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from the quotes in *Stone*, one would have to say that the reason David posed in the nude—and gave that interview—was partially ego fulfillment, partially a campaign toward a “new image.” Indeed, he seemed so cooperative, you might even believe he would have worn fig leaves in his hair at the *Stone*’s suggestion.

Certainly, he never expected his young fans to read the piece.

But they did.

An editor at *Rolling Stone* told this PHOTOPLAY reporter that they’d not anticipated an unfavorable reaction, but they’d gotten it. From whom? we asked. “Phone calls,” she answered vaguely. One could understand the *Stone*’s surprise. Certainly, for them, it wasn’t an unusual article, and it’s come to mean little to see a rock star in the nude. Didn’t John Lennon pose that way? Jim Morrison? These stars were among David’s heroes. Why, then, shouldn’t he follow their example?

A close friend, however, suggested that David might merely have been “duped”; that it was literally a question of naiveté. “David never asks approval of a story from any magazine that writes about him,” he told us. “He trusts their good taste. Most of the time, he’s right to do so. But this magazine never featured him before, probably won’t again, and it was a whole different approach. This is a rock magazine.”

In the article, David admits that *Stone* has burned him before. “I read in *Rolling Stone* once an article about the Jackson Five. It said they were the black answer to teenybopper idols, but they had soul—unlike those white sucaryl teen throbs like Bobby Sherman and David Cassidy. I read that over five times, and I still could not believe it. . . . I’m afraid of it ’cause it attacked me. It put a knife into me . . . and I bled.”

If we are to believe those in the Cassidy camp, he’s bleeding again. The *Stone* piece has resulted in not only criticism by the press, but a host of nasty rumors: Screen Gems is going to let him out of his contract . . . ABC has a replacement for *Keith Partridge*. . . . All unconfirmed, and as far as we know, untrue, but nonetheless hurtful.

While rock music and rock musicians have done much to blaze a trail for the new morality, David Cassidy very much represents the old. Unlike his peers, David’s fans have set up a host of rules for him to follow—and they don’t want to know if, or how, he violates them. A teen fan editor told us that she had heard from dozens of tearful teenyboppers who wanted to know if the *Stone* piece were true. “It can’t be!” they exclaimed as one voice. According to David’s spokesman, it isn’t. According to the *Stone*, it is. And David? He’s not saying anything, hoping that it will all die down, or, like a bad rock group, simply play itself out. —PHILLIP ANDREWS

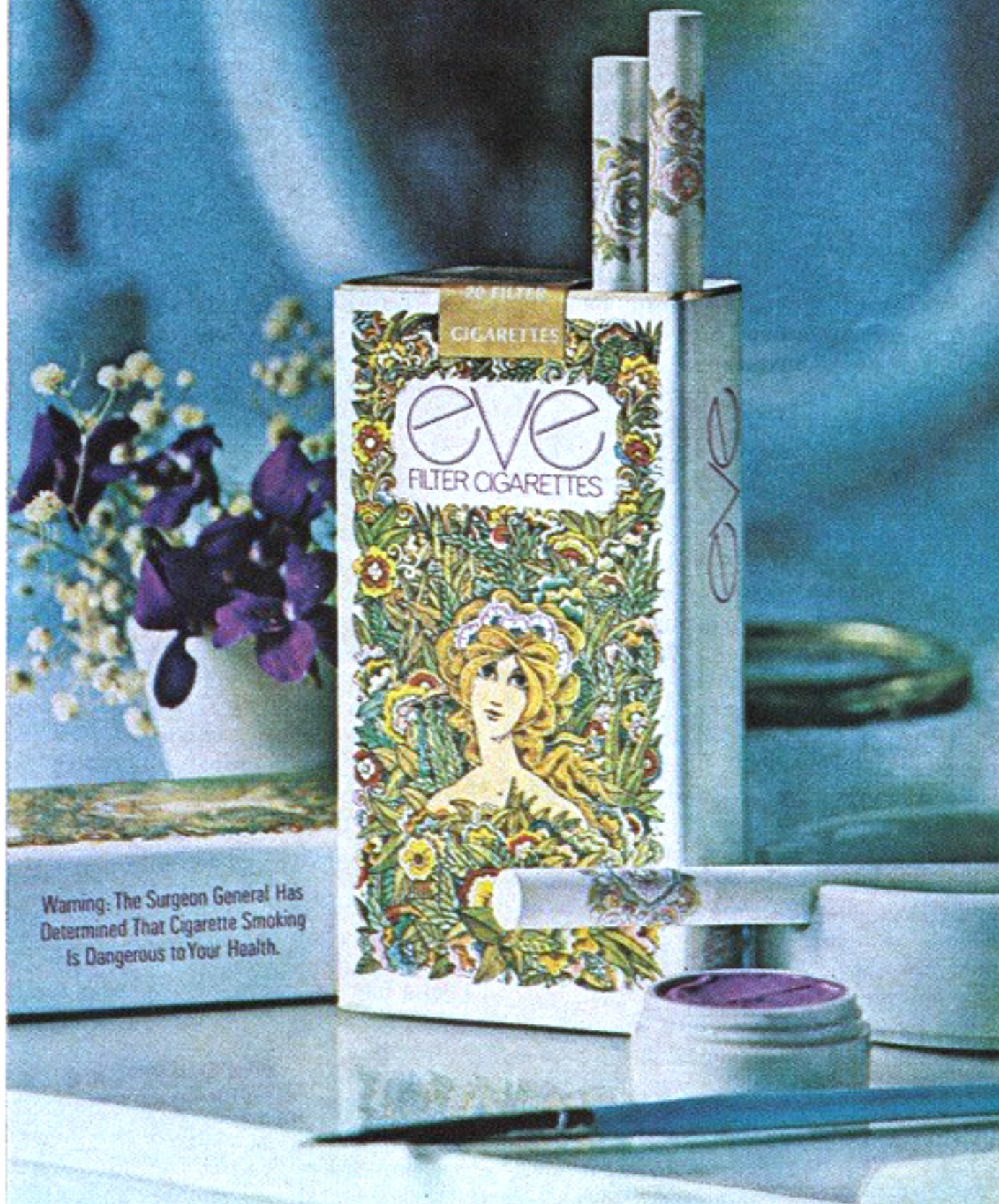
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