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)
   (X) Director ( ) 10% Owner
   ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other (specify below)
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
   (X) 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. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Execution Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Yea
				Amount	A/D	Price	
Common Stock	10/07/2002	03/06/2003	J	4			