

WHY DAVID CASSIDY POSED IN THE NUDE

“I stand naked,” he told the reporter—“and say this is how I am”... But his fans said: “This can’t be!”

“We don’t think it would be a good idea to answer *that* magazine, or in any way bother to lend *that* article substance by denying its awful points,” a spokesman for David Cassidy told PHOTOPLAY. His voice was tense. “It’s full of lies, out-and-out lies,” he continued, “and you can believe that David is shocked by it.” Why, then, wouldn’t David make a public statement about the article and the nude-look photographs accompanying it? “I told you before: It’s a matter of pride, a sense of linking our name with something we don’t want to give publicity.” But the editors of PHOTOPLAY continued to insist that David owed it to himself and those close to him to put the matter straight.

Looking around, we felt as if we were in the middle of a mushroom cloud. And having been there before with other performers, we knew from experience that the resulting fallout could be deadly.

Sure, it was true that David Cassidy had posed *au naturel* for the rock magazine, *Rolling Stone*. But if he’d been misrepresented either by the pictures or the story accompanying them, he should tell the press his side. After all, some members of the press had taken the *Stone* article at face value and *tsk-tsked* David already. Everyone knows it’s not the function of reporters to let sleeping dogs lie. But our phone conversation ended with the matter floating in the air around us. David wasn’t talking.

On May 11, 1972, *Rolling Stone* printed a semi-nude cover of David Cassidy, with an accompanying article, “The Naked Lunch Box” (a takeoff on an underground novel, *The Naked Lunch*). The centerfold contained an even more revealing pose of David, and the article itself, allegedly an interview, was like the portrait of *Dorian Gray* in its (Continued on page 12)