

DAVID STRIKES BACK!!

David Cassidy—Tired Of The False Rumors That He's Being Replaced By A Four-Year-Old Singer—Snarls, Scratches— & Bites Back!!

Just after the Late News on a national TV network early last July, a lady "gossip columnist" came on the air to advise the world that "... David Cassidy, co-star on *The Partridge Family* show, is being replaced by a four-year-old actor-singer-musician!" The lady went on to say that Screen Gems' long-time search for a replacement for David had finally come to an end with the casting of little Ricky Segall as the *brand-new PF* regular co-star!! There was no initial response to this lady's biased and untrue "news item," because most *SPEC*-ers don't bother to look at her show. *But*—as 'twill often happen—rumors began to spread, exaggeration crept in, and letters started coming to *SPEC* demanding to know the truth. As one David Cassidy lover and *SPEC* reader put it, "How on earth can a four-year-old—no matter how talented or cute he is—ever replace our beloved David Cassidy?! It doesn't seem possible—and I don't believe it's true!" **EXAGGERATION & MANIPULATION.** Of course, it's *not true!* What seems to have happened is just that the lady, desperate for a "hot news item," simply manipulated and exaggerated a Screen Gems announcement that Ricky had been signed to play a newly-created role in *The Partridge Family '73-74* series. Naturally, the fact that David had publicly announced that he was "retiring" from *PF* at the end of the '74 season *had* indeed inspired the Screen Gems executives to start searching for a possible new young male interest. Over 250 attractive and talented young actors and/or singers were interviewed in the search for the new "Keith." Ultimately, Screen Gems decided to try out several young performers in guest shots and see which one seemed to be the most appealing to this long-running, high-rating series' large and loyal audience. At press-time, cute 18-year-old comedian Alan Bursky had been signed for a couple of regular slots, and two other teen favorites are still very much in the running. **DAVID TAKES A STAND** As luck would have it—or was it fate?—a long (16-week) screen writers strike gave an over-worked and exhausted David an unexpected vacation, so that by mid-summer David was in fine fettle—in fact, ready to *snarl, scratch and bite back* at all those "Hollywood types" who were trying to bury him under such rumors as "being replaced by a four-year-old!!" So suddenly David arose—like the legendary phoenix—reborn anew out of his own ashes! And nowadays David is not only hemming-and-hawing about maybe staying on for yet another season on *The Partridge Family*, he is very definitely back in the recording business—and will *soon* be back in the live, in-person, concert appearance business! In fact, David is so concerned about the rumors that he was "quitting show business" that he wrote *16-SPEC* a special letter assuring one and all that such is *not* the case. On top of which David issued the following terse, but to the point "good news" bulletin: **DAVID CASSIDY TO REMAIN WITH PARTRIDGE FAMILY!** "David Cassidy will co-star in every episode of Screen Gems' ABC-TV comedy series *The Partridge Family* during the forthcoming fourth season. Contrary to industry rumors, David Cassidy has one more year to run on his contract with the studio and Ricky Segall, a four-year-old singer recently signed to *The Partridge Family*, will be playing a newly-created role in the series and is *not* intended as a replacement for David Cassidy!" And here's

another *good news* item for you DC-*PF* lovers—*now* our boy David isn't so *sure* about wanting to leave the show. In fact, if the ratings stay up in the new *Partridge Family* time slot, David *may* decide to stay with the series for yet another year—*The Partridge Family's* fifth season! (Keep ya' fingers crossed!)

