

Hollywood Hotline

The latest word from David Cassidy is that he not only plans to leave "The Partridge Family" next year — he'd like to retire from show business entirely.

The young man is in a terribly confused mood these days, not sure of what he wants for the future — but suddenly determined he wants more out of life than work.

Looking back upon his struggle to hoist himself from the status of just one of the supporting players on the ABC "Partridge" tree to an international teen idol and recording star, he says, "I became so wrapped up in a frenzy of work that I lost touch with myself. I ended up in a very bad frame of mind."

He faults the business that has been responsible for his glory as, "Having the knack of making a person forget who he actually is and what life is all about." And he looks forward to finishing his series' commitment, heading out on a final world concert tour. "And then settling down on the farm I own in Maui, Hawaii. I already have six thoroughbreds and would like to get into the racehorse-breeding business."

What he'd like now doesn't necessarily correlate with what he'll actually do next year, of course.

Between series chores and recording dates, he's been working night and day for the last several months and complains, "I'm beat. Just beat!"

His physical condition undoubtedly has a lot to do with his current mental mood — with his disillusionment toward acting ("I've decided it's work I don't enjoy"), and his depression with life in general.

Once David Cassidy has had some time to rest, I won't be surprised if he's back pursuing the same old dream of wanting to topple Elvis Presley from his throne as king of the long-time pop performers.