

DAVID CASSIDY

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Betty Forbes from London's East End threw themselves into the river and started swimming out to the boat, police acted swiftly to scoop the girls out of the water.

They weren't trying to save David from them, but to save the girls from picking up some virus from the stagnant brown highly polluted water. The police begged the girls to take tetanus shots. The crew members on David's yacht have to take tetanus shots all the time.

David, himself, was a picture of health as he talked to us about another kind of stagnancy. "I went through the drug thing when I was sixteen or seventeen and it made me stagnant. It brought me down rather than lifting me up and I couldn't get anything accomplished. I don't take drugs anymore," he said, "and I don't advocate it."

A \$2.40 ticket cruise boat hovered past and some excited fans were able to get within 30 feet of their idol. Half a dozen girls screamed, and David threw some kisses. Over on the pier 200 girls screamed almost in echo and David gave them a turn, too, by jumping up, waving, pursing his lips and yelling, "I love you, I love you, too."

Screams and shrieks echoed across the river. David continued, "My only concern is that my fans don't get a distorted image of me. I've been called a White Knight—a Prince Charming, but, that's not me, not really."

The following morning David was planning to get up at 6:15 A.M. for a secret flight to Rotterdam in Holland, and then on to Frankfurt in Germany, but he would be back that night to sleep in his double-bedded bunk on board the Ocean Sabre.

"It's great to be in England," he said. "The weather's better than it was when I was here earlier in the year." At this moment the sun broke through, seemingly almost as a special favor