

few days of his life, and float like a free spirit soaring on a high-looking back at life's problems with new insight and understanding. The only thing that Kevin didn't encounter was the fact that his mind and brain wasn't ready for all these drugs, and he would be destroyed permanently.

When the news reached David, he sat in his living room in shock, not wanting to believe what he had just heard. When he was alone he lay down on his couch and silently wept. Wept as he had never done before, realizing it takes a grown man to let out emotion. David's tears were with mixed emotions—for the dead—for the living. Now they fell for the young man who was so very close to him, his young friend who had fallen into that deadly trap so temptingly laid out beneath the feet of American boys and girls, young and old.

David kept reminiscing in a fog—remembering how he had been offered marijuana, grass, all the other so-called names that are supposed to send you "flying", "feeling great". Yes, David like all others has been approached, tried it, didn't like it, and that was the end. David never had to wait until he was caught or even hooked, he gave it up himself. Trying to reason with himself he couldn't understand why Kevin didn't feel the same way about the deadly drug. Why, oh why did he have to be one of the victims of this horrible disease.

Putting aside his grief momentarily, David spoke about his friend openly, hoping he could help others in the same situation. He told it like it was—straight out—pulling no punches. "I know my friend didn't commit suicide because he certainly wasn't himself, it was murder. He was murdered by the people who manufacture and sell these drugs. No one can really do anything about it except the people themselves."

While Kevin dated some of the Hollywood lovelies, mainly one of the girls on "Room 222", he had a flock of friends that couldn't believe it or didn't want to believe it when they heard the terrifying news. The funeral parlor on the 19th of November was filled with young people, all good friends of the young boy who would have given anything in the world for him to have another chance at life.

David started thinking about life

in general. How it could be so rewarding for one and so heartbreaking for the next. David, who is now in the prime of his life with his television show reaching the heights, his records breaking way out in front, he has finally made it on his own. He is in the position where he can be so helpful to his friends and yet with this news he feels he has hit the lowest point in his life. He would just like to reach out and hurt everyone that ruined his friend's chance for happiness. "Why, he keeps asking himself, "Why Kevin"?, someone who had everything in the world to live for". But there are millions of Kevins all over the world, not all that were lucky to have a good friend as David Cassidy, but boys and girls that have someone close to them, loving them and standing by them for every wrong they make, hoping and praying a right move will next approach. Praying that this deadly habit will be destroyed, where youngsters can live freely, not being afraid of what might be offered to them, or afraid they might be weak enough to try it—just once—I promise" . . . as you and I have heard much too often.

All who knew Kevin agreed with David that he was a boy with talent and promise. He was a loving, happy boy from a family which was very close. "Let's face it, David spoke, he had problems like everyone does, but nothing that couldn't be worked out. I guess he had girlfriend problems, career problems, don't they all go together, but that isn't what killed Kevin". "He was a happy but emotional boy, and I guess if you add drugs to a guy that is somewhat dramatic it can be disastrous". David went on, "I hope my friend's death is a warning to those young people who think drugs is the easy way out—it certainly isn't any kind of an answer. It can only kill, and what bugs me is that the people that push the stuff are still walking around free—it just isn't fair".

David went on, "I guess all Kevin wanted was to prove to the other kids or probably to himself, that he had his own mind. Any doctor will say that all youngsters need to rebel from time to time, that they tell their parents, "I'm doing my thing right now, maybe in the end I will come back to your way of thinking, but right now this is something I

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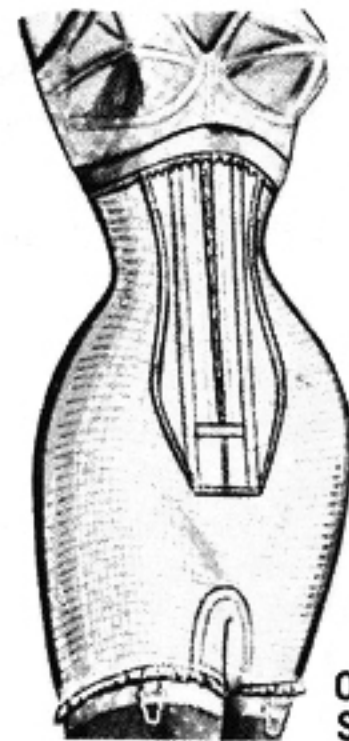
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