

David Cassidy says adulation of sweatshirt set something of drag

By DICK KLEINER

HOLLYWOOD — When The Partridge Family began, it proved to be just another situation comedy. But what it did have was TV's first teeny-bopper idol — David Cassidy. And that proved to be enough.

Cassidy has become a major star out of the lightweight show. He is the darling of most young girls between 13 and 18. And it's getting to be something of a drag.

"The adulation is a drag," Cassidy says.

But it's something that perhaps comes naturally. His father, Jack Cassidy, went through some of the same, although not at such a fever pitch, during several points in his career.

"I can't do much dating," says David, sadly, and he's a young man who likes his dating. "The girls I meet are either one of two kinds — they're either too aggressive or, to compensate, they're too much the other way.

"The only dates I have are with a couple of old friends, but I don't even have much time for that."

He says because of being such a hero to the sweatshirt set, his whole private life is cramped.

"I HAVEN'T been able to see a movie in a year," he says, "and I have a terrible craving to see one."

For a while, he tried using a disguise so he could go out in public without being mobbed. He had a fake beard and dark glasses and it seemed to work.

"But," he says, "after being in make-up all day, it's just too much trouble to put it on."

With the show finished shooting for the season, he's got a need to get off somewhere where he can be himself, by himself. So he's going to Europe, only this isn't one of those first-class tours.

"I'm just going to bum around," he says. "I'll rent a camper in Rome and just take off. I figure the Europeans won't recognize me — the show is seen in some European countries, but I'll go to the others."

Cassidy grew up in New Jersey, with his mother (actress Evelyn Ward) and his grandparents. His parents were divorced when he was six, and he says it was tough on him.

"I didn't see my father too much," he says. "He was in California, I was in New Jersey. I missed him."