

# A Letter From DAVID

## EXCLUSIVE IN FaVE!

David reads each and every letter you send to this column, and he promises to answer as many of your questions as he can! If you want some info, write him c/o FaVE Magazine, 1800 N. Highland Avenue, Suite 600, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

## You Can't Run Away From Your Problems

You know how you'll do something one day and then think about it over and over again for months? Well, that happened to me recently. I took two vacations right in a row. First I went to Arizona and camped out and then I went to Hawaii and laid in the sun.

I guess I'm telling you this to lead up to what I want to write about this month—problems! Like we've all got problems, don't we? I mean, I don't like getting up in the morning and sometimes I feel like the most un-talented actor that ever lived and I forget my lines and I get mad at myself. And you've got parent problems and brother-sister problems and trouble with your friends or teachers. Right?

What I'm driving at is that going away is a good way to get rid of your problems—temporarily, that is. When I went to Hawaii, I didn't give a thought to a particularly tough script that I had coming up. And it felt good—until I got back and had to work like crazy to be able to handle my role.

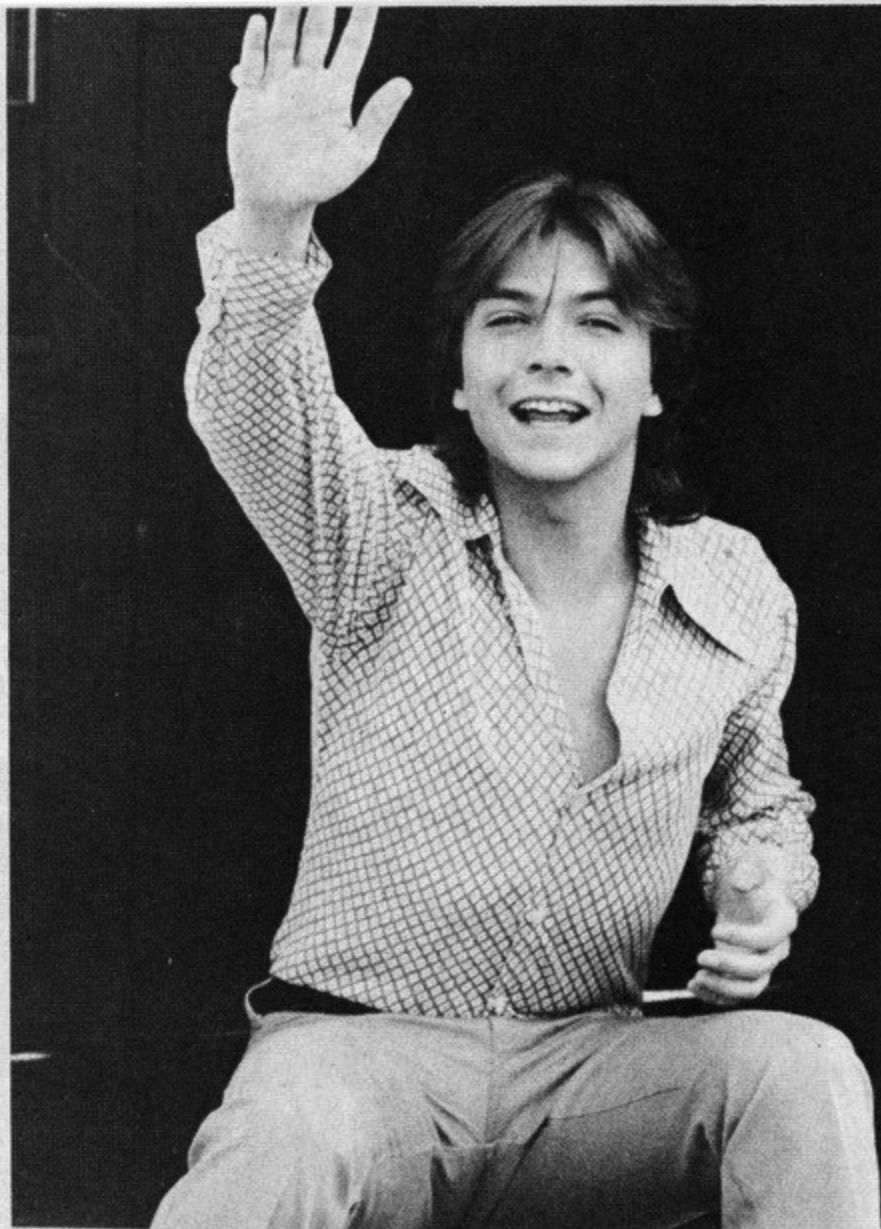
I guess that's when I learned that sometimes you can step aside a little but really, you just can't run away from your problems.

Everybody tries to run. That's for certain! Tell me about one person you know who doesn't dream of hopping a plane for Africa whenever something heavy comes around and I'll... oh, I just won't believe you. No one stands steady and firm and strong all the time.

But it's never going to help to hide out from a problem. Like say you've got the same problem as one girl I know—her parents caught her with her boyfriend when she was supposed to be babysitting and now all she wants to do is run away. "I just want to hop on a Greyhound and ride it all the way to the Pacific Ocean," she wrote to me.

But think of Gerri's troubles (that's her name) when she gets off the bus in San Francisco. No place to go, nowhere to sleep, no money, no food and no job. Gerri will find herself standing in the police station being booked into juvenile hall. And that's a lot worse problem than spending even a whole year on probation at home!

There are a few problems you can run away from...



but that's usually running away from trouble rather than a problem that's already there. In that category, you find things like drugs or rough people or the temptation to shoplift or something like that. That's when it doesn't matter what people think, you just pull your skirts above your knees and run!

Cheating is like that. When I was in school and I hadn't studied for a test and I knew I was going to do badly, this voice used to come floating in my head. It wasn't a voice exactly, it was more like a fog horn bellowing, "Look at Jerry's paper... Look at Cathy's paper... Just a little peek and you'll pass, dummy!"

Believe me, keeping my eyes straight ahead was tough! But I'm glad I did. I finally learned to study when I was supposed to and I learned responsibility. Otherwise, I might have gone through life depending on other people to carry me through... and I'd never be where I am today if I expected to be able to peek at someone else's script for my lines.

Honestly, I wish running away from your problems really worked. I'd set up house in the wilds of Arizona and never come out again. You'll find me old and grey with hair down to my waist and a beard to my knees. But I know it doesn't work so I'm standing up to my problems and saying, "Here I am... let's fight it out!" Actually, by the time I convince myself to stand there and be brave, it always turns out that the problem wasn't so bad after all. I mean, everything has a solution if you just look long enough (of course, I didn't think that when I was taking Algebra I).

Anyway, don't run away. Learn to be a heavy chick and face things as they come. It'll pay off someday!

*David*