

The trouble with being on television every week is that eventually everyone begins to think you are the character you portray on the show.

Leonard Nimoy, while portraying the incredible Mr. Spock on "Star Trek," had to go out of his way to make people realize that he was a feeling, concerned human being named Leonard and not a pointy-eared Vulcan with no emotions called Spock.

Bobby Sherman found that people he met on the street really expected him to stutter, a characteristic of his character, Jeremy, on "Here Come the Brides."

DAVID'S PROBLEM

And David Cassidy is already finding that people expect him to be just like Keith Partridge. But except for the fact that David is 20 and Keith is 16, David doesn't let the whole thing bug him too much.

Part of the problem is that people see Keith Partridge every week in their very own living rooms, but most people have never met David Cassidy in person, so it's easier to identify Keith than David.

We asked David to tell about himself and Keith. Are they very much alike or totally different? Here's what he said:

"Well, yeah, I think in a lot of ways we are similar. When I first read a script for the show, I kind of felt like, yeah, this is me. I could see myself doing it.

"Keith is me a long time ago, a little different. He's me when I was like 16.

"I don't really know, though. It's ridiculous for me to say that he and I are exactly alike. But we are alike in a lot of things.

"Like his head is really into music and so is mine. That's his bag. Everyone on the show has their thing—one is sports, one is the movements and being socially conscious, one is the stock market and making money and being a financial genius and mine (that is, Keith's) is music.

KEITH'S LITTLE SCENE

"I would say, though, that Keith is really a small town kind of boy. He's kind of hung up in his little scene. Like I grew up in West Orange, New Jersey up until the time I was ten and I was kind of aware of the whole scene, that small town thing, and I didn't get outside that small town thing for a while.

"You get hung up in that little groove and you forget about the rest of the world. All the kids in the show were like this—it was like their heads were so together there in that small town thing, they had no idea what was going on in the rest of the world. Then all of a sudden they turn themselves onto it and it's all really unbelievable to them.

"I became aware of the rest of the world when I was about ten, but if I had stayed there much longer, it would have taken longer. I might never have come out of that small town thing. There are people back there now who never did. They really think that West Orange is the whole world."

All in all though it doesn't really bother David that many people will think of him as Keith. He's accepted it as inevitable.

"That won't bother me so much because people who meet me are going to judge me anyway, no matter what. They are going to judge me for what I am on the TV rather than what I am personally. So, it's like it doesn't really matter because they're not judging me as a person. They're judging me as a television character that they see up there on their screens who jumps around and does funny things.

NOTHING HE CAN DO

"But there's nothing I can do about it; it's inevitable. I have an image to put up there on the screen and I can do anything I want to with it.

