

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND
Form N-CSR
March 10, 2006

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21342

Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

399 Park Ave., New York, NY

10022

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip code)

Bradley Tank, Chief Executive Officer of Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc.
399 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 526-7000

Date of fiscal year end: 12/31/2005

Date of reporting period: 12/31/2005

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The annual report for the period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005
is filed herewith.

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

LEHMAN BROTHERS
FIRST TRUST INCOME
OPPORTUNITY FUND

[GRAPHIC]

LEHMAN BROTHERS

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

CONTENTS

Chairman's and President's Letter	2
Portfolio Manager's Report	3
Fund Overview	4
Schedule of Investments	5
Notes to Schedule of Investments	15
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	16
Statement of Operations	17
Statements of Changes in Net Assets	18
Financial Highlights	19
Notes to Financial Statements	20
Shareholder Voting Results	25
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	26
Dividend Reinvestment Plan (Unaudited)	27
Trustees and Officers Table (Unaudited)	28

CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Shareholder:

We are pleased to present to you the 2005 annual report of the Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund. The report includes portfolio commentary, a listing of the Fund's investments, and its financial statements for the reporting period.

The high yield market was volatile over the course of 2005, with changes in interest rates being the primary source of the volatility. With fears of higher inflation, a spike in Treasury rates, and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's comments about a bond market "conundrum," high yield bonds declined in value. While interest rates were the main culprit, a modest increase in spreads over the year also contributed to price declines. However, the attractive coupon levels associated with high yield securities more than offset any price declines and resulted in a positive overall return for the market.

The Fund's investment objective is to seek high total return through income plus capital appreciation. The Fund pursues this investment objective by investing primarily in high yield debt securities*. Its performance is dependent on several factors, including the rate of interest received on securities held by the Fund, the interest cost of Money Market Cumulative Preferred Shares issued by the Fund, and the results of interest rate hedges used by the Fund in seeking to manage short-term interest rate costs.

Portfolio Manager Ann H. Benjamin and her team of seasoned investment

professionals at Lehman Brothers Asset Management LLC manage the portfolio. The team takes a proactive approach to high yield asset management, integrating detailed security and industry analysis within the context of a global economic outlook. Ann's portfolio co-managers and research analysts are industry specialists who carry out independent primary research on companies and industries. In addition to seeking value from specific issue selections, they also implement strategies seeking to take advantage of valuation opportunities across industry sectors and credit quality tiers.

We thank you for the trust you have placed in us by investing in the Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund. We will continue to do our best to earn it.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kurt A. Locher
Kurt A. Locher
CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEE

/s/ Brad Tank
Brad Tank
PRESIDENT

* Portfolios that invest in bonds and other fixed income securities can provide regular income and have historically been less volatile than most stock funds. However, they are subject to risks including credit risk, default on principal or interest payments and interest rate fluctuations. High-yield bonds, also known as "junk bonds," are subject to additional risks such as the increased risk of default.

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2005

PORTFOLIO MANAGER'S REPORT

For the annual reporting period ended December 31, 2005, the Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund (NYSE: LBC) returned 3.63% on a Net Asset Value (NAV) basis and 5.40% on a Market Value basis.

For the year, the high yield bond market* produced modest returns that were driven by higher interest rates, despite historically low default levels and a relatively benign credit environment. While most sectors in the high yield market performed fairly well, three sectors in particular weighed on the market's overall performance. These sectors included the Autos, which were affected by credit downgrades of both General Motors and Ford, and Forest and Paper Products. Automotive suppliers in particular were hurt by cost pressures from GM and Ford. In general, credit spreads were only modestly wider for the year, but returns were dampened primarily by the rise in interest rates.

The portfolio's relative outperformance came from a number of market sectors. For example, an overweight in the strongly performing gaming sector helped results. We purposefully maintained an underweight position in the weak paper sector, which helped our returns relative to the broad market. In the Media sector, the Fund's strong performance was mostly the result of good security selection. Other areas that did well included Wireless and Health Care. In the Wireless segment, we enjoyed favorable security selection and benefited from an overweight, as the sector as a whole was strong. In Health Care, the portfolio also benefited from positive security selection. The majority of our alpha generation came from security selection.

Looking ahead, there are a number of factors that we believe bode well for the high yield market. First, we anticipate that the Federal Reserve Board's tightening cycle is going to end sometime in the first part of 2006. Second, although default rates among lower quality bonds may experience a slight uptick,

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

they are still low relative to historical standards. Third, the economy generally appears to be doing well.

Our strategy is to stay focused on intermediate duration bonds in the BB area of the market, where we are seeing the best value. The spread conversion between B- and BB-rated bonds is extremely narrow, so there is little to gain from taking on the excess risk in the B-rated segment of the market. We therefore expect to continue to move up the credit quality spectrum (within the non-investment grade category) as our lower quality bonds mature and are called or tendered. In addition, we continue to focus on industries with stable cash flows, such as Cable, Media, Health Care and Gaming.

We also plan to underweight the cyclical segment of the market. From a valuation perspective, cyclical components are trading similarly to more defensive industries and, to us, appear fully valued. Over the past year, we began lowering our cyclical weighting and we plan to maintain a significant underweight until valuations in this area of the market start to look more attractive.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ann H. Benjamin
 Ann H. Benjamin
 PORTFOLIO MANAGER

 Past performance is not indicative of future results.

* Portfolios that invest in bonds and other fixed income securities can provide regular income and have historically been less volatile than most stock funds. However, they are subject to risks including credit risk, default on principal or interest payments and interest rate fluctuations. High-yield bonds, also known as "junk bonds," are subject to additional risks such as the increased risk of default.

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND

FUND OVERVIEW (AS OF 12/31/05) (1)

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS (2)

	INCEPTION DATE	3 MONTHS ENDED 12/31/05	6 MONTHS ENDED 12/31/05	YEAR ENDED 12/31/05	CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN SINCE INCEPTION (3)
NAV	07/28/03	1.28%	2.54%	3.63%	30.82%
Market Price	07/28/03	2.62%	8.00%	5.40%	34.46%

FUND FACTS

Ticker	NYSE: LBC
Market Price (12/31/2005)	\$ 15.61
Net Asset Value (NAV)	\$ 14.51
Premium / (Discount)	7.58%
Shares outstanding:	12,247,538

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

CUSIP number: 525178 10 9
 Inception Date: 7/28/03

PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Portfolio Turnover	96.18%
Expense Ratio	1.53%
Wtd. Avg. Maturity	7.98 Years
Average Coupon	8.14%
Average Credit Quality	B
Portfolio Composition - % High Yield	89.1%

CAPITAL STRUCTURE AND LEVERAGE (\$ MM)

Total Net Assets	\$	267.9
Net Assets Attributable to Common Shares	\$	177.7
Net Assets Attributable to Preferred Shares	\$	90.2
Net Assets Attributable to Other Borrowings		-
Leverage (% of total net assets)		33.7%

[CHART]

CREDIT QUALITY BREAKDOWN (% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS AND CASH)

Cash (AAA)	2.0%
BBB	7.0%
BB	43.0%
A	0.5%
B	38.4%
CCC	7.7%
Not Rated	1.4%

[CHART]

MARKET PRICE AND NAV PERFORMANCE

	PRICE (\$)	NAV (\$)	PREMIUM/DISCOUNT (%)
7/29/2003	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.30	0.049000
8/8/2003	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.16	0.059300
8/15/2003	\$ 15.10	\$ 13.98	0.080100
8/22/2003	\$ 14.56	\$ 14.39	0.011800
8/29/2003	\$ 14.45	\$ 14.60	-0.010300
9/5/2003	\$ 14.75	\$ 14.75	0.000000
9/12/2003	\$ 14.83	\$ 14.93	-0.006700
9/19/2003	\$ 14.82	\$ 14.90	-0.005370
9/26/2003	\$ 14.78	\$ 14.92	-0.009380
10/3/2003	\$ 14.93	\$ 14.87	0.004035
10/10/2003	\$ 15.14	\$ 15.00	0.009330
10/17/2003	\$ 15.10	\$ 14.95	0.010000

