



"A few days later he saw me on the street and he came up to me and put his arm around me and said, 'Danny, you're a good boy.'"

Dan graduated from Gordon High School and hauled off to Chadron State College in a '57 Chevy, compliments of his parents. After a semester (or maybe a whole year, I'm uncertain) he put in his walking papers and headed for the big time.

I have little idea how he spent the early years at the University—that was the point of conducting the interview I explained about. But one of the things he did was start taking photographs. If there's one thing that people identify with Dan (maybe two: 'well, he's this guy with a big moustache') it's his photography. Many of his photographs are remarkable.

His first photograph for the *Daily Nebraskan* appeared on September 13, 1967 and featured a snow fence and some mud. The occasion was the excavation of Hamilton Hall.

In the years since then he's had innumerable photos in the *Daily Nebraskan*. A lot of the early ones are amazing for their techniques (for instance, a double exposure of a dollar bill over a University scene as a budget story illustration.)

The more recent ones seem to be amazing in that they capture the spirit of the subjects so well. One of the most astounding photographs I've seen to illustrate a news story was one Dan took only a month or so ago to illustrate a story about the Lincoln Office of Mental Retardation (LOMR) possibly losing funds. It pictured a small boy with tears welling huge in his eyes and just

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## a letter from Mom

Dear *Daily Nebraskan*:

First of all let me say this is a very nice thing you're doing for Dan.

And it will be a big surprise to him.

Enclosed find photos, just use what you need.

Danny was raised on a ranch until he was six years old. We then moved into Gordon as Mr. Ladely's health was not too good.

Danny started to school in the country, went to school two years out in the country.

The rest of his schooling was here in Gordon.

Danny just had a normal childhood. Had pets which consisted of dog, cats, calves and lambs.

Danny always liked school and did real good in it. He's always been a very devoted child. A happy-go-lucky boy.

He started playing in the band when he was in the fifth grade. He spent eight years playing in the band.

He always took a part in all school activities. He was student manager for three years for the football boys and for the wrestlers.

Dan graduated in 1965 at the age of 17 years. He spent one year in college at Chadron State College. From there he transferred to Lincoln, spending the rest of his college days at the University of Nebraska.

Danny's the only child in our family. Both of his grandmothers are still alive. Both his grandfathers are dead. He's loved dearly by all who know Dan.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Leo Ladely  
Gordon, Nebr.



Ladely and his father Leo at home in Gordon.