

## EXCERPTS FROM *FAREWELL TO DANNY*

Memories of playing in the Monmouth College gym were a part of Bruce Springsteen's heartfelt eulogy for bandmate Danny Federici. Federici, who was the E Street Band's organist and keyboard player for 40 years, died April 17 after a three year battle with melanoma.



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & DANNY FEDERICI NOVEMBER 18, 2007 PHOTO: A.M. SADDLER/BACKSTREETS

Maybe it was the "police riot" in Middletown, New Jersey... Danny allegedly knocked over our huge Marshall stacks on some of Middletown's finest who had rushed the stage because we broke the law by...playing too long.

...A warrant out for his arrest and one month on the lam later, he still hadn't been brought to justice...We had a show coming at Monmouth College. We needed the money and we had to do the gig...So Danny, to all of our admiration, stepped up and said he'd risk his freedom, take the chance and play.

Show night. 2,000 screaming fans in the Monmouth College gym. We had it worked out so Danny would not appear onstage until the moment we started playing. We figured the police who were there to arrest him wouldn't do so onstage during the show and risk starting another riot.

Let me set the scene for you. Danny is hiding, hunkered down in the backseat of a car in the parking lot. At five minutes to eight, our scheduled start time, I go out to whisk him in. I tap on the window.

"Danny, come on, it's time."

I hear back, "I'm not going."

Me: "What do you mean you're not going?"

Danny: "The cops are on the roof of the gym. I've seen them and they're going to nail me the minute I step out of this car."

...So I used a procedure I'd call on often over the next forty years in dealing with my old pal's concerns. I threatened him...and cajoled. Finally, out he came. Across the parking lot and into the gym we swept for a rapturous concert during which we laughed like thieves at our excellent dodge of the local cops.

...Finally, I watched him fight his cancer without complaint and with great courage and spirit. When I asked him how things looked, he just said, "what are you going to do? I'm looking forward to tomorrow." Danny, the sunny side up fatalist. He never gave up right to the end.

The full text of the eulogy is available at Bruce Springsteen's official site, [www.springsteen.net](http://www.springsteen.net). To contribute to the Danny Federici Melanoma Fund, please visit: [www.thedannyfedericimelanomafund.com](http://www.thedannyfedericimelanomafund.com).