

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 07, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Bidwell, Martin J.
 3300 Central Avenue
 Middletown, OH 45044
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 282-58-5303
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) Amount A/D Price	5. Amo Securi Benefi Owned Follow Report Transa
Common Stock					2136
Common Stock					0
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.
Title of Derivative Security	Deriv- ative Security	(Month/ Day/ Year)	(Month/ Day/ Year)	tion Code	Number of Derivative Securities Acquired(A) Disposed(D)	Date Exercis- able (Month/Day/Year)	Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Amount or Number of Shares
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$20.671					04/27/2009	Common Stock

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2002 (NQ) \$18.84
Stock
Option

04/23/2012 Common
Stock

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE

01/07/2003