

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.

Is It Bad to Be Different?

Rain was pouring down on my hillside pad the other night and so I lit a fire in my fireplace, called up an old friend and got into some heavy conversation. I hadn't seen my friend in a long time — even before I was doing "Partridge Family." My friend is an artist, a really strange sort of guy who runs deep like a river when he begins thinking about something.

I guess it was about 11 p.m., the rain was shaking the house like it had been a naughty child and we started talking about the meaning of life.

"Do you realize what we are?" my friend asked me. I wasn't quite sure what he meant so I kept quiet and let him continue.

"We're really unimportant when you think about it," he continued. "Think about the universe. There's the sun — a big, huge, gigantic ball of fire so large that man can't even imagine it. Then there's the earth, our Earth. Do you know what that is?"

I shook my head that I didn't know, not quite understanding what he was driving at.

"It's another big ball of fire! It's alive! We're living on the very thin crust of a colossal ball of fire. Ask scientists, geologists... they'll tell you I'm right! We're just tiny, tiny little things running around madly on this crust that covers a ball of fire!"

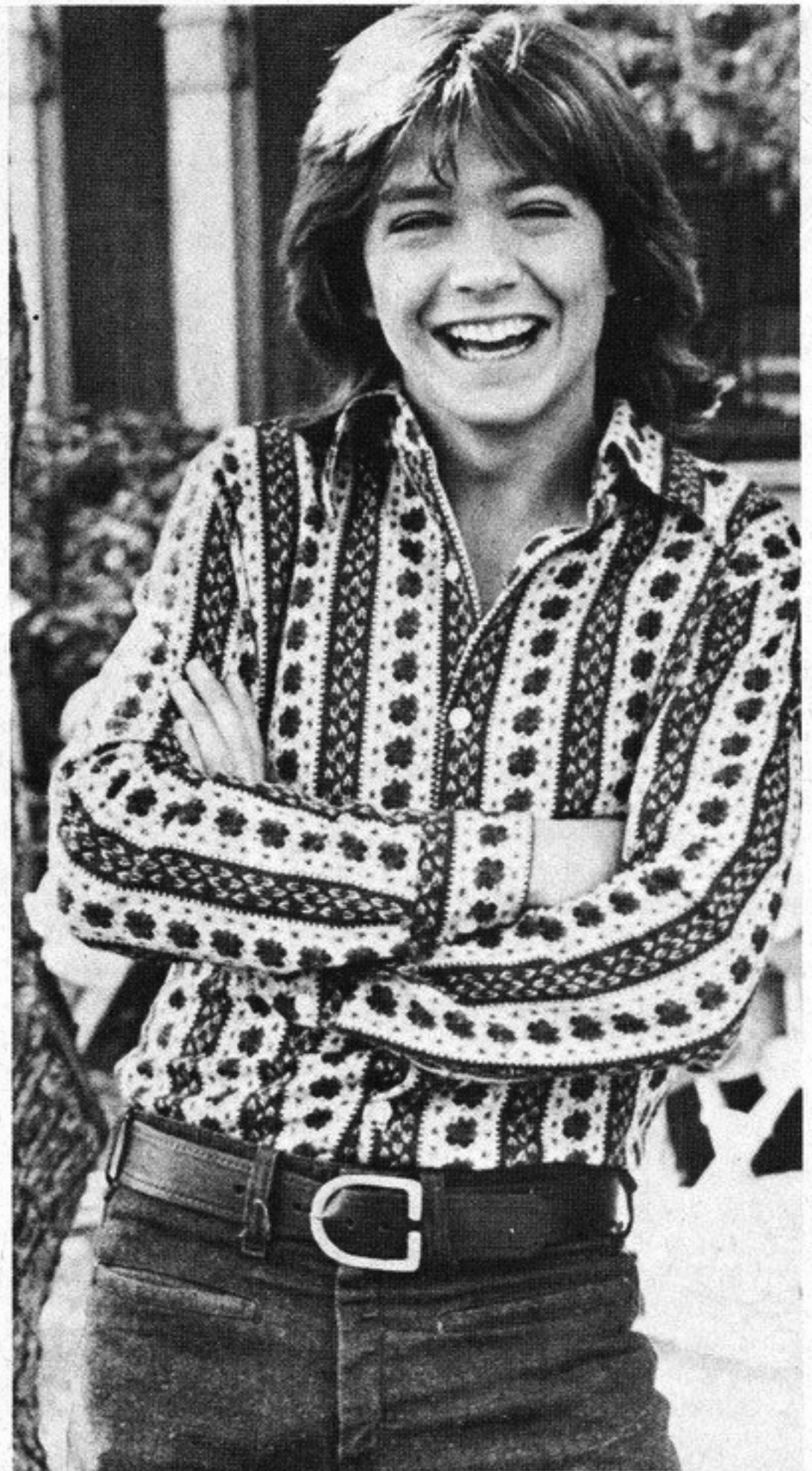
Well, I was stunned! Sure, I know that we're — and I mean the human race — pretty unimportant when you think about the billions of zillions of planets and stars in our universe and galaxy. But I'd never really thought about it before... and that led me right into some thinking that I want to tell you about: being different.

I guess like all guys, my friend and I started talking about girls after we'd talked about the universe and the importance of man and that stuff.

You know what we decided? That we really like girls who aren't afraid to be different.

Usually, it isn't even a case of trying to be different. Some people just are different — like Janis Joplin. Kids laughed at her and called her names when she was in high school and junior high. When she was older, they discovered she was beautiful and they all loved her incredible spirit.

So you see, it's not so bad to be different. In fact, it's



better that way.

Take my friend and I, for instance. We both flip out over girls who are different, who maybe have a unique interest or a very different look about them. I confess that I was just as bad as the rest of the guys sometimes in high school. I never hurt anyone's feelings or called them names but like all guys, I dreamed of going with the prettiest girl instead of the most interesting girl.

Today, that's all different. I like different girls. Girls who are quiet or very intelligent or girls who think a lot or sew their own clothes or really dig cooking or horses or even working on cars... these girls are the really fine girls, the ones I want to call my friends.

Now when I see a group of girls walking down the street all wearing the same kind of clothes with the same kind of hair and the same kind of make-up and chewing the same kind of gum... I think, "Wow! How boring!"

After all, we're just little tiny beings running around on the crust of a very hot ball of fire. If we can't at least stand up and say, "Hey, I'm different and I know it and I don't care," then well, I mean, what's life all about?

If you're different, I wouldn't worry about it. Don't try to homogenize yourself—your looks or your thinking—so that you're like a bottle of milk, indistinguishable from all the rest. Be yourself, be different, and dig it!

David