

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.

Getting Along With Your Folks

Even in the friendliest of families, like yours and mine, the sun comes up at a crazy angle or something one day and whamo! It's impossible to get along with the folks. Know what I mean?

Sure—I know you do. EVERYONE does. Getting along with your parents is always a little precarious, right? Their purpose in life—as far as your welfare is concerned—is to raise you, oversee you, teach you, control you and hopefully, get along with you. They've been putting up with you (and loving you too) since you were a baby with soggy diapers who'd just as soon spit up as giggle and say goo-goo.

I was over at my dad Jack and Shirley's house the other day and that's why I started thinking about this getting along with your parents and all. I was watching my step-brothers Ryan, Shaun and Patrick and thinking about all the things my parents had gone through with them. I realized the same things had been done for me, too—you know, kissing hurts and nursing chicken pox and breaking up kid fights—and I started thinking about those really difficult years when I was a teenager and it seemed like we spent a good portion of our time waging World War III with each other.

A HAPPY FAMILY

Actually, my family was really very happy. I never had a big problem getting along with my parents. Really, I think I was extremely lucky. But if you think I missed out on arguments about whether I was or was not going to snap gum at the dinner table or let my hair hang over my collar, forget it! We had just as many mini-battles as you do!

Now that I'm looking back, however, I see that I've learned a few big things that might help you get along with your folks. For instance, *nothing* is the end of the world.

Does that happen to you? I remember once when I was told not to go out with my sleeves rolled up over my arm muscles and I thought the sky would fall into the sea! Wow! I was furious and angry and hurt and disappointed and I thought my friends would put me down for not rolling up my sleeves like they were! Sounds funny now, doesn't it? That's what I mean about the end of the world. Nothing is that important, even if



your dad won't let you wear your hot pants outside your bedroom or makes you wear your hair in braids instead of ringlets.

But what do you do if you can't help it, your dad's "no hot pants" rule seems like the end of the world anyway? You stay cool!

Staying cool—that's the secret to getting along with your parents. If you don't get excited or upset or throw a tantrum whenever something doesn't go your way, your parents will see that you're beginning to behave like an adult instead of that baby they've lived with for so long.

Look at it this way. If your father doesn't get a raise, does he cry, scream or back-talk to his boss? Of course not. If he laid down on the carpet and started kicking his boss' desk, he'd be fired before he got up again. That's how it works for you—childish behavior will only bring you more restrictions and things until you prove you're ready to accept life maturely. Simple, isn't it?

Well, maybe it seems simple but really, it's pretty difficult when you get right down to it. Some parents have less patience than others—just like you may have more patience than your closest friend!

Pay attention to your parents and see what their patience-level is. Rather than dropping a bomb like "I'm wearing a backless dress to Donna's party," you might need to work a little bit and form a conversation around what you'll wear. Then you can ask whether they agree with you that your backless dress would be perfect for the party.

Parents hate to be left out. Really they do. Sure, you're supposed to be growing up and leaving them behind but have a little consideration—don't drop them flat. You wouldn't even do that to the school creep who's got a crush on you, would you? See what I mean—be gentle and kind. Don't say—in words or actions—"I don't need you anymore so flake off!" That's not fair.

I could write a whole book on getting along with your parents but I've only got room for one more thing and I'll make it short: show some interest in your folks. I know girls who've never talked about anything with their parents except themselves. Talk about something your parents might be interested in. What do they think about politics, religion, philosophy of life? How did they do things when they were young? Can they teach you how to sew, change a flat tire?

Once you show you're a human being and a pretty good one at that, getting along with your folks will be a breeze. Try it!