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

10/24/2003	\$	15.23	\$	14.80	0.029054
10/31/2003	\$	15.25	\$	14.88	0.024900
11/7/2003	\$	15.27	\$	14.94	0.022100
11/14/2003	\$	15.48	\$	15.01	0.031300
11/21/2003	\$	15.14	\$	14.99	0.010000
11/28/2003	\$	15.26	\$	15.06	0.013300
12/5/2003	\$	15.36	\$	15.34	0.001300
12/12/2003	\$	15.32	\$	15.43	-0.007130
12/19/2003	\$	15.43	\$	15.60	-0.010900
12/26/2003	\$	15.49	\$	15.46	0.001940
12/31/2003	\$	15.91	\$	15.51	0.027800
1/9/2004	\$	15.79	\$	15.92	-0.008233
1/16/2004	\$	16.59	\$	15.98	0.038173
1/23/2004	\$	16.25	\$	15.95	0.018809
1/30/2004	\$	16.10	\$	15.60	0.032051
2/6/2004	\$	16.00	\$	15.31	0.045069
2/13/2004	\$	16.52	\$	15.49	0.066495
2/20/2004	\$	15.99	\$	15.22	0.050591
2/27/2004	\$	16.17	\$	15.17	0.065920
3/5/2004	\$	16.03	\$	15.27	0.049771
3/12/2004	\$	16.22	\$	15.25	0.063607
3/19/2004	\$	16.43	\$	15.12	0.086640
3/26/2004	\$	16.02	\$	14.98	0.069426
3/31/2004	\$	16.20	\$	15.09	0.073559
4/2/2004	\$	16.16	\$	15.06	0.073041
4/8/2004	\$	15.90	\$	15.16	0.048813
4/16/2004	\$	14.82	\$	15.17	-0.023617
4/23/2004	\$	14.90	\$	15.14	-0.016107
4/30/2004	\$	14.71	\$	15.02	-0.021074
5/7/2004	\$	14.39	\$	14.65	-0.018068
5/21/2004	\$	13.87	\$	14.35	-0.034607
5/28/2004	\$	14.94	\$	14.54	0.027510
6/4/2004	\$	14.95	\$	14.54	0.028198
6/10/2004	\$	14.98	\$	14.62	0.024624
6/18/2004	\$	14.95	\$	14.71	0.016315
6/25/2004	\$	14.75	\$	14.69	0.004084
6/30/2004	\$	14.85	\$	14.67	0.012270
7/2/2004	\$	14.94	\$	14.72	0.014946
7/9/2004	\$	15.00	\$	14.85	0.010101
7/16/2004	\$	15.20	\$	14.98	0.014686
7/23/2004	\$	15.18	\$	14.85	0.022222
7/30/2004	\$	15.15	\$	14.82	0.022267
8/13/2004	\$	15.44	\$	14.81	0.042539
8/20/2004	\$	15.55	\$	14.88	0.045027
8/27/2004	\$	15.49	\$	14.85	0.043098
8/31/2004	\$	15.58	\$	14.87	0.047747
8/13/2004	\$	15.44	\$	14.81	0.042539
8/20/2004	\$	15.55	\$	14.88	0.045027
8/27/2004	\$	15.49	\$	14.85	0.043098
8/31/2004	\$	15.58	\$	14.87	0.047747
9/3/2004	\$	15.53	\$	14.91	0.041583
9/10/2004	\$	15.73	\$	15.06	0.044489
9/17/2004	\$	15.85	\$	15.11	0.048974
9/24/2004	\$	15.67	\$	15.03	0.042582
10/1/2004	\$	15.75	\$	15.03	0.047904
10/15/2004	\$	16.29	\$	15.20	0.071711
10/22/2004	\$	16.13	\$	15.08	0.069629
10/29/2004	\$	15.86	\$	15.32	0.035248
11/5/2004	\$	16.30	\$	15.53	0.049581
11/12/2004	\$	16.10	\$	15.49	0.039380
11/19/2004	\$	16.35	\$	15.57	0.050096
11/26/2004	\$	16.34	\$	15.48	0.055556

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

12/3/2004	\$	16.40	\$	15.43	0.062865
12/10/2004	\$	16.10	\$	15.55	0.035370
12/17/2004	\$	16.48	\$	15.63	0.054383
12/23/2004	\$	16.26	\$	15.55	0.045659
12/31/2004	\$	16.48	\$	15.59	0.057088
1/7/2005	\$	15.98	\$	15.61	0.023700
1/14/2005	\$	16.30	\$	15.53	0.049600
1/21/2005	\$	16.00	\$	15.36	0.041700
1/28/2005	\$	15.91	\$	15.46	0.029100
1/31/2005	\$	15.91	\$	15.49	0.027100
2/4/2005	\$	15.84	\$	15.65	0.012100
2/11/2005	\$	15.99	\$	15.68	0.019800
2/18/2005	\$	15.73	\$	15.64	0.005800
2/25/2005	\$	15.53	\$	15.72	-0.012100
2/28/2005	\$	15.50	\$	15.75	-0.015900
3/4/2005	\$	15.44	\$	15.73	-0.018400
3/11/2005	\$	15.23	\$	15.69	-0.029300
3/18/2005	\$	15.05	\$	15.45	-0.025900
3/24/2005	\$	14.20	\$	15.02	-0.054600
3/31/2005	\$	14.85	\$	14.83	0.001300
4/1/2005	\$	14.78	\$	14.85	-0.004700
4/8/2005	\$	15.00	\$	15.03	-0.002000
4/15/2005	\$	14.58	\$	14.68	-0.006800
4/22/2005	\$	14.68	\$	14.66	0.001400
4/29/2005	\$	14.72	\$	14.38	0.023600
5/6/2005	\$	14.94	\$	14.45	0.033900
5/13/2005	\$	14.87	\$	14.27	0.042000
5/20/2005	\$	14.86	\$	14.16	0.049400
5/27/2005	\$	14.78	\$	14.56	0.015100
5/31/2005	\$	15.01	\$	14.65	0.024600
6/3/2005	\$	15.01	\$	14.94	0.004700
6/10/2005	\$	15.13	\$	14.87	0.017500
6/17/2005	\$	15.34	\$	14.95	0.026100
6/24/2005	\$	15.17	\$	14.84	0.022200
6/30/2005	\$	15.27	\$	14.95	0.021400
7/1/2005	\$	15.31	\$	14.96	0.023400
7/8/2005	\$	15.70	\$	14.98	0.048100
7/15/2005	\$	15.95	\$	15.16	0.052100
7/22/2005	\$	15.92	\$	15.04	0.058500
7/29/2005	\$	15.93	\$	15.15	0.051500
8/5/2005	\$	15.49	\$	15.06	0.028600
8/12/2005	\$	15.55	\$	15.10	0.029800
8/19/2005	\$	15.98	\$	15.17	0.053400
8/26/2005	\$	15.85	\$	15.10	0.049700
8/31/2005	\$	15.82	\$	15.05	0.051200
9/22/2005	\$	15.70	\$	15.02	0.045300
9/9/2005	\$	15.90	\$	15.06	0.055800
9/16/2005	\$	15.82	\$	15.01	0.054000
9/23/2005	\$	15.73	\$	14.72	0.068600
9/30/2005	\$	15.64	\$	14.73	0.061800
10/7/2005	\$	15.84	\$	14.68	0.079000
10/14/2005	\$	15.30	\$	14.50	0.055200
10/21/2005	\$	15.05	\$	14.61	0.030100
10/28/2005	\$	15.10	\$	14.45	0.045000
10/31/2005	\$	15.14	\$	14.48	0.045600
11/4/2005	\$	15.16	\$	14.51	0.044800
11/11/2005	\$	15.40	\$	14.50	0.062100
11/18/2005	\$	15.36	\$	14.32	0.072600
11/25/2005	\$	15.36	\$	14.38	0.068200
11/30/2005	\$	15.24	\$	14.45	0.054700
12/2/2005	\$	15.46	\$	14.50	0.066200
12/9/2005	\$	15.60	\$	14.53	0.073600

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

12/16/2005	\$	15.67	\$	14.59	0.074000
12/23/2005	\$	15.69	\$	14.46	0.085100
12/31/2005	\$	15.61	\$	14.51	0.075800

[CHART]

TOP INDUSTRIES (% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS)

Media Broadcasting & Publishing	14.6%
Telephone Systems	7.4%
Entertainment & Leisure	9.2%
Electric Utilities	7.4%
Automotive	9.9%
Oil & Gas	10.0%
Health Care Providers	6.3%
Communications	2.6%
Commercial Services	6.7%
Retailers	4.1%
Other	21.8%

[CHART]

MATURITY BREAKDOWN (% OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS AND CASH)

<1 Year	4.06%
1-3 Years	6.42%
3-5 Years	10.35%
5-7 Years	27.98%
7-10 Years	38.39%
10+ Years	12.80%

-
1. Unless noted, data at or for twelve months ended December 31, 2005. High yield securities, also known as "junk bonds," are subject to additional risks such as the increased risk of default. Portfolio holdings are subject to change.
 2. Performance for NAV and Market Price assume reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains. Shares of the Fund fluctuate in value. Fund performance changes over time and currently may be different from that shown as of 12/31/05. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. More current Fund performance information can be obtained by visiting the Fund's website at www.lbftincomeopportunity.com.
 3. Not annualized.

