

(Continued from page 65)

last stages of decay—or so it seemed to some.

Said Rona Barrett, on her syndicated TV show, "This is certainly one of the most candid interviews ever." She went on to comment that she hoped *Stone's* editors had known what they were doing and were not damaging David's career. Joyce Haber, in her syndicated column, said the photographs were: "Revealing, particularly in view of his teenage fans," and added that the story that follows "is also revealing in a rather distasteful way." Los Angeles newsmen Jerry Dunphy and George Putnam put down the article and pose and wondered. Anyone who wrote about it wondered. Having heard nothing from David, they concluded the young star had known the article's contents, and if that were the case, they worried for him.

Quite understandably.

At 22, David Cassidy is the idol of an often lost and lonely segment of our population—our eight-to-14-year-old youngsters—innocent, growing, confused and idealistic. They look to him as *Keith Partridge*, the hero of "The Partridge Family," an 18-year-old character steady and straight and just about as far out as *Andy Hardy*. This is the image the real-life David has conveyed to them as well—onstage in his concert appearances, at home in interviews, monthly, it seems, in a host of teenybopper magazines, and certainly in everything Shirley Jones or Jack Cassidy has ever said about him.

Until the *Stone* piece. Suddenly, here was a David Cassidy who admitted to using strong drugs and condoned them, who admitted to stealing bicycles as a 14-year-old, and being expelled from school, picking up "groupies" and scoring with them, getting drunk, feeling bored and tired by his adolescent followers. Coming from another young star, the confession wouldn't have been so shocking, and the photo was not obscene (more was implied than met the eye). But it was *David Cassidy—Keith Partridge—Andy Hardy* speaking—*David Cassidy* posing in the nude!

In the article, David confessed that he was in awe of the rock magazine: "You know, when I first was told about this article, I wanted to smile and say, 'I really don't care to talk to you,'" David is quoted as saying. "I expected it would be a put-down. I mean, your readers are not going to come and see me, they're not going to buy my records. Even an article that says David Cassidy isn't so lame, or maybe he can really sing, it's not going to affect them really. They're still going to think I'm an -----. But I would really dig reading something about me that wasn't, you know, the same old -----."

Further on, Sam Hymen, David's best friend, is quoted: "I think David's a little frustrated with what he's doing now on 'The Partridge Family.' He can't demonstrate much acting ability doing that. He knows he has talent; he wants to develop it and direct it to his peers and be accepted by them. That's what he's trying for now."

If a conclusion were to be drawn
(Continued on page 55)

Photoplay In Focus

Summer is travel time, and we've been following some of your favorite stars. On location with John Wayne, Ann-Margret, Chris George and all the rest of "The Train Robbers" cast, we discovered just how rugged it is filming a Western (pg. 34). . . . In Wales, Liz' son Michael, wife Beth, and baby Leyla have taken to the commune life-style. We understand that Liz isn't too happy about it all (pg. 66), and our exclusive pix perhaps show why. . . . Like you, we loved "The Godfather" and thought maybe you'd like a closer look at Sonny. That's James Caan, on page 50. . . . Dan Blocker and George Sanders both left Hollywood a little sadder. We've paid tribute to them on pages 26 and 40. . . . Don't miss our surprise package on this cover's love couples (I mean pgs. 32 and 33). . . . Next month, we'll have the pictures and the story from Hollywood of your Gold Medal winners. And Suzanne Pleshette, Betty Grable, etc. talk up a storm. . . .



BERNADETTE
CARROZZA
EDITOR

KENNETH CUNNINGHAM, Art Director
NANCY ANDERSON, West Coast Editor
SUSAN TOEPFER, Managing Editor
LYNNE DORSEY, Story Editor
VIVIAN POPPENBERG, Associate Editor
LINDA HOLM, Editorial Assistant
MYRA POZNICK, Asst. Art Director
BRENDA STEINBERG, Editorial Assistant
CAMILLE RUSSO, Production
ARLENE WANDERMAN, Beauty-Fashion Editor
JANE ARDMORE, Contributing Editor
GEORGE CARPOZI, Contributing Editor
FREDA KRAMER, Contributing Editor