



never been afraid of getting mobbed, except that it worries him that something might happen to his fans. In a concert situation, where everybody's excited, he's glad to have security men around to protect them, but he's never had a bodyguard! Had he suddenly got an exaggerated idea of his own importance or something?

"Next he'll need the whole army," one aspiring (and very jealous) young actor said from behind his "superhip" shades in Schwab's Drugstore. A few people laughed, knowingly. Most people seemed to think it was just that David had gone on an ego trip!

TRYING TO HURT HIM

But that evening, Rona Barrett dropped another bombshell—and she wasn't being sarcastic this time! "Inside sources," said Rona, "say the reason David Cassidy is sporting his own bodyguard is that he was allegedly beaten up coming out of a recording studio the other night! It's dangerous being a teen-age idol!"

The next morning every reporter in town wore out his dialing finger trying to learn more about it, but no one



would say anything! David couldn't be reached on the set, and Screen Gems had "no comment." And all the while the fans were scared to death, wondering if David was all right, and who could possibly be trying to hurt him?

And, of course, the rumors flew back and forth like flies on a hot day! It had happened at two in the morning—no, it had happened at eleven at night! He'd been attacked by four people—no, two! He knew them! He didn't! He'd sprained his wrist and couldn't play the guitar! He had two black eyes

and had to wear make-up everywhere!

Everybody was acting like he, and only he, had the whole truth! The fans worried, the gossips took advantage of the situation to make themselves feel important, and a crowd of anxious girls formed outside the studio gates to try to get a look for themselves. The only person who wasn't saying anything at all was probably the only person who actually knew everything—David himself!

REMAINED SILENT

When TIGER BEAT got David on the phone he said he was very, very sorry, but he couldn't talk about it—just to let his friends everywhere know that he wasn't hurt, and yes, he could still play the guitar! He sounded like he wanted to say more, but he couldn't! Not really very much like the old David at all!

David's manager wouldn't say anything more, but she sounded very disturbed: "There's not much I can tell you," she said. "It's very serious, but it can't be discussed yet."

And that was all that could be learned! Never in all David's career had he hidden himself from his friends at TIGER BEAT and FaVE, but he did now, so he wouldn't have to answer any questions! The girls waiting around the gate at Screen Gems saw nothing—David never went in or out, unless he was in a closed truck or

