

HE DOESN'T NEED YOUR SYMPATHY!

DAVID CASSIDY IS A MAN

A lot of people have a lot of misconceptions about a young man named David Cassidy.

Certain facts about him are, of course, indisputable: his phenomenal success at the age of 22, and the talent and charm which make him deserve it.

He has his troubles, too—that's another indisputable fact. But that's also where the misconceptions arise. Apart from the normal hurdles that life presents to a young adult just establishing himself on his own, his problems are only two: lack of privacy and family difficulties.

Certainly these problems are real, but they have been blown up, by his sympathetic fans and by numerous publications, out of all proportion.

His unique position as the beloved idol of countless teenagers and pre-teens brings him \$250,000 per year from concert appearances alone. Then there is his salary as the unofficial but undeniable star of his television show *The Partridge Family*. Add to that his share of the profits from all the sales items to which he lends his name—books, records, buttons, posters, etc.—and you have a considerable figure.

In return for all these material benefits David has had to sacrifice almost all his personal privacy and freedom of movement. He is confined to a minimum of locations. They are the studio where

his series is filmed, his own home, which he has had to re-locate twice when too many of his fans found him, and the homes of his personal friends and family.

What happens if David tries to go anywhere else or behave as a normal guy his age might have been amply demonstrated. He is spotted and recognized by first one or a couple of fans, then in no time besieged by a mob of them.

But is David really so much to be pitied for this inconvenience? No. Make no mistake about it, it's all worth it to him.

He didn't and couldn't know, of course, when he started the show, how his fame would spread like wildfire. But now he knows, and he's doing nothing to counteract it. He knows exactly what he's doing when he sings and dances so appealingly for all those girls. He knows they love his every wiggle and it suits him fine, for he loves them too.

Surrounded by all that love, David isn't suffering, not even with all the sometimes frightening frenzy that accompanies the adoration.

His comment after witnessing one of Elvis Presley's concerts was insightful. (David, disguised with a fake beard and mustache, attends concerts of other stars whenever he can.) The thing that really struck him about Elvis was, as he