

By GILBERT HORNBERGER

Being in show business is rough enough for adults, but for teenagers, well, the pressures can be crushing. David Cassidy is an example of this, being a troubled young man who admits to many, many problems in his life, few of which he has been able to resolve.

"When I was younger, I went through a lot of changes," he told me during our recent interview. "My parents got divorced. My father then married Shirley Jones."

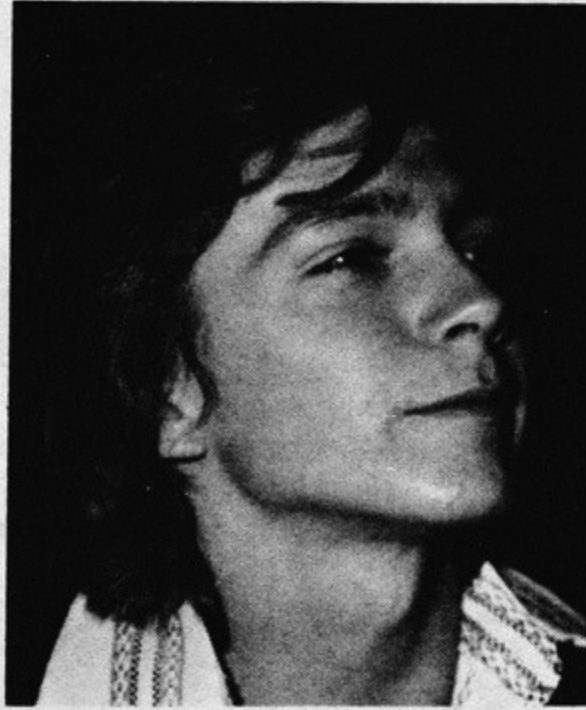
The tone of his voice hinted, at that point, that the relationship between himself and his stepmother wasn't always fine and dandy. You couldn't call it animosity, exactly, but there was a hit that something other than complete devotion existed between them.

David tried to minimize the impact of his parents' divorce somewhat by adding, "I went through what all kids do."

But *did* he? How many children have to face the effects of a home torn apart at the seams, of seeing their parents severing their relationship forever? For some children, this could have been a shock; for David, it was almost traumatic.

He waited, he said, until the age of 17 to become more independent.

"Much more," he emphasizes family. I felt I wanted to act, joining the Los Angeles Theater, as soon as he was out New York for six months. lunch hour," he said. One as now, was that he kept didn't mix socially with the ed to earn him the tight in the profession. "I've a- "It's my nature. I'm hap- That way, I don't have loathes the idea of being responsibility fill him with panic. "I don't see any relationships," David ad- form to a pattern just be- life my way and not have down my throat. My plans don't include the responsi- Which is one reason I don't ting involved that way." D- ing hurt again, as he was



His philosophy: "If you don't get involved, people can't hurt you as much."

That might be correct in a limited way, but an uninvolved person also misses out on many of life's joys.

"I want to *do* more and keep traveling," he said, "no heavy things to weight me down."

David denies having any fears. "I have none," he said. But in the next breath, he confessed to a fear of the unknown, all of his others evolving from that.

By pointing out the contradictions offered by David during our interview, my purpose isn't to ridicule him. But as a reporter I find it essential to tell it like it is, and contradiction was clearly one of the traits David manifested.

Perhaps the most striking of David's inconsistencies can be shown by the following statement which he gave: "I think you can be happy just knowing what your goals are. That's the case with me. *They change as I do.*"

In other words, how can he be happy about his goals if they are as fluid and changeable as his moods?

Questioned about this further, he said, "I really don't know what makes me happy. Where am I going to be a few years from now? How do I achieve what I

ed. "I broke away from my and that's what I did by atre Company." Months la- of high school, he went to "I used to audition on my of David's hang-ups, then pretty much to himself and acting crowd. This behavior fail- friendships that are necessary lways been a loner," he said. pier by and with myself. to entertain anybody." He tied down. Certain kinds of a degree of, shall we say, ason for really deep personal mitted. "Why do I have to con- cause others do? I want to live behavior expectations forced for at least the next ten years bilities inherent in a family. date often. It's too risky get- avid is definitely afraid of be- when his parents were divorced.

(Continued on page 58)

MY LIFE MY WAY"