



verdict has been an overwhelming "FAN-tastic"!

I have spoken to a number of Cassidy fan-cliers, and without a single exception, they have agreed that the new Cassidy is, if anything, better than the "old".

I spoke to Janice Furlong, an 18-year-old dental assistant from Anaheim, California.

She told me, "I started following David's career when he first appeared on *The Partridge Family*. I was hooked, and I really did dig him for a long time.

"But after awhile, I got the feeling that, even though what he was doing was fantastic, we were still only seeing a fraction of what David could really do.

"The first thing that happened to confirm my opinion was a 're-run' of one of David's early appearances on a television show called *Medical Center*.

"In this show, David played a boy who was slowly dying of an incurable disease. I then realised that *The Partridge Family*, as good as it was, was only allowing David to use a small part of his talent.

"Then, I bought *Dreams Are Nuthin' More Than Wishes*, and I was so excited after hearing it that I telephoned all my friends, just to tell them about it."

I asked Janice if she had heard either of the singles that David had released since that time.

"I managed to buy a copy of 'If I Didn't Care', thanks to one of my friends' pen pals, in Hull, England. I was so surprised—usually, you expect to hear roughly the same sort thing, which is nice.

"'But 'If I Didn't Care' was so layed back and beautiful, I really went into orbit after hearing it."

I next asked if Janice was still as devoted a fan of David's as she had been in the days of *The Partridge Family*.

"It's funny you should ask that. Three or four years ago, I think that I would have fainted if I had met David.

## REAL PERSON

"But now, since I've been able to see what a really talented guy he is, I guess I've changed a bit, too.

"I think that, if I met him now, it would seem more like—gosh, I don't know—like meeting a real person, I guess.

"Before, I probably would have been more excited. But now, even though I like him just as much, I think I understand him a whole lot better. It's like he's become a real person in my eyes."

This is generally what seems to be happening to David's American fans. They seem to have realised that David wants to be himself and, far from disliking him for it, most of them seem to like him even more for his honesty and openness.

Caroline Sanchez, a 17-year-old high school student from Tarzana, a suburb of Los Angeles, put it this way.

"When David was in *The Partridge Family*, I always wondered why such a cute guy would be in such a dumb show.

"I liked his music, but it wasn't until he made *Dreams Are Nuthin' More Than Wishes* that I got really into it. Now, thanks to a friend of mine

whose father is stationed in the Air Force in Alconbury—that's in Huntingdonshire in England—I've been able to get hold of both 'If I Didn't Care' and 'Please Please Me'. And I can honestly say that these two songs are my all-time favourites."

I next wondered if Caroline would still go to one of David's concerts, if he returned to the centre of public attention.

"Well, I would like to see him on stage again. After all, it's almost two years since he's done a gig here. But I would rather see him doing smaller, more intimate venues, instead of the giant auditoriums that he used to play.

"I think that they're more suitable to his personality."

That concludes Linda's report. Apparently from her research (which included a number of interviews which we didn't have space to print), David's American fans have responded very well to his new image.

The question is, how will WE respond to this new phase. Will David's British fans be as loyal as the American fans are proving to be?

Will we continue to show our support by buying his records and, when he does appear in a film or television show, how will we respond?

It's an important question, because, if we like David, you can be sure that he will acknowledge our appreciation by coming back again.

That's the only way we can ever let him know that we're behind him. So, until then, let's follow the example of the American fans by sitting tight and waiting for the next look at David.