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2005

PRINCIPAL

S&P

MOO

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	RATINGS*	RATI
ASSET BACKED SECURITIES -- 1.5%			
AIRLINES -- 1.5%			
\$ 1,336,646	Continental Airlines, Inc., Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-ERJ1, Class A 9.558%, 9/01/2019	BBB	
1,405,000	Delta Airlines, Inc., Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2000-1, Class A2 7.570%, 11/18/2010	BB	
TOTAL ASSET BACKED SECURITIES (IDENTIFIED COST \$2,630,698)			
CORPORATE DEBT -- 141.6%			
ADVERTISING -- 0.7%			
1,325,000	Lamar Media Corp., Senior Subordinated Note 6.625%, 8/15/2015	B	
AUTOMOTIVE -- 14.2%			
2,000,000	Ford Motor Co., Global Note 7.450%, 7/16/2031	BB	
1,405,000	Ford Motor Credit Co., Global Note 6.875%, 2/01/2006	BB	
1,500,000	Ford Motor Credit Co., Global Note 7.875%, 6/15/2010	BB	
2,175,000	Ford Motor Credit Co., Global Note (FRN) 5.290%, 11/16/2006	BB	
4,000,000	Ford Motor Credit Co., Note 6.500%, 1/25/2007	BB	
3,070,000	Ford Motor Credit Co., Senior Note 4.950%, 1/15/2008	BB	
1,355,000	General Motors Acceptance Corp., Global Note 6.125%, 2/01/2007	BB	
4,145,000	General Motors Acceptance Corp., Global Note 6.875%, 9/15/2011	BB	
2,690,000	General Motors Acceptance Corp., Note 8.000%, 11/01/2031	BB	
5,155,000	General Motors Acceptance Corp., Senior Note 7.000%, 2/01/2012	BB	
BEVERAGES, FOOD & TOBACCO -- 0.6%			
1,000,000	Del Monte Corp., Senior Subordinated Note 8.625%, 12/15/2012	B	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
BUILDING MATERIALS -- 0.8%			
\$ 1,460,000	Nortek, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note		

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

	8.500%, 9/01/2014	CCC
	CHEMICALS -- 3.3%	
1,155,000	Equistar Chemicals, LP/Equistar Funding Corp., Senior Note 10.625%, 5/01/2011	BB
1,645,000	Methanex Corp., Senior Note 8.750%, 8/15/2012	BBB
2,000,000	Millennium America, Inc., Senior Note 9.250%, 6/15/2008	BB
610,000	PQ Corp., Senior Subordinated Note, 144A 7.500%, 2/15/2013	B
	COAL -- 1.6%	
1,350,000	Massey Energy Co., Senior Note 6.625%, 11/15/2010	BB
1,500,000	Massey Energy Co., Senior Note, 144A 6.875%, 12/15/2013	BB
	COMMERCIAL SERVICES -- 9.6%	
1,905,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc., Senior Secured Note 8.875%, 4/01/2008	BB
1,400,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc., Senior Note 7.250%, 3/15/2015	BB
2,300,000	Cardtronics, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note, 144A 9.250%, 8/15/2013	B
1,014,000	Coinmach Corp., Senior Note 9.000%, 2/01/2010	CCC
2,945,000	Knowledge Learning Corp., Inc., Senior Subordinated Note, 144A 7.750%, 2/01/2015	B
3,105,000	Language Line, Inc., Note 11.125%, 6/15/2012	CCC
3,105,000	Monitronics International, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note 11.750%, 9/01/2010	B
1,595,000	Service Corp. International/US, Senior Note, Step Up,144A 0.000%/7.000%, 6/15/2017 (c)	BB

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
	COMMUNICATIONS -- 3.8%		
\$ 1,305,000	Dycom Industries, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note, 144A 8.125%, 10/15/2015	B	
3,365,000	Intelsat Bermuda, Ltd., Senior Note, 144A 8.625%, 1/15/2015	B	
1,000,000	L-3 Communications Corp., Senior Subordinated Note 7.625%, 6/15/2012	BB	
1,345,000	PanAmSat Holding Corp., Senior Note, Step-Up 0.000%/10.375%, 11/01/2014 (c)	B	

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

	COMPUTERS -- 0.9%		
1,630,000	Sungard Data Systems, Inc., Senior Note, 144A 9.125%, 8/15/2013		B
	CONTAINERS & PACKAGING -- 3.5%		
3,645,000	Crown Americas, Inc., Guaranteed Senior Note, 144A 7.750%, 11/15/2015		B
2,345,000	Owens-Brockway Glass Container, Senior Secured Note 8.750%, 11/15/2012		BB
	COSMETICS & PERSONAL CARE -- 1.6%		
1,985,000	Playtex Products, Inc., Senior Secured Note 8.000%, 3/01/2011		B
655,000	Playtex Products, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note 9.375%, 6/01/2011		CCC
	ELECTRIC UTILITIES -- 10.5%		
4,305,000	AES Corp. (The), Senior Secured Note, 144A 8.750%, 5/15/2013		B
2,505,000	CMS Energy Corp., Senior Note 7.750%, 8/01/2010		B
440,000	Edison Mission Energy Corp., Senior Note 9.875%, 4/15/2011		B
1,785,000	Midwest Generation LLC, Senior Secured Note 8.750%, 5/01/2034		B
740,000	Mirant North America LLC, Senior Note, 144A 7.375%, 12/31/2013		B
1,410,000	Mission Energy Holding Co., Senior Secured Note 13.500%, 7/15/2008		CCC

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

7

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
	ELECTRIC UTILITIES -- CONTINUED		
\$ 1,910,000	Reliant Energy, Inc., Senior Secured Note 9.500%, 7/15/2013		B
3,000,000	TECO Energy, Inc., Note 7.500%, 6/15/2010		BB
1,500,000	TXU Corp., Series Q, Senior Note 6.500%, 11/15/2024		BB
	ELECTRONICS -- 2.3%		
2,130,000	Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., Senior Note 7.125%, 7/15/2014		BB
1,720,000	Xerox Corp., Note 7.625%, 6/15/2013		BB
	ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE -- 13.2%		

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

2,400,000	AMF Bowling Worldwide, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note 10.000%, 3/01/2010	CCC
1,770,000	Blockbuster, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note, 144A 9.000%, 9/01/2012	CCC
1,150,000	Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Senior Note, 144A 7.250%, 11/15/2019	BB
2,790,000	Chukchansi Economic Development Authority, Note, 144A 8.000%, 11/15/2013	BB
2,000,000	Chumash Casino & Resort Enterprise, Senior Note, 144A 9.000%, 7/15/2010	BB
490,000	Majestic Star Casino LLC/Majestic Star Casino Cap, Senior Note 9.500%, 10/15/2010	BB
910,000	Majestic Star Casino LLC/Majestic Star Casino Capital Corp. II, Senior Secured Note, 144A 9.750%, 1/15/2011	B
1,090,000	Marquee, Inc., Series B, Senior Note 8.625%, 8/15/2012	B
1,400,000	Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, Senior Subordinated Note 7.125%, 8/15/2014	B
665,000	Penn National Gaming, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note 6.875%, 12/01/2011	B
790,000	Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., Senior Note 7.500%, 10/15/2027	BB

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE -- CONTINUED			
\$ 1,815,000	San Pasqual Casino, Senior Note, 144A 8.000%, 9/15/2013	B	
3,510,000	Station Casinos, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note 6.875%, 3/01/2016	B	
3,475,000	WGM Holdings Corp., Senior Note, Step-Up 0.000%/9.500%, 12/15/2014 (c)	B	
FINANCIAL SERVICES -- 2.6%			
500,000	American Real Estate Partners, LP, Senior Note 8.125%, 6/01/2012	BB	
1,340,000	American Real Estate Partners, LP, Senior Note 144A 7.125%, 2/15/2013	BB	
2,650,000	Arch Western Finance LLC, Guaranteed Senior Note 6.750%, 7/01/2013	BB	
FOREST PRODUCTS & PAPER -- 0.3%			
500,000	Georgia-Pacific Corp., Note 7.750%, 11/15/2029	BB	
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS -- 8.9%			
1,510,000	HCA, Inc., Note 7.500%, 11/06/2033	BB	
2,100,000	Rural/Metro Corp., Senior Subordinated Note, 144A		

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

	9.875%, 3/15/2015	CCC
1,350,000	Select Medical Corp., Senior Note, 144A, (FRN) 9.933%, 9/15/2015	B
2,485,000	Spheris, Senior Subordinated Note, 144A 11.000%, 12/15/2012	CCC
500,000	Tenet Healthcare Corp., Senior Note, 144A 9.250%, 2/01/2015	B
4,165,000	US Oncology Holdings, Inc., Senior Note, (FRN) 9.264%, 3/15/2015	B
2,500,000	US Oncology, Inc., Senior Note 9.000%, 8/15/2012	B
1,330,000	Ventas Realty, LP/Ventas Capital Corp. REIT, Note, 144A 6.500%, 6/01/2016	BB

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

9

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
	HEAVY MACHINERY -- 1.6%		
\$ 1,040,000	Mueller Group, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note 10.000%, 5/01/2012	B	
2,280,000	Mueller Holdings, Inc., Senior Note, Step-Up 0.000%/14.750%, 4/15/2014 (c)	B	
	HOME CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHINGS & APPLIANCES -- 2.8%		
1,900,000	Beazer Homes USA, Inc., Senior Note 8.625%, 5/15/2011	BB	
560,000	K Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc., Senior Note 8.000%, 4/01/2012	BB	
1,255,000	Simmons Bedding Co., Senior Subordinated Note 7.875%, 1/15/2014	B	
1,255,000	Standard-Pacific Corp., Senior Note 7.750%, 3/15/2013	BB	
	MEDIA - BROADCASTING & PUBLISHING -- 20.9%		
2,005,000	CCH I Holdings LLC, Guaranteed Senior Note, 144A 10.000%, 5/15/2014	CCC	
1,613,000	CCH I LLC, Guaranteed Senior Secured Note, 144A 11.000%, 10/01/2015	CCC	
1,845,000	Charter Communications Operating LLC/Charter Communications Capital Corp., Senior Note, 144A 8.000%, 4/30/2012	B	
1,000,000	Charter Communications Operating LLC/Charter Communications Capital Corp., Senior Note, 144A 8.375%, 4/30/2014	B	
2,525,000	CSC Holdings, Inc., Series B, Senior Note 8.125%, 8/15/2009	B	
2,960,000	Dex Media, Inc., Note 8.000%, 11/15/2013	B	
650,000	DirecTV Holdings LLC, Senior Note		

