

TELEVISION

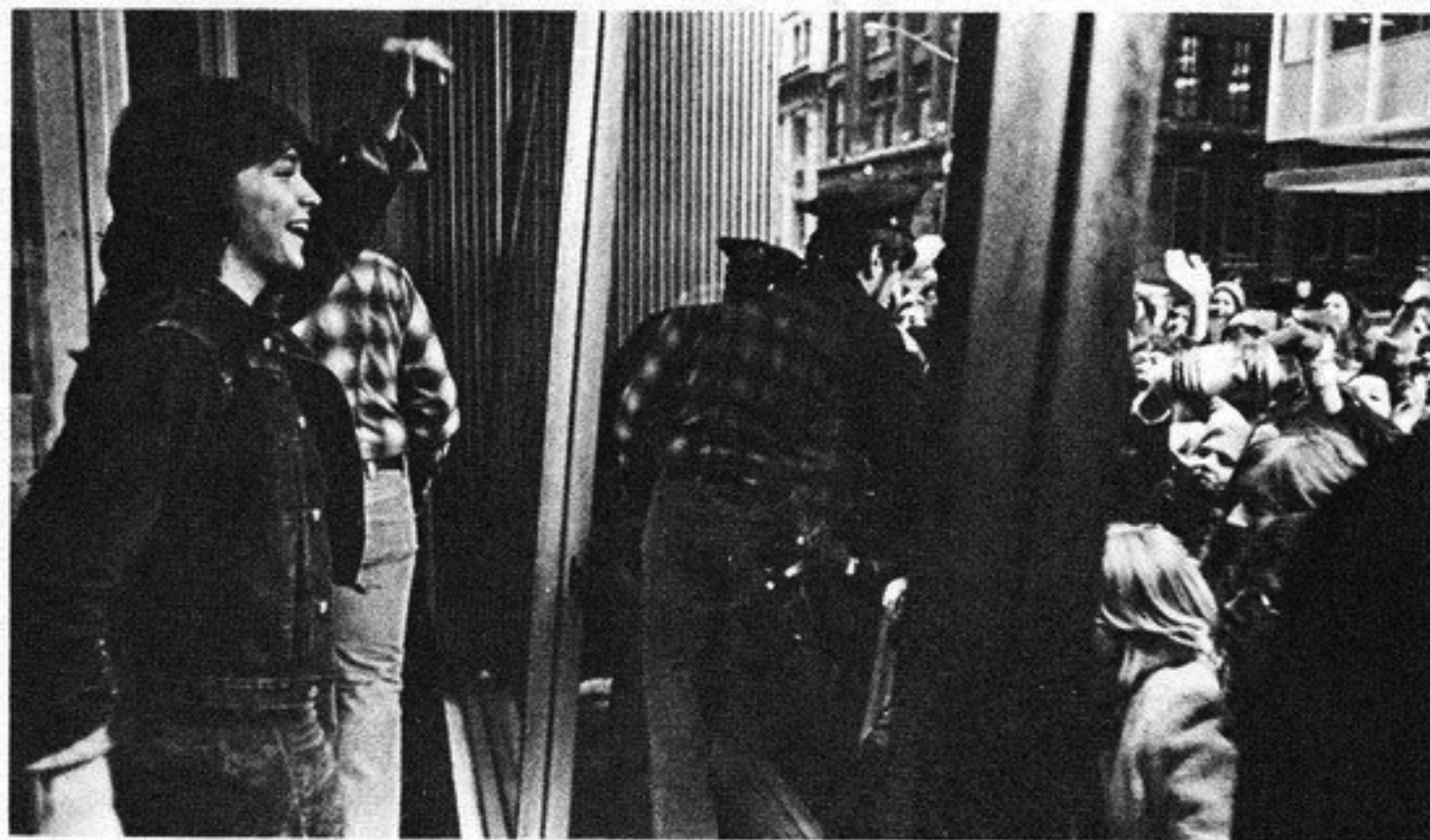
Now hear this—"Room 222" is more than the light and airy immaterial comedy-drama that it was in the beginning.

No topic that concerns, confuses or boggles kids of high school age seems to be taboo today. Promiscuity, unwed motherhood, abortion, venereal disease, sex education, homosexuality, dope, booze, draft, racist problems were among the themes last season.

Within reason, the ABC censors have even permitted stories tackling spastic plastic parents who lay their own prejudices, fears, hates, ignorance and other hangups on their kids. The challenge is to spell it all out clear and to entertain and amuse without being a preachy lecture bore.

"Partridge Family" and David Cassidy records are catching fire in England now though the BBC axed the show after only 12 episodes.

David, doing a slow burn about it, stopped over in London enroute home



DAVID GREETES HIS FANS outside of a radio station during his recent tour.

from a Swiss skiing holiday, to tell the BBC biggies flat-out: The series, designed for adults as well as teenagers, was doomed by its 5 p.m. time slot which was right for youngies but wrong for working oldies who don't get home that early from the fertilizer factories, coal mines, fish canneries, fruit stands and docksides, and their traditional pause at the local pub for a pint o' beer and bitters.

David isn't losing any sleep about it, and sleep's what he needs aplenty to

keep up his strength for the upcoming work load including a punishing schedule of concerts already fixed until Sept. 2 at Toronto, that's in Canada, just north of us in the U.S.

The most consistent viewer faves week in and out during the 1971-72 TV term included "All In The Family," "Mod Squad," "Flip Wilson," "Marcus Welby," "Adam-12," "Gunsmoke," "Partridge Family," "Ironside," "Mannix," "Bonanza," "Dean Martin" and "Med

IT'S HAPPENING



THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY'S Brian Forster has 5 Himalyan pedigree cats.



"LAUGH-IN's" Lily Tomlin is a hit with her character 5-year-old Edith Ann.

Center," followed by the Lucy, Moore, Day and Van Dyke things.

After the shortest retirement on record, beautiful black Bill Cosby returns next season with not one but two weekly series; an evening variety program and a Sat. morning animation show starring Fat Albert, Old Weird Harold and other well-known figments of Bill's farout imagination.

"It'll be a teaching show but funny," Bill beamed. "If it's not funny, kids will twist the dial to Captain Kangaroo. If it works out as I hope, man, it'll be a zonker!"

There aren't a lot of laughs backstage on the "Laugh-In" set. Bad vibes continue to grate on nerves and aggravate tempers of front office executives, performing stars and technical crews.

Goldie Hawn, Arte Johnson, Judy Carne, Joanne Worley, Chelsea Brown refused to re-sign as regulars. Latest to quit is Lily "Ernestine" Tomlin who left with a blast at Rowan and Martin who, so she says, downgrade other performers to upgrade their own stuff and won't accept new ideas and characters which put Lily in a creative straightjacket.