

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form 4
January 07, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
Leep, Bruce E.
3106 Condit
Highland, IN 46322
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
307-38-1303
4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
01/06/2003
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
7. 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	2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	2A. Execu- tion Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3. Trans- action Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	5. Amount Owned Report Transa
			Code V	Amount A/D	Price
Common Stock					264217
Common Stock					208727
Common Stock					0
Common Stock					73
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	01/06/2003		P	145	A \$17.0985 2076

TABLE II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.	2.	3.	3A.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	Conver- sion or Exercise Price of	Trans- action Date	Execu- tion Date		Number of Derivative Securities Acquired(A) Disposed(D)	Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	Amount or Number of Shares
Title of Derivative Security	Deriv- ative	(Month/ Day/ Year)	(Month/ Day/ Year)	Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exer- Expira- tion Date	Title Shares

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1999 (NQ) \$19.2641
Stock
Option
2001 (NQ) \$15.6
Stock
Option

08/24/2009 Common
Stock
04/24/2011 Common
Stock

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE
01/07/2003