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

	6.375%, 6/15/2015	BB
550,000	DirecTV Holdings LLC/DirecTV Financing Co., Senior Note	
	8.375%, 3/15/2013	BB
1,400,000	Echostar DBS Corp., Senior Note	
	6.625%, 10/01/2014	BB
960,000	Entercom Radio LLC/Entercom Capital, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note	
	7.625%, 3/01/2014	B

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
MEDIA - BROADCASTING & PUBLISHING -- CONTINUED			
\$ 1,915,000	Houghton Mifflin Co., Senior Note		
	8.250%, 2/01/2011	B	
1,000,000	Liberty Media Corp., Senior Note		
	8.500%, 7/15/2029	BB	
585,000	LIN Television Corp., Series B, Senior Subordinated Note		
	6.500%, 5/15/2013	B	
910,000	Mediacom Broadband LLC, Senior Note, 144A		
	8.500%, 10/15/2015	B	
610,000	Mediacom LLC/Mediacom Capital Corp., Senior Note		
	9.500%, 1/15/2013	B	
7,300,000	Ono Finance Plc, Note		
	14.000%, 2/15/2011	CCC	
2,050,000	Paxson Communications Corp., Senior Note, 144A, (FRN)		
	10.777%, 1/15/2013	CCC	
1,665,000	Primedia, Inc., Senior Note		
	8.000%, 5/15/2013	B	
1,185,000	Primedia, Inc., Senior Note		
	8.875%, 5/15/2011	B	
325,000	RH Donnelley Inc., Senior Subordinated Note		
	10.875%, 12/15/2012	B	
605,000	Rogers Cable, Inc., Senior Secured Note		
	7.875%, 5/01/2012	BB	
1,355,000	Rogers Cable, Inc., Senior Secured Note		
	8.750%, 5/01/2032	BB	
1,300,000	Shaw Communications, Inc., Senior Note		
	7.200%, 12/15/2011	BB	
775,000	Young Broadcasting, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note		
	8.750%, 1/15/2014	CCC	
775,000	Young Broadcasting, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note		
	10.000%, 3/01/2011	CCC	
MEDICAL SUPPLIES -- 1.3%			
3,785,000	CDRV Investors, Inc., Senior Note, Step-Up		
	0.000%/9.625%, 1/01/2015 (c)	B	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
	OIL & GAS -- 14.3%		
\$ 670,000	Chesapeake Energy Corp., Senior Note 6.875%, 1/15/2016	BB	
2,380,000	Chesapeake Energy Corp., Senior Note 7.000%, 8/15/2014	BB	
2,300,000	Dynegy Holdings, Inc., Senior Note, 144A 10.125%, 7/15/2013	B	
2,650,000	El Paso Corp., Note, 144A 7.750%, 6/15/2010	NR	
920,000	El Paso Corp., Senior Note, 144A 9.625%, 5/15/2012	NR	
1,970,000	El Paso Natural Gas Co., Note 8.375%, 6/15/2032	B	
1,095,000	El Paso Natural Gas Co., Senior Note 7.625%, 8/01/2010	B	
840,000	Forest Oil Corp., Senior Note 7.750%, 5/01/2014	BB	
1,710,000	Forest Oil Corp., Senior Note 8.000%, 12/15/2011	BB	
1,820,000	Kerr-McGee Corp., Note 6.950%, 7/01/2024	BB	
500,000	Newfield Exploration Co., Senior Note 7.625%, 3/01/2011	BB	
3,000,000	Newfield Exploration Co., Senior Subordinated Note 8.375%, 8/15/2012	BB	
435,000	Southern Natural Gas Co., Note 8.000%, 3/01/2032	B	
1,420,000	Targa Resources, Inc., Senior Note, 144A 8.500%, 11/01/2013	B	
1,965,000	Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp., Note 7.250%, 12/01/2026	B	
	PHARMACEUTICALS -- 2.4%		
3,015,000	Athena Neurosciences Finance LLC, Senior Note 7.250%, 2/21/2008	B	
1,330,000	Biovail Corp., Senior Subordinated Note 7.875%, 4/01/2010	BB	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
	RETAILERS -- 5.9%		
\$ 2,330,000	Amscan Holdings, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note		

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

	8.750%, 5/01/2014	CCC
1,415,000	Dollarama Group, LP, Senior Subordinated Note, 144A	
	8.875%, 8/15/2012	B
2,045,000	JC Penney Corp., Note	
	8.125%, 4/01/2027	BB
2,325,000	Jean Coutu Group, Inc., Senior Subordinated Note	
	8.500%, 8/01/2014	B
2,755,000	Movie Gallery, Inc., Senior Note	
	11.000%, 5/01/2012	CCC
730,000	Stripes Acquisition LLC/Susser Finance Corp., Senior Note, 144A	
	10.625%, 12/15/2013	B
	TELEPHONE SYSTEMS -- 10.6%	
640,000	American Cellular Corp., Series B, Senior Note	
	10.000%, 8/01/2011	B
1,759,645	Calpoint Receivables Structured Trust 2001, Note, 144A	
	7.440%, 12/10/2006	NR
2,635,000	Centennial Cellular Operating Co./Centennial Communications Corp., Guaranteed Senior Note	
	10.125%, 6/15/2013	CCC
35,000	Dobson Cellular Systems, Senior Note	
	8.375%, 11/01/2011	B
2,740,000	Dobson Communications Corp., Senior Note	
	8.875%, 10/01/2013	CCC
1,300,000	Nextel Communications, Inc., Series E, Senior Note	
	6.875%, 10/31/2013	A
725,000	Qwest Corp., Note	
	7.875%, 9/01/2011	BB
5,530,000	Qwest Corp., Note	
	8.875%, 3/15/2012	BB
665,000	Rogers Wireless Communications, Inc., Senior Secured Note	
	7.500%, 3/15/2015	BB
1,490,000	Time Warner Telecom Holdings, Inc., Senior Note	
	9.250%, 2/15/2014	CCC

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

13

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	S&P RATINGS*	MOO RATI
CORPORATE DEBT -- CONTINUED			
	TEXTILES, CLOTHING & FABRICS -- 0.6%		
\$ 1,075,000	Quiksilver, Inc., Senior Note		
	6.875%, 4/15/2015	BB	
	TRANSPORTATION -- 2.8%		
2,640,000	Grupo Transportacion Ferroviaria Mexicana SA de CV, Note, 144A		
	9.375%, 5/01/2012	B	
175,000	Stena AB, Note		
	9.625%, 12/01/2012	BB	
2,055,000	Stena AB, Senior Note		
	7.000%, 12/01/2016	BB	

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

TOTAL CORPORATE DEBT (IDENTIFIED COST \$248,149,537)

TOTAL INVESTMENTS -- 143.1%
(IDENTIFIED COST \$250,780,235) (b)

Other Assets, Less Liabilities -- 7.7%

Money Market Cumulative Preferred Shares plus cumulative unpaid dividends (50.8%)

TOTAL NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS -- 100%

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

* Ratings of issues shown are unaudited.

(a) See Note 2a of Notes to Financial Statements.

(b) Federal Tax Information:

At December 31, 2005, the net unrealized appreciation on investments based on cost of \$251,265,051 for federal income tax purposes was as follows:

Aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all investments in which there is an excess of
Aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all investments in which there is an excess of
Net unrealized appreciation

(c) Denotes a step-up bond: a zero coupon bond that converts to a fixed rate of interest at a designated future date.

FRN Floating rate note. Rate shown is rate in effect at December 31, 2005.
144A Securities exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers under Rule 144A, and have been deemed by the adviser to be liquid. At the period end, the value of 144A securities amounted to \$66,384,105 or 37.4% of net assets applicable to common shareholders.

Quality Profile (unaudited)

The quality ratings of securities in the fund as of December 31, 2005 were as follows:

S&P RATING/MOODY'S RATING/FITCH RATING	PERCENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS AND CASH**
A/A/A	0.5%
BBB/Baa/BBB	7.0
BB/Ba/BB	43.0
B/B/B	38.4
CCC/Caa/CCC	7.7

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

NR (Not Rated)***	1.4
Cash	2.0
	100.0%

** Percentages compiled using the highest rating for each security.
 *** Securities not rated are of quality that is permitted to be invested in by the fund.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

15

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

DECEMBER 31, 2005

ASSETS

Investments at cost
 Net unrealized appreciation
 INVESTMENTS AT VALUE
 Cash
 Receivable for securities sold
 Interest receivable
 Interest rate swap contracts, at market value
 Prepaid expenses

 TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Payable for securities purchased
 Management fees payable
 Payable for collateral on interest rate swap contracts
 Other accrued expenses

 TOTAL LIABILITIES

MONEY MARKET CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES (3,600 SHARES ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING)
 AT LIQUIDATION VALUE PLUS CUMULATIVE UNPAID DIVIDENDS

 NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES
 =====

NET ASSETS CONSIST OF:

Common Shares, no par value; unlimited number of shares authorized, 12,247,538 shares issued and
 Accumulated net realized gain on investments
 Net unrealized appreciation of investments and interest rate swap contracts

 NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES

COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE:

NET ASSETS
 COMMON SHARES ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING
 NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

