

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 5

March 06, 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/Year
 12/2002
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/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) Amount A/D Price	5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Yea
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Common Stock 10/07/2002 03/06/2003 J 4