

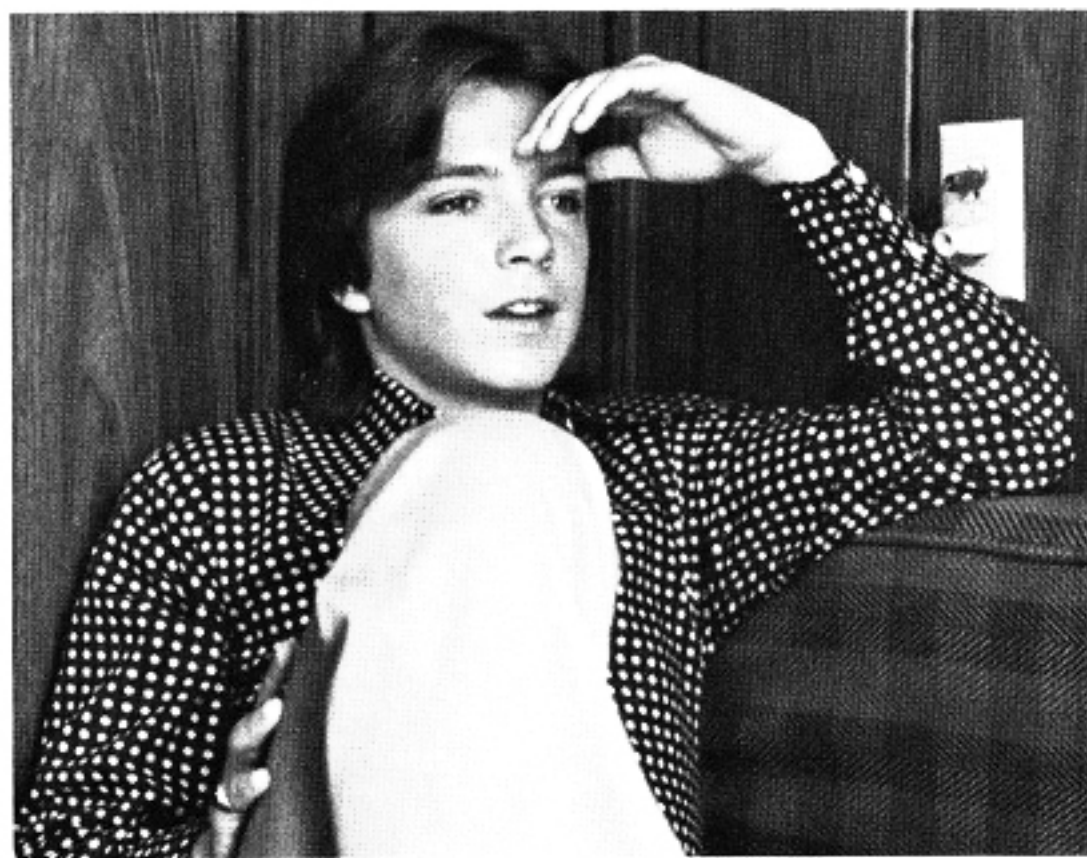
David looked over at the set and a woman was sitting rigidly in one of the studio chairs with a pad and pencil placed on her lap! She was waiting for him, he could not ignore her—that would be too rude! So he smiled, introduced himself and sat in the chair next to her!

From the very beginning he got hostile vibrations from her. The moment he sat down, she said, "Trying to hide from me, huh?" David explained that he had just returned from lunch and that he didn't know she was waiting for him, but he could tell by the strained smile on her lips that she didn't believe him!

NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

Then she started asking him such negative questions about himself . . . like why he avoided fans, why he refused to sign autographs, what made him believe that he was the top teen star of the day! What made matters worse was that she never really let him finish a thought—she cut off each one of his explanations with an abrupt "Oh, I see . . ." and then fired off another negative question at him!

Before five minutes had passed, David stood up and said, "I'm sorry, but I think this interview is over because you're not giving me a chance to explain . . ."



TWO YEARS AGO, he was more at ease during interviews.

Again the reporter cut him off. Her face was red from anger and her eyes narrowed as she said, "I expected you to be this way! All of you big stars change once you've made it to the top! Too bad, I'll bet when you first started you were once a nice guy . . . and now you're unavailable for interviews and to your fans! Well, you don't have to explain anything to me . . . I understand perfectly what's happened to you . . . you've changed! Or could it be that you're finally showing the true you—the real David Cassidy!"

With those angry words, she left. David stood there and felt the heat of his own anger climbing up his neck! For the rest of the afternoon he blew his lines and couldn't keep his mind on the show. He kept asking himself "Is she right—have I changed?" And now, sitting alone in the deserted Partridge set, he was still asking himself that troubling question!

FACE IN THE MIRROR

David walked to his trailer—his head still bowed and his hands shoved deep into his pants pockets. Once inside, he sat before his mirror and stared at his reflection. The face in the mirror didn't look changed to him!

As he stared at himself he suddenly realized what changes had taken place—granted, he had changed some, but the biggest change was in the people around him! Like the reporter today, before she even said one word to him she had already formed an opinion about David Cassidy!

Before he became a star, he could go about his business unnoticed, but now his every movement and statement was watched and analyzed! Everyone seemed to be seeking out changes in him . . . comparing the David of yesterday to the David of today!

"I'M THE SAME!"

He wanted to scream the words "I'm the same!"—but he was afraid no one would believe him! Yes, he was the first to admit that he'd become a more private person—he was still basically shy and disliked bringing undue attention to himself. But he'd always guarded his privacy—even before Partridge—why was everybody making such a fuss about it **now**?

David looked once more into the mirror—he was the same David who was afraid of his first Tiger Beat interview. Except now he was more relaxed at interviews and not so afraid to talk about himself! He still thrilled to the knowledge that there were thousands of David fans. But like everyone else, he had to change a little—that was part of life—part of growing up—part of maturing!

But in his heart, David's love for the people who loved him hadn't changed—and that was something that could never be altered! As he slowly closed the door to his trailer and walked towards his car, David prayed that all those accusing him of changing would realize, too, that what had changed was the way they were looking at him! Because from behind David's eyes, he still saw the world as the old David did . . . the only difference was that he was looking with eyes that were older and, hopefully, wiser.