MARKET VALUE (CLOSING PRICE PER SHARE ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

INVESTMENT INCOME

Interest	\$ 23,709,909
Expenses	
Management fee	1,636,931
Investor service fee	136,411
Trustees' fees and expenses	109,346
Custodian fee	312,318
Audit and tax services	51,550
Legal fee	130,608
Shareholder reports	54,812
Preferred shares auction	232,002
Insurance expense	85,416
Miscellaneous	40,843

TOTAL EXPENSES	2,790,237
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	20,919,672
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS	
Realized gain (loss) on:	
Investments -- net	(707,367)
Interest rate swap contracts -- net	591,395
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:	
Investments -- net	(11,744,400)
Interest rate swap contracts -- net	322,642

Net realized and unrealized loss on investments and interest rate swap contracts	(11,537,730)

NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	9,381,942
=====	
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED SHAREHOLDERS FROM NET INVESTMENT INCOME	(2,993,978)
=====	
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 6,387,964
=====	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

FROM OPERATIONS:

Net investment income	\$	20,91
Net realized gain (loss) on investments and interest rate swap contracts		(11
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and interest rate swap contracts		(11,42
Dividends to preferred shareholders from net investment income		(2,99
<hr/>		
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS		6,38
 LESS DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS		
Net investment income		(19,26
Net realized gain on investments		(23
Return of capital		(4
<hr/>		
		(19,54
 INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS DERIVED FROM COMMON SHARE TRANSACTIONS:		
		12
Offering costs and underwriting discounts on preferred shares		
<hr/>		
TOTAL NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES		(13,04
 NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES		
Beginning of period		190,69
End of period	\$	177,65

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	
	<hr/>	
	2005	
NET ASSET VALUE, BEGINNING OF PERIOD (COMMON SHARES)	\$	15.58
<hr/>		
Net Investment Income (b)		1.71
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments		(0.94)
Dividends to Preferred Shareholders from Net Investment Income		(0.24)
<hr/>		
TOTAL FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS		0.53
 Less Distributions to Common Shareholders		
From Net Investment Income		(1.58)
From Net Realized Gains		(0.02)
From Return of Capital		(0.00) (g)
<hr/>		
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS		(1.60)
 Common Shares Offering Costs Charged to Paid-in Capital		
Preferred Shares Underwriting Commissions and Offering Costs		--

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

Charged to Paid in Capital		--	
NET ASSET VALUE, END OF PERIOD (COMMON SHARES)	\$	14.51	\$
=====			
MARKET VALUE - END OF PERIOD (COMMON SHARES)	\$	15.61	\$
=====			
Total Return on Net Asset Value (Common Shares) (%)		3.63	

Total Return on Market Value (Common Shares) (%)		5.40	

Ratio of Expenses (excluding interest expense) to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (%) (f)		1.53	
Ratio of Interest Expense to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (%) (f)		--	
Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares (%) (f)		11.44	
Portfolio Turnover Rate (%)		96.18	1

Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares, End of Period (000)	\$	177,659	\$ 19

MONEY MARKET CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES

Preferred Shares Outstanding, End of Period (000)		90,000	9
Asset Coverage Per Share	\$	74,350	\$ 7
Involuntary Liquidation Preference Per Share	\$	25,000	\$ 2
Approximate Market Value Per Share	\$	25,000	\$ 2

* Commencement of operations.

- (a) Net asset value at beginning of period reflects the deduction from the \$15.00 offering price of the sales load of \$0.675 per share paid by the shareholder.
- (b) Calculated using average shares outstanding during the period.
- (c) Total return on net asset value is calculated assuming a purchase at the offering price of \$15.00 less the sales load of \$0.675 paid by the shareholder on the first day and a sale at the ending net asset value per share and is not annualized.
- (d) Total return on market value is calculated assuming a purchase at the offering price of \$15.00 on the first day and a sale at the current market price on the last day of the period and is not annualized.
- (e) Annualized.
- (f) Expense and net investment income ratios include accumulated and unpaid dividends.
- (g) Rounds to less than \$0.01.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005

NOTE 1 -- ORGANIZATION

Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund (the "Fund") was organized as a statutory trust under the laws of the state of Delaware on April 8, 2003, and is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as a diversified, closed-end management investment company. Lehman

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

Brothers Asset Management Inc. (the "Adviser") is investment adviser to the Fund. Lehman Brothers Asset Management LLC (formerly Lincoln Capital Fixed Income Management Company, LLC) is the sub-adviser to the Fund. The Fund's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LBC.

The Fund's investment objective is to seek high total return (income plus capital appreciation). The Fund will pursue its investment objective by investing its assets primarily in high yield debt securities.

NOTE 2 -- SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements.

a) VALUATION: Debt securities are valued using an independent pricing service approved by the Board of Trustees, which utilizes closing market prices, market quotations and transactions, quotations from dealers and various relationships among securities in determining value. Securities for which closing market prices or market quotations are not available or are not considered by the Adviser to be reflective of a security's market value, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith under consistently applied procedures established by and applied under the supervision of the Board of Trustees. Criteria considered in making this determination may include, but are not limited to, a review of other securities by the same issuer for which market quotations are available, recent bid and ask prices for the security, the issuer's position in and economic outlook of the industry and, if necessary, a review of similar securities in similar industries. Securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost. This method involves valuing a portfolio security initially at its cost and thereafter assumes a constant amortization to maturity of any discount or premium.

b) SECURITY TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED INVESTMENT INCOME: Security transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income, including amortization of premium and accretion of discount on securities, is recorded on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses on investments are recorded on the basis of identified cost.

c) FEDERAL INCOME TAXES: It is the policy of the Fund to continue to comply with the requirements of Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and distribute all of its net taxable income, including any net realized gains on investments, to its shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

d) REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS: The Fund is permitted to enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks or securities firms deemed creditworthy by the Adviser. A reverse repurchase agreement involves the sale of a security by the Fund, with an agreement to repurchase the same or substantially similar security at an agreed upon price and date. Securities purchased subject to repurchase agreements must have an aggregate market value greater than or equal to the repurchase price plus accrued interest at all times. Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the securities purchased with the proceeds from the sale of securities received by the Fund may decline below the price of the securities that the Fund is obligated to repurchase. There were no reverse repurchase agreements outstanding at December 31, 2005.

e) INTEREST RATE SWAP CONTRACTS: The Fund may enter into interest rate swap transactions. A swap is an agreement to exchange the return generated by one

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

instrument for the return generated by another instrument. The Fund may enter into interest rate swap agreements to manage its exposure to interest rate risk. Interest rate swap contracts involve the exchange by the Fund with another party of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest. Swaps are marked to market daily based upon quotations from market makers and the change in value, if any, is recorded as unrealized gain or loss in the Statement of Operations. Net payments of interest on interest rate swap contracts are included as part of realized gain or loss. Entering into these agreements involves, to varying degrees, elements of credit and market risk in excess of the amounts recognized on the Statement of Assets and

Liabilities. Such risks involve the possibility that there will be no liquid market for these agreements, that the counterparty to these agreements may default on its obligation to perform and that there may be unfavorable changes in interest rates. At December 31, 2005, the Fund had the following open swap agreements:

NOTIONAL AMOUNT	EXPIRATION DATE	DESCRIPTION
\$ 22,500,000	03/15/06	Agreement with Citibank N.A. dated 03/11/04 to pay the notional amount multiplied by 1.78% and to receive the notional amount multiplied by the 1 month U.S. Dollars -- London Interbank Offered Rate -- British Bankers Association (USD -- LIBOR -- BBA).
\$ 22,500,000	03/15/07	Agreement with Citibank N.A. dated 03/11/04 to pay the notional amount multiplied by 2.27% and to receive the notional amount multiplied by the 1 month U.S. Dollars -- London Interbank Offered Rate -- British Bankers Association (USD -- LIBOR -- BBA).
\$ 22,500,000	09/28/07	Agreement with Citibank N.A. dated 09/24/04 to pay the notional amount multiplied by 3.22% and to receive the notional amount multiplied by the 1 month U.S. Dollars -- London Interbank Offered Rate -- British Bankers Association (USD -- LIBOR -- BBA).

Periodically, the Fund receives from or deposits, with the counter party, a specific amount of cash equal to the market value of the interest rate swap contracts. At December 31, 2005, the Fund had \$1,226,000 payable for collateral on interest rate swap contracts under this arrangement.

NOTE 3 -- FEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

The Fund pays all expenses incurred in connection with the operations of the Fund. These expenses, among others, include custodian and fund accounting and administrative fees, legal and audit fees, fees and expenses of the disinterested Trustees, registration fees, and printing expenses.

The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee computed at an annual rate of 0.60% of the Fund's average daily "Managed Assets" (net assets, including assets attributable to any outstanding preferred shares, plus the aggregate principal amount of any borrowings). The Adviser is responsible for developing, implementing and supervising the Fund's investment program and providing certain administrative services to the Fund. The Adviser has retained Lehman Brothers

Asset Management LLC ("LBAM LLC") to serve as the sub-adviser of the Fund and to manage the Fund's investment portfolio. The Adviser compensates LBAM LLC for its services as sub-adviser. The Adviser pays LBAM LLC a monthly sub-advisory fee calculated at the following annual percentage rates of the Fund's average daily Managed Assets: 0.55% on the Fund's first \$25 million of Managed Assets, 0.45% on the next \$25 million of Managed Assets, 0.35% on the next \$50 million of Managed Assets, and 0.30% on Managed Assets that are in excess of \$100 million. The Adviser and LBAM LLC are wholly owned subsidiaries of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., a publicly traded corporation.

