R. Keith Walton
Directors