

David Cassidy Reveals:

I'M PATTERNING MYSELF AFTER ELVIS

By Dean Logan

David Cassidy is a young man with great insight. "I really don't know whether young girls will abandon me in a year or two," he says truthfully. "An actor's career often suffers ups and downs. Sometimes you're hot and sometimes you're cold. But I do think that I'm not on the same level as other young actors. I think I have a lot going for me."

What David has going for him are millions of young girls who go ape over his **Partridge Family** television show, his records, his personal appearances. But David isn't fooled by his easy success. He's looking to sustain a long career, long after his teen idol days are over—the sort of success Elvis has had for more than fifteen years.

His age and youthful looks can be deceptive. He has taken a careful survey of his show business future and has decided, "I expect that I may repeat the Presley pattern, not exactly like Elvis, but something similar. I'm going to peak, then I'm going to go down and level off. And then, hopefully, I can regenerate myself and have people look at me not so much as an idol. Like I don't think they look at Elvis now as an idol. He's sort of built-in like he's a good performer, a good singer. And I think I'm as equally equipped as he is to withstand the pressures of this business."

There's more than a hint of Presley in David's personal appearances. The crowds are just as enormous. The girls just as frenzied. The adults just as upset.

After the young idol's recent visit to London, a special policeman assigned to duty outside his hotel,



the Dorchester, said, "It certainly was hectic. The last time the Dorchester Hotel experienced anything like Mr. Cassidy's stay was when singer Johnny Ray made his first visit to London." Mind you, this is the same hotel that Liz and Richard Burton stay in when they are in town, so the staff is used to gaping crowds. But David was a special problem.

The hotel staff complained that the telephone lines were blocked by calls from fans. More than 2,000 letters and gifts had to be handled in the four days David was at the hotel. Nobody recorded the comments of other guests who had to listen to huge crowds of girls chanting "David, David" not only all day long but all night as well. This is exactly the reaction Elvis met when he visited a town.

But there the similarity pretty much ends. While David wants to pattern his career after Elvis, they are two very different personalities offstage.

Elvis was born poor, to a truck driver father and a mother who worked hard to keep their sparsely furnished house decent. Yet, for all their lack of material possessions, Elvis and his folks, Vernon and Gladys Presley, were a (continued on page 56)