First Trust Portfolios L.P. ("First Trust") serves as the Fund's distribution and marketing agent, and investor servicing agent. As the Fund's distribution and marketing agent, First Trust provides certain distribution and marketing services for the Fund's common shares including preparing marketing materials and presentations, developing contacts with brokers whose clients may have an interest in acquiring Fund shares and replying to information requests from prospective investors. In consideration for these services, First Trust receives a fee paid by the Adviser.

First Trust, as the investor servicing agent, developed and maintains a website for the Fund, assists in the review of shareholder materials, assists in the dissemination of the Fund's net asset value and market price, provides ongoing shareholder and account maintenance services, replies to information requests from shareholders and aids in secondary market support. In consideration for these services, the Fund pays First Trust a monthly fee computed at the annual rate 0.05% of the Fund's average daily Managed Assets. For the year ended

21

December 31, 2005, the Fund paid First Trust, as the investor servicing agent, a fee equal to \$136,411.

The Fund pays no compensation to its officers or to its Trustees who are interested Trustees of the Adviser or its affiliates.

NOTE 4 -- INVESTMENT IN SECURITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2005, purchases and sales of investments, other than short-term securities, aggregated \$251,964,596 and \$258,950,264, respectively.

NOTE 5 -- MONEY MARKET CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES

The Fund is authorized to issue 3,750 Money Market Cumulative Preferred Shares ("MMP"), each without par value. On October 22, 2003, the Fund issued 3,600 MMP with proceeds of \$90,000,000 in a public offering. The underwriting commissions and offering costs of \$1,236,545 were incurred in connection with the offering and were charged directly to paid-in capital of the common shares. Distributions to preferred shareholders are cumulative at a rate which was established at the offering and is reset every twenty-eight days based on the results of an auction. The Fund pays commissions to certain broker-dealers at the end of each auction at an annual rate of 0.25%. For the year ended December 31, 2005, Lehman Government Securities, Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser, earned \$225,000 in commissions.

The MMP are redeemable at the option of the Fund at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, on any dividend payment date. The MMP are also subject to mandatory redemption at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if the Fund defaults on its asset maintenance requirements with respect to the MMP and fails to cure such a default within the time permitted. If the dividends on the

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

MMP shall remain unpaid in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of the MMP, as a class, have the right to elect a majority of the Board of Trustees. In general, the holders of the MMP and the common shares have equal voting rights of one vote per share, except that the holders of the MMP, as a separate class, have the right to elect at least two members of the Board of Trustees and to vote under certain other circumstances specified in the Fund's Amended By-Laws. The MMP have a liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends. The Fund is required to maintain certain asset coverage with respect to the MMP as defined in the Fund's Amended By-Laws and the 1940 Act.

NOTE 6 -- DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Fund intends to make monthly distributions of net investment income to common shareholders, after payments of any dividends on outstanding MMP. Distributions to common shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Distributions to preferred shareholders are recorded daily and are payable at the end of each dividend period. Each dividend payment period for the MMP is generally twenty-eight days. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the dividend rates for MMP ranged from 2.41% to 4.35%. The dividend rate for MMP on December 31, 2005 was 4.35%. In addition, at least annually, the Fund intends to distribute net capital gains, if any. The timing and characterization of certain income and capital gains distributions are determined in accordance with federal tax regulations which may differ from U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Permanent differences between book and tax accounting relating to distributions are reclassified to paid-in capital.

NOTE 7 -- SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST

The Fund's Declaration of Trust authorizes the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of common shares for the Fund, each without par value. Transactions in common shares were as follows:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004	
	SHARES	AMOUNT	SHARES	AMOUNT
Shares issued pursuant to the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan	8,148	\$ 120,786	8,448	\$ 128,713
Increase derived from capital share transactions	8,148	\$ 120,786	8,448	\$ 128,713

NOTE 8 -- CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Fund will normally invest at least 80% of its Managed Assets in investments offering high current income, which generally will be in the lower rating categories of recognized rating agencies. These investments are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations and will generally involve more credit risk than securities in the higher rating categories. In addition, the trading market for high yield investments may be relatively less liquid than the market for higher-rated investments.

NOTE 9 -- RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF LEVERAGE

The Fund's use of leverage through the issuance of preferred shares and borrowings, as well as the economic leverage inherent in certain derivatives, including credit default swaps, creates risks for holders of common shares. There is no assurance that the Fund's leveraging strategies will be successful. If the Fund issues preferred shares or borrows money to make additional investments and the income and capital appreciation from those investments exceed the dividends payable on the preferred shares or the costs of borrowing, the Fund's investment return will be greater than if leverage had not been used. However, if the dividends payable on the preferred shares or the costs of borrowing exceed the income and capital appreciation from the additional investments, the Fund would lose money and its investment return will be lower than if leverage had not been used. Leverage creates risks which may adversely affect the return for holders of common shares, including:

- (a) the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of the Fund's common shares;
- (b) the possibility either that common share income will fall if the preferred share dividend rate rises or the Fund's borrowing costs increase, or that common share income will fluctuate because of changes in the preferred share dividend rates or borrowing costs.

NOTE 10 -- INDEMNIFICATIONS

In the ordinary course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

NOTE 11 -- FEDERAL INCOME TAX INFORMATION

For the years ended December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, the tax character of distributions paid was \$21,925,912 and \$21,569,758 of ordinary income, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2005 the tax character of distributions for long term capital gains and return of capital was \$568,757 and \$49,045, respectively.

As of December 31, 2005, the components of accumulated earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

Capital and other losses	\$ (585,602)
Unrealized gains	4,420,050*

TOTAL ACCUMULATED EARNINGS	\$ 3,834,448

* The difference between book-basis and tax-basis net unrealized gains is attributed primarily to wash sales.

A permanent difference incurred during the period ended December 31, 2005, resulting from differences in book and tax accounting due to the tax treatment for paydown gains and losses on mortgage backed securities, the tax treatment for swaps and return of capital distributions, and a redesignation of distributions paid, has been reclassified at year end by increasing undistributed net income by \$1,388,978, decreasing undistributed realized gain by \$1,339,933 and decreasing paid in capital by \$49,045.

At December 31, 2005 the Fund elected to defer post October 31 net capital losses by \$585,602.

NOTE 12 -- SUBSEQUENT EVENT (UNAUDITED)

At its meeting held on February 15, 2006, the Board of Trustees of the Fund (the "Board") nominated for election as trustees of the Fund (at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Fund scheduled to be held on April 19, 2006) the following individuals: John Cannon, Faith Colish, C. Anne Harvey, Barry Hirsch, Robert A. Kavesh, Howard A. Mileaf, Edward I. O'Brien, Jack L. Rivkin, William E. Rulon, Cornelius T. Ryan, Tom D. Seip, Candace L. Straight, Peter E. Sundman and Peter P. Trapp. These individuals currently serve as the trustees/directors of the Neuberger Berman family of funds ("NB Trustees"). This family of funds is advised by an affiliate of Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc. ("LBAM"), the Fund's investment adviser. The current members of the Board have determined not to continue serving as Trustees of the Fund upon the election of the NB

23

Trustees as Trustees of the Fund. This determination was based on the Board's and the nominating committee's consideration of management's recommendation that the board oversight of the Fund be transitioned to the NB Trustees. Specifically, following thorough review of the matter, and based on representations from LBAM and representatives from NBMI (the investment adviser to the Neuberger Berman family of funds), the Board agreed that transitioning the Fund's governance to the NB Trustees would likely result in the realization of cost savings and operational efficiencies for the Fund and its shareholders. To accomplish this transition, and consistent with management's recommendation, the Board voted to nominate all of the NB Trustees for election as Trustees of the Fund.

OTHER INFORMATION

SHAREHOLDER VOTING RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

The annual meeting of the Trust's shareholders was held on May 25, 2005 at which shareholders considered and approved the following proposals. The voting results were the following:

With respect to the election of Stephanie E. Dolan as a Trustee of the Fund:

11,799,430.812 shares of Common Shares and MMP Shares, voting together as a single class, or 99.514% of shares cast, in the affirmative, with 57,670 shares, or 0.486% of shares cast, withheld;

With respect to the election of Scott Hall as a Trustee of the Fund:

11,803,145.812 shares of Common Shares and MMP Shares, voting together as a single class, or 99.545% of shares cast, in the affirmative, with 53,955 shares, or 0.455% of shares cast, withheld; and

With respect to the election of Michael M. Knetter as a Trustee of the Fund:

1,917 MMP shares, or 100% of shares cast, in the affirmative, with 0 shares or 0% of shares cast withheld.

