

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 07, 2003

- 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
Knapke, Murph
P.O. Box 504
Celina, OH 45822
- 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
- 3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
279-42-9757
- 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 FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	01/06/2003		P	145 A \$17.0985	2021 2247

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

1. Title of Security	2. Deriv- ative Price of	3. (Month/ Day/ Year)	3A. (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Transac- tion Code	5. Acquired(A) Disposed(D) Date Exer- cisable Date	6. Number of Derivative Securities (A) (D)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Amount or Number of Shares
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$16.9048				04/25/2010		Common Stock

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Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE
01/07/2003