

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 07, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
 Marcum, Stephen S.  
 P.O. Box 747  
 Hamilton, OH 45012
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)  
 275-42-1219
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- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3. Trans- action Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Report Transa
			Code  V	Amount       A/D Price	
Common Stock					24410
Common Stock					12128.
Common Stock					0
Common Stock					0
Common Stock					0
Common Stock					0
Common Stock					0
Common Stock					11395
Common Stock					9853
Common Stock					9853
Common Stock					9726
Common Stock					36894
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	01/06/2003		P	145      A    \$17.0985	2247

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

1.	2.	3.	3A.	4.	5.	6.	7.

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Title of Derivative Security	Price of Exercise	(Month/ Day/ Year)	(Month/ Day/ Year)	Transac- tion Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exer- cisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$20.671								04/27/2009	Common Stock	
1996 (NQ) Stock Option	\$10.8941								04/23/2006	Common Stock	
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$18.84								04/23/2012	Common Stock	

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE  
01/07/2003