25

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

To the Shareholders and Board of Trustees
Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund (the "Fund"), including the schedule of investments, as of December 31, 2005, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated therein. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2005, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers or by other appropriate auditing procedures where replies from brokers were not received. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund, at December 31, 2005, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated therein, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
February 10, 2006

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

The Fund has a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan") commonly referred to as an "opt-out" plan. Each common shareholder will have all distributions of dividends and capital gains automatically reinvested in additional common shares by Investors Bank & Trust Company, as agent for shareholders pursuant to the Plan (the "Plan Agent"), unless the shareholder elects to receive cash or unless the shares are registered in the name of a broker-dealer or other nominee (that is, in "street name") and the respective nominee does not participate in the Plan. For Plan participants, the Plan Agent will either (i) effect purchases of common shares under the Plan in the open market or (ii) distribute newly issued common shares of the Fund. Shareholders who elect not to participate in the Plan will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to the

shareholder of record (or if the shares are held in street or other nominee name, then to the nominee) by the Plan Agent, as dividend disbursing agent. Certain broker-dealers and nominees do not permit their clients to participate in dividend reinvestment plans. Shareholders whose common shares are held in the name of a broker or nominee should contact the broker or nominee to determine whether and how they may participate in the Plan.

The Plan Agent serves as agent for the shareholders in administering the Plan. After the Fund declares a dividend or makes a capital gain distribution, the Plan Agent will, as agent for the participants, either (i) receive the cash payment and use it to buy common shares in the open market, on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts or (ii) distribute newly issued common shares of the Fund on behalf of the participants. The Plan Agent will receive cash from the Fund with which to buy common shares in the open market if, on the determination date, the net asset value per share exceeds the market price per share plus estimated brokerage commissions on that date. The Plan Agent will receive the dividend or distribution in newly issued common shares of the Fund if, on the determination date, the market price per share plus estimated brokerage commissions equals or exceeds the net asset value per share of the Fund on that date. The number of shares to be issued will be computed at a per share rate equal to the greater of (i) the net asset value or (ii) 95% of the closing market price per share on the payment date.

Participants in the Plan may withdraw from the Plan upon written notice to the Plan Agent. Such withdrawal will be effective immediately if received not less than ten days prior to a distribution record date; otherwise, it will be effective for all subsequent dividend record dates. When a participant withdraws from the Plan or upon termination of the Plan as provided below, certificates for whole common shares credited to his or her account under the Plan will be issued and a cash payment will be made for any fraction of a common share credited to such account. In the alternative, upon receipt of the participant's instructions, common shares will be sold and the proceeds sent to the participant less brokerage commissions and any applicable taxes.

The Plan Agent maintains each shareholder's account in the Plan and furnishes confirmations of all acquisitions made for the participant. Common shares in the account of each Plan participant will be held by the Plan Agent on behalf of the participant. Proxy material relating to shareholders' meetings of the Fund will include those shares purchased as well as shares held pursuant to the Plan.

In the case of shareholders, such as banks, brokers or nominees, which hold common shares for others who are the beneficial owners, the Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of common shares certified from time to time by the record shareholders as representing the total amount registered in the record shareholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who are participants in the Plan.

The Plan Agent's fees for the handling of reinvestment of dividends and other distributions will be paid by the Fund. Each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Plan Agent's open market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of distributions. There are no other charges to participants for reinvesting dividends or capital gain distributions; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and other distributions will not relieve participants of any income tax that may be payable or required to be withheld on such dividends or distributions.

The Fund and the Plan Agent reserve the right to amend or terminate the Plan. All correspondence concerning the Plan should be directed to: Investors Bank & Trust Company, 200 Clarendon Street, Mail Stop OPS22, Boston, MA 02116

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

(Telephone) 800-988-5196.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS TABLE

Set forth below is information about the Trustees. The address for each Trustee is Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc., 399 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION WITH FUND	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
General James E. Dalton, (Retired) 10/17/1930	Trustee	Since June 2003	Formerly Vice President of Logicon Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman (1985-1998); formerly, General Manager of Logicon's Defense Technology Group (1995-1998).
Margaret M. Eisen 6/19/1953	Trustee	Since June 2003	Managing Director of Marketing, CFA Institute, since 2005; formerly, Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of EAM International, LLC, an investment banking and asset management firm (2003-2005); formerly, Managing Director of DeGuardiola Advisors, an investment bank (2001-2002); formerly, Managing Director of North American Equities of General Motors Investment Management Corporation (1995-2001).

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION WITH FUND	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
Michael M. Knetter 4/8/1960	Trustee	Since June 2003	Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business (since 2002); formerly, Professor of International Economics and Associate Dean at the Amos Tuck School of Business -- Dartmouth College (1997-2002).
Eugene A. Matthews 11/19/1958	Trustee	Since June 2003	President of Nintai, Incorporated, an investment advisory firm (since 1997); formerly, Senior Fellow of Asia Studies for the Council of Foreign Relations (2001-2003); formerly, Asia Studies Project Director for the Japan Economic Task Force and Leader of Asia Roundtable (2001-2003); Founding and General Partner of Apax-Globis Japan, Inc., a private equity investment firm (since 1998); formerly Founder/President of Ashta International, a Vietnamese investment firm (1989-1997).
George W. Morriss 9/24/1947	Trustee	Since June 2003	Formerly, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of People's Bank, a financial services company (1991-2001).

29

INTERESTED TRUSTEES:*

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION WITH FUND	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
Stephanie E. Dolan 4/4/1963	Trustee	Since June 2003	Managing Director of Lehman Brothers Inc., since January 2006; Senior Vice President of Lehman Brothers Inc. (since 2000); Controller of Lehman Brothers Asset

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

Management Inc. (since 2003).

Scott Hall 1/12/1957	Trustee	Since June 2003	Managing Director of First Trust Advisors L.P. and First Trust Portfolios L.P. (since 1992).
Kurt A. Locher 5/9/1966	Trustee	Since June 2003	Managing Director of Lehman Brothers Inc. (since 1998); Managing Director of Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc. (since 2003); formerly Director of BNC Mortgage Inc. (2000-2004), Finance America LLC (1999-2004), and TrueLink Inc. (1999-2004); formerly, President of Lehman Brothers Bank, F.S.B. (1999-2000); formerly, Senior Vice President of Lehman Brothers Inc. (1995-1998).

* Stephanie E. Dolan and Kurt A. Locher are "interested persons" of the Fund, as such term is defined by the 1940 Act, by virtue of their officerships with Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc., the investment adviser to the Fund ("Lehman Brothers" or the "Adviser"). Scott Hall is an "interested person" of the Fund, as such term is defined by the 1940 Act, by virtue of his employment with First Trust Portfolios LP, the Fund's servicing agent and distribution and marketing agent.

Set forth below is information about the officers of the Fund. Each officer serves for a one-year term. The address for each officer is Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc., 399 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION WITH FUND	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
-----	-----	-----
Bradley Tank 9/29/1957	President	Chief Executive Officer of Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc. Global Head of Fixed Income Asset Management for Lehman Brothers Inc. Executive Officer and Managing Director of Lehman Brothers Inc. formerly, Director of Fixed Income for Strong Capital Management Group, Inc. Wisconsin (1990-2002).

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH	POSITION WITH FUND	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
-----	-----	-----
Edward Grieb 9/22/1961	Treasurer	Chief Financial Officer of Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc. (since 2003) and Assistant Controller for Lehman Brothers Inc.
Stephanie E. Dolan 4/4/1963	Assistant Treasurer	Managing Director of Lehman Brothers Inc., since January 2000; Controller of Lehman Brothers Inc. (since 2003).
Jonathan Morris 3/1/1956	Secretary	Senior Vice President of Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc. and General Counsel for Lehman Brothers' Investment Management Group. Formerly, Senior Vice President of Lehman Brothers private investment management business and investment advisory business (since 1997).

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

Rainer L.C. Frost 3/5/1957	Assistant Secretary	Director and Counsel, Investors Bank & Trust Company Counsel, Clarity Group (2000-2005); Chief Administrator, Vice-President and General Counsel, GoldK, Inc. (2001-2005); General Counsel, Norfox Software, Inc. (1999-2000).
Chamaine Williams 1/29/1971	Chief Compliance Officer	Vice President, Lehman Brothers Inc., since 2003; Chief registered investment companies for which Neuberger Berman and administrator, since 2005; Chief Compliance Officer, Management Inc., since 2003; Chief Compliance Officer, Investment Management LLC, since 2003; formerly, Vice Management (U.S.) Inc. (formerly, Mitchell Hutchins & Co., a subsidiary of Paine Webber Inc.), 1997-2003.

The Fund's Statement of Additional Information includes additional information about the Trustees of the Fund and is available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-988-5196 or visiting the Fund's website at www.lbftincomeopportunity.com.

A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-988-5196, (2) on the Fund's website at www.lbftincomeopportunity.com and (3) on the Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12 month period ended June 30, 2005 is available (1) on the Fund's website www.lbftincomeopportunity.com and (2) on the Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

In accordance with Section 303A.12 (a) of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual, the Fund's Annual CEO Certification certifying as to compliance with NYSE's Corporate Governance Listing Standards was submitted to the Exchange on June 13, 2005.

The Fund files a complete schedule of investments with the Commission for the first and third quarters of its fiscal year on Form N-Q, which when filed will be available on the Commission's website at www.sec.gov. The Fund's Form N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room, which may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330.

31

LEHMAN BROTHERS

(C) 2005 Lehman Brothers Inc. All Rights Reserved. LB10183

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, there were no amendments to a provision of the code of ethics, nor were there any waivers granted from a provision of the code of ethics. A copy of the Registrant's code of ethics is filed with this Form N-CSR under Item 12(a)(1).

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

The Registrant's Board of Trustees designated George Morriss as the Registrant's Audit Committee Financial Expert. George Morriss is deemed "independent" for purposes of this item because (i) he does not accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory, or compensatory fee from the issuer (other than in his

capacity as a committee member or a member of the board of trustees); and (ii) he is not an "interested person" of the Registrant as that term is defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

- (a) AUDIT FEES: The aggregate fees billed to the Registrant for professional services rendered by its independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, for the audit of the Registrant's annual financial statements for the year ended 2005 and 2004 were \$34,500, and \$36,400.
- (b) AUDIT RELATED FEES: The aggregate fees billed to the Registrant for professional services rendered by its independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, for the the initial and year end agreed upon procedures reporting for the preferred shares for the years ended 2005 and 2004 were \$6,000 and \$5,400, respectively.
- (c) TAX FEES: The aggregate fees accrued for professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning for the years ended 2005 and 2004 were \$8,700 and \$4,250, respectively. Such services included the preparation of the year-end tax provision and excise tax work.
- (d) ALL OTHER FEES: The aggregate fees billed to the Registrant for professional services rendered by its independent auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, other than services reported in Audit Fees, Audited-Related Fees, and Tax Fees for years ended 2005 and 2004 were \$0 and \$0, respectively.
- (e) (1) The Registrant's Audit Committee pre-approved the provision of audit and non-audit services by Ernst & Young LLP for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004. The Registrant has not delegated the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services to a member of the audit committee. Rather, any action of the audit committee with respect to the pre-approval process requires the vote of a majority of the audit committee members present, whether in person or otherwise, at the meeting at which such action is considered. One member of the audit committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking any action.
(2) The percentage of services described in each of paragraphs (b) through (d) of this Item that were approved by the audit committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X are as follows:
 - (b) 100%
 - (c) 100%
 - (d) 100%
- (f) Not applicable.

2

- (g) Aggregate non-audit fees billed to the Registrant by the Registrant's accountant for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 were \$14,700 and \$9,650, respectively

Aggregate non-audit fees billed to the investment adviser or sub-adviser by the Registrant's accountant were \$165,450 and \$167,550 for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. In addition to the services outlined under "Tax

Edgar Filing: LEHMAN BROTHERS FIRST TRUST INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSR

Fees" and "Audit-Related Fees", these services include AIMR attestation work performed by our New York City Office for the adviser.

- (h) Non-audit services rendered to the Registrant's investment adviser and any adviser affiliate that were not pre-approved pursuant to Paragraph (c) (7) (ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X were considered by the Registrant's audit committee as to whether they were compatible with maintaining the principal accountant's independence.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

The Board of Trustees of the Registrant established an audit committee for the purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Registrant and audits of the financial statements of the Registrant in accordance with Section 3(a) (58) (A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

To be eligible to serve as a member of the Registrant's audit committee, a trustee must be an "Independent Trustee," which term shall mean a Trustee (i) who is not an "interested person," as that term is defined in Section 2(a) (19) of the 1940 Act, as amended of the Registrant; and (ii) who has not accepted directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the Registrant (other than fees for serving as a trustee or committee member).

The Registrant's Audit Committee Members are:

James E. Dalton
Margaret M. Eisen
Michael M. Knetter
Eugene A. Matthews
George Morriss

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

The Board of the Registrant has delegated to the Registrant's sub-advisor (the "Sub-Advisor") the authority to vote proxies on behalf of the Fund and has approved the Sub-Advisor's proxy voting guidelines and procedures. A copy of the Sub-Advisor's proxy voting procedures and guidelines are filed with this Form N-CSR under Item 12(b).

ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

(a) Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies is attached

ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Not applicable to this registrant.

ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

3

None.

ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) The Registrant's Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer concluded that the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940) were effective as of a date within 90 days prior to the filing date of this report, based on their evaluation of the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as of the Evaluation Date.

(b) There were no significant changes in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act) that occurred during the second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

- (a) (1) Sox Code of Ethics is attached
- (a) (2) Section 302 Certification letters are attached
- (b) Proxy voting procedures and guidelines are attached.
- (c) Section 906 Certifications are attached.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act and the 1940 Act, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Lehman Brothers First Trust Income Opportunity Fund

By: /S/ Bradley Tank

Bradley Tank, President/Chief Executive Officer
Date: 3/07/06

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act and the 1940 Act, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /S/ Bradley Tank

Bradley Tank, President/Chief Executive Officer
Date: 03/07/06

4

By: /S/ Edward Grieb

Edward Grieb, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
Date: 3/09/06

PORTFOLIO MANAGER INFORMATION

Lehman Brothers Asset Management Inc. serves as investment adviser to the Fund, with overall responsibility for overseeing the Fund's management. Lehman Brothers Asset Management LLC ("LBAM LLC") serves as investment sub-adviser to the Fund and has day-to-day responsibility for managing the Fund's portfolio of investments. Information relating to the portfolio managers for the Fund is presented below.

Ann H. Benjamin has served as lead portfolio manager for the Fund since its inception. She is the managing director and chief investment officer of high yield for LBAM LLC. She serves as the lead portfolio manager for all of LBAM LLC's high yield strategy accounts. Ann H. Benjamin has been with LBAM LLC since March 1, 1997.

Thomas P. O'Reilly has served as portfolio and credit analyst for the Fund since its inception. He is a senior vice president and portfolio manager for LBAM LLC. He serves as portfolio and credit analyst for all of LBAM LLC's high yield strategy accounts. Thomas P. O'Reilly has been with LBAM LLC since July 1, 1997.

OTHER ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY PORTFOLIO MANAGERS AS OF 12/31/05

The table below contains information about other accounts managed by the Fund's primary portfolio managers.

	ANN H. BENJAMIN -----	THOMAS P. O'REILLY -----
REGISTERED INVESTMENT COMPANIES		
Total Accounts Managed	5	5
Total Assets Managed	\$1.1 billion	\$1.1 billion
Accounts with Performance Fees	None	None
Assets with Performance Fees	None	None
OTHER POOLED INVESTMENT VEHICLES		
Total Accounts Managed	3	3
Total Assets Managed	\$0.1 billion	\$0.1 billion
Accounts with Performance Fees	None	None
Assets with Performance Fees	None	None
	5	
OTHER ACCOUNTS		
Total Accounts Managed	31	31
Total Assets Managed	\$3.8 billion	\$3.8 billion
Accounts with Performance Fees	1	1
Assets with Performance Fees	\$86 million	\$86 million
TOTAL ACCOUNTS MANAGED	39	39
TOTAL ASSETS MANAGED	\$5.1 billion	\$5.1 billion

The Fund's portfolio managers may manage other accounts with investment strategies similar to those of the Fund, which may suggest the potential for conflicts of interest. LBAM LLC may charge varying fees to different accounts managed by the portfolio managers. The Fund's portfolio managers may participate personally in some pooled accounts, including the Fund. LBAM LCC may manage

accounts with variable fees based on performance. Theoretically, these features could create an incentive for a portfolio manager to favor the higher or variable fee accounts, or accounts in which he or she participates, which may not include the Fund. However, the Fund does not anticipate that management by a Fund portfolio manager of other accounts with a similar investment strategy would conflict with the management of the Fund. LBAM LLC has a fundamental policy to bundle trades for all accounts managed, which LBAM LLC believes promotes best execution. LBAM LLC dedicates high yield trading personnel to focus on purchasing bonds within the levels established by the portfolio managers. LBAM LLC observes the following practices and policies as part of its trading strategies: 1) adherence to the requirement that best execution is the sole criterion for evaluating trades; 2) policies and procedures requiring fair treatment of all clients; 3) professional conduct requirements mandating the primacy of the best interests of clients; 4) a policy against directing soft dollar credits to individual brokers on behalf of individual clients; 5) trading positions for all portfolios or accounts together; 6) seeking competitive bids for purchases and sales, to the extent possible; and 7) close attention to the orderly handling of cash flows. LBAM LLC manages its various portfolios and accounts without regard to management fees.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER COMPENSATION

All portfolio managers are employed and compensated by LBAM LLC, the investment sub-adviser for the Fund. LBAM LLC evaluates the performance of portfolio managers in light of LBAM LLC's success in meeting its clients stated goals and objectives (i.e. the performance of a client's portfolio; while fees for most of the high yield portfolios or accounts LBAM LLC manages are not based on performance, the performance of a portfolio or account is relevant to the portfolio manager's compensation). Based on this performance evaluation, each portfolio manager earns annual compensation comprised of a salary and bonus. A portion of bonuses may be paid through the Lehman Brothers Stock Award Program, which includes restricted stock units or options with specific terms on vesting and forfeiture.

In addition to the annual compensation and Lehman equity, a portfolio manager's success is tied to the company's success through participation in the company's Incentive Payment Pool (IPP). The IPP will be valued at a fixed multiple of future earnings. Payouts will begin in 2007 and extend through 2009.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SHARES OF THE FUND AS OF 12/31/05

NAME OF PORTFOLIO MANAGER	DOLLAR RANGE OF SHARES IN THE FUND
-----	-----
Ann H. Benjamin	\$50,001 to \$100,000
Thomas P. O'Reilly	\$10,001 to \$50,000