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FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 07, 2003

- Name and Address of Reporting Person Pontius, Stanley N.
 Churchill Street Hamilton, OH 45013
- Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
- 3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary) 308-48-1245
- 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)
 - (X) Director () 10% Owner
- 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

+	+	+	-+	-+		_+
	2. Trans- action				ties Acquired (A) 5. Amo Securi
	Date	Date	Code			Benefi
	1		1	1		Owned
	(Month/	(Month/	1	1		Follow
	Day/	Day/	+	-+	-++	-+Report
	Year)	Year)	Code V	Amount	A/D Price	Transa
+	+	+	-+	-+	++	-+
Common Stock						57949
Common Stock						7731
Common Stock						13739.
Common Stock						0
Common Stock						55571
Common Stock						345
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	01/06/2003		P	145	A \$17.0985	2247

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

+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
11.	12.	13.	3A.	4.	5.	16.	17.
			I			I	1
1		l	I				1
1			I			I	1
		l	1				Title and Amoun
1			1				of Underlying
1	Conver-	Trans-	Execu-	l	Number of		Securities
1	sion or	action	tion		Derivative	Date Exercisable	+
1	Exercise	Date	Date	l	Securities	and Expiration Date	Amount
1	Price of		1	Transac-	Acquired(A)	(Month/Day/Year)	or
Title of	Deriv-	(Month/	(Month/	tion Code	Disposed(D)	+	+ Number
Derivative	: ative	Day/	Day/	+	+	+Date Exer- Expira-	of

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	Security Year)								
1996 (ISO) Stock		-+	-+	-++	-+	-+	01/24/2006		-+
Option 1997 (ISO) Stock Option	\$11.1342						01/28/2007	Common Stock	
1997 (NQ) Stock Option	\$11.1342						01/28/2007	Common Stock	
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$19.087						01/27/2008	Common Stock	
1998 (NQ) Stock Option	\$19.087						01/27/2008	Common Stock	
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$22.565						01/25/2009	Common Stock	
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$22.565						01/25/2009	Common Stock	
2000 (ISO) Stock Option							01/24/2010	Common Stock	
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$17.56						01/24/2010	Common Stock	
2001 (ISO) Stock Option							01/23/2011	Stock	
2001 (NQ) Stock Option	\$16.0124						01/23/2011	Stock	
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$17.2						01/17/2012	Stock	
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$17.2						01/17/2012	Common Stock	

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON /s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE 01/07/2003