

A Letter From DAVID

EXCLUSIVE IN FaVE!

David reads each and every letter you send to this column, and he promises to answer as many of your questions as he can! If you want some info, write him c/o FaVE Magazine, 7060 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

"BEING ALONE"

Ever since I started doing "The Partridge Family" I've been getting a lot of static from my actor friends. I guess because I started out doing plays and Broadway shows, and then some guest shots on television, they think I should have stayed right there, doing the very same thing.

It's funny, but some of my friends have criticized me for "selling out," you know, working steadily on a regular series instead of waiting and starving like they're doing, hoping that one big part comes along.

COULD I DO IT?

I thought over my decision very carefully, and even made a list of all the positives and negatives. Finally, the positives—like "steady work helps improve acting more than sitting around and waiting does"—and I accepted my role in the show.

Then, I prepared for the long seige of telephone calls, and they came! "David, I never thought I'd live to see the day that you sold out. Doing a television show! How bad can you get?" went one call. And some others said about the same thing. But you know what? I lived through it! I didn't lose any friends, and they learned to respect what I'm doing.

IT WORKED OUT!

So everything turned out all right...but there were moments when I was afraid that any criticism at all might send me running for the mountains!

At first, when we were in our first season of "The Partridge Family," I was very susceptible to criticism. I wasn't afraid to criticize others (we call it "help" in acting), and often gave my opinions to Susan Dey or others. But I lived in complete fear of getting criticized myself!

If, during a shot, the director told me to do something different, I secretly smarted about it for hours. I thought I should be above it all, so good that nobody could tell me anything. Boy! I learned pretty quickly! No matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't please everybody, could I?

Now I try to please myself. If a fan writes to me and says that she hates my concert clothes because they look cheap and tawdry, I think about the outfit she's criticizing, then I make up my own mind!



WAS I SELLING OUT?

If you look carefully enough, you might find a lot of other emotions buried in what passes for criticism. After I had to defend myself from all my purist actor friends, who think that anything less than a performance with the Old Vic in London is "selling out," I realized that in some cases, their criticism was just full of jealousy. They really wished **they** had the opportunity to do a show on a regular basis!

You might find the same thing in your life. Is a girlfriend always complaining that you wear tight clothes when you're really too fat—and you only weigh 101 pounds? That's not criticism, that's jealousy!

Like me, you'll probably find when you get older that criticism won't affect you so much. If you decide you really want to study about ancient Greece instead of going bowling every Tuesday night, you'll do it, without listening to the criticism of your friends. But that also means one other thing: you have to learn to be your own worst critic.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

You have to decide for yourself if you're too fat or getting conceited or whatever it might be. And that sometimes means admitting things to yourself that you really don't want to know—like the fact that you want to study Greek history because you don't think you're as pretty as your girlfriends and therefore don't want to go out with them on Tuesday nights. Of course, that might not be the case at all. But you have to consider all the possibilities.

Hope I've helped you, babe, and until next month...

Love,