



A LETTER

EXCLUSIVE FaVE COLUMN!

FROM DAVID CASSIDY

Hi! I'm David Cassidy and each month here in FaVE, I'll be answering your questions. I want you to know that I'll try to read as many letters as

I can each month and then decide what you most want to know. Hope in the meantime you watch our show "The Partridge Family," every Friday

night on ABC-TV.

Send your questions to: Letter for David Cassidy, 1800 N. Highland Ave., Suite 600, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

Friendship

Hi!

Did you ever notice how much easier it is to have lots of friends when you're a little kid? It seems the older you get, the harder it is to have really good friends.

I remember when I was small, living in the suburbs of New Jersey. The street my house was on was my whole world in those days, and there were plenty of kids my age to share it with. We played all the usual games, like our own versions of football, baseball and basketball. I guess I was pretty outgoing, because I always had plenty of people to do things with, and we had a lot of fun growing up together.

When I started school, I became a real sports nut, and I was always involved in one team or another. So I was still doing things in big groups. I don't think I would have been able to count all the people I knew then that I counted as good friends.

Things began to change a little when I moved out to California. I was around 10 or 11 then, and I became very good buddies with a guy named Larry, who lived next door to me. We were the same age, in the same class at school, and had one other great thing in common: music! Larry played the guitar, and it was through him that I first became interested in learning how to play.

Larry taught me some of the basics

of handling the guitar, and I realized that I had found something I would love for the rest of my life! We'd spend hours together just practicing, and we even wrote some of our own arrangements.

It was with Larry that I went to my first school dance—in the fifth or sixth grade. I remember how much fun it was getting all dressed up and having somebody to share all the excitement with!

When he moved, we both drifted apart and it was some time later that I heard Larry had been killed in a tragic accident. The shock and deep sadness I felt has never completely left me, because we had, at least for a time, been as close as brothers.

As I grew up and went through high school, my interest in sports was replaced by another: girls! And because I usually went with one girl at a time, and was no longer so deeply involved with the team activities that bring guys together, I had more what I would call "acquaintances" than friends.

But I was maturing during this time too, and along with this I think you start to find out who you are and become more attracted to people who are in tune with you. I began to realize that I am kind of a loner. Not that I don't need people, because I do! But that it isn't necessary for me to be with a big crowd all the time to be happy.

Someone asked me just recently if I had one good friend or a lot of half-friends. I think I'm lucky that I do have some very close friends, but I would say that a lot of people I know are just acquaintances. A special problem of being an actor is that some of the people I meet only want to know me as David Cassidy-actor.

Maybe that's why almost all the people I feel I truly like and who like me are not even in show business. I mean, I'm still *me*, and I want to be liked for myself, whether I am working in a TV show or in a gas station!

I think I've said before that I'm shy when I first meet someone. I kind of hold back a little until I get to know and understand them better. I can be the biggest extrovert in the world, but only after I'm pretty sure that I'm liked for myself!

To me, being a good friend to someone has nothing to do with material things. The things you give to each other should be much more than that—a mutual sharing like Larry and I had with our music. There should be trust and honesty between you, and a respect for one another.

It's hard to find a good friend, and just as hard to be one. I haven't always succeeded, but I'm always trying, because I feel there isn't anything in the world that is more important!

David