

DAVID CASSIDY may look the same, but his tremendous new album "The Higher They Climb" on R.C.A. RS.1012 presents a view of Cassidy that is worlds away from the teenage rave of the Partridge Family TV series—who, let's face it, was fast becoming a no-talent bore to everyone, including himself! That's why he took time out a year ago to "retire" and rediscover his real self.

R.C.A. signed him to a brand new recording contract, and David found the musicians & writers he needed to help him build his new contemporary image. Then came the sessions in Hollywood with **Bruce Johnston & Carl Wilson** (Beach Boys), **Flo & Eddie** (ex Turtles, Zappa), **Jerry Beckley & Dewey Bunnell** (of the group America), **Harry Nilsson & Richie Furay**, with other top West Coast musicians including **Bill House**. Cassidy co-produced with Bruce Johnston, and the resulting album—which loosely follows a theme describing the rise & fall of a pop superstar—is an outstanding success that fully justifies David's obsession to shrug off the Partridge associations. It proves beyond doubt that he can rock 'n' roll with the best of them and that he's now a man to be taken seriously.

Opening track (written by David) is "When I'm a Rock 'n' Roll Star"—a real groover follows, Cassidy's version of Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-a-Lula" that wouldn't disgrace the originator. His current 45 "I write the Songs" plus an early Nilsson song "This could be the Night" and a super re-work of the Wilson/Love song "Darlin'" ends the side. Side 2 opens with the controversial "Get it up for Love", followed by another Cassidy original "Fix of your Love", a satirical dialogue piece "Massacre at Park Bench"—unexpected, this! "Common Thief", a Bill House song, and "Love in Bloom" closes the L.P.



Arrangements & musicianship throughout the album are excellent, but it is David's own vocal performance that will most delight & amaze his loyal followers. His comment: "This is me spitting it all out. A therapy album!" Our comment: The therapy should continue indefinitely!