

thing with my life."

David had re-evaluated his life, but he needed some guidance in getting a new start. That help came from a psychiatrist David began to see while he was in high school, and whom he still sees occasionally. With the doctor, David could talk about the problems he had and had tried to solve in the wrong ways.

His whole life began to change, and he decided that he didn't want to go to school—he wanted to act. David, by this time, had begun to patch up his relationship with his father, and in part it was his desire for a career that eased the tension between them. Jack Cassidy told his manager about his son's decision to go into show business, and David came to New York to get a role in *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*. But the curtain fell on that show almost as soon as it went up—and David returned to Hollywood.

Guest shots won him fans, and the *Partidge Family* made him a star. But the stardom trip has had its own problems for David, and it's taken a lot of getting used to. "In the beginning," he recalls, "I used to sign two thousand autographs at once at some publicity thing at a supermarket. Every time I get asked I think I'm going to scream. Please don't ask me again! My hand is falling off! The thing that really irritates me is that they never want it for themselves. It's never, 'I really like you. I'd really like your autograph.'"

"It's always, 'My daughter would never forgive me.' . . ."

"I always do it, though."

If you spend any time with David Cassidy, you can't help but notice that his conversation is sprinkled with four letter words. He seems intent on proving that he can do what he wants when he wants.

"I read in one fan magazine that I was very self-centered," David says. "And I am. I work for *me*, eighteen hours a day. It's my gig, so I don't have time to get a point of view. But I've become accustomed to handling whatever comes at me."

When David first became a star and found that magazines, photographers, and business firms wanting to use his name for their products were hot on his trail, his first reaction was shock. "I'd never read a fan magazine before. I went to them and said, 'Listen, do me a favor. Don't put me on the cover. Could you just not do that?'"

"That was the only thing I ever did that slowed down the momentum."

David did, of course, appear on hundreds of magazine covers. Like a real trouper, he's learned to live with it. And as far as seeing his photo stare back from notebooks, book covers, and other products, David has a new attitude. "Listen," he says, "if they're going to buy lunch boxes, they might as well buy David Cassidy lunch boxes."

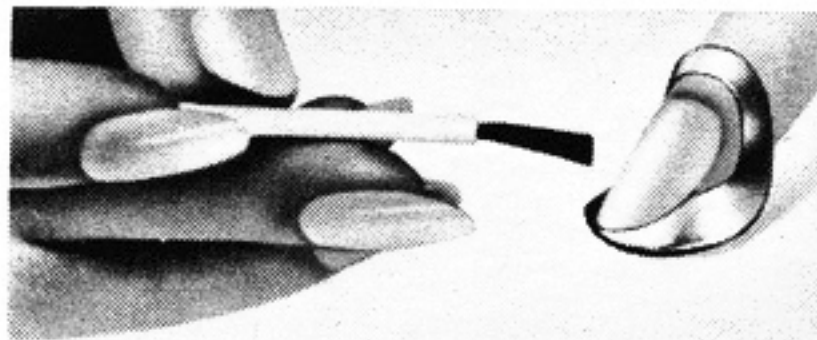
It's been a hectic rise to stardom for David Cassidy, and the success of his career has brought many changes. Money is no longer a problem for David, who says, "Two years ago I was on food stamps!"

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But more than money has changed for David Cassidy. Now, when he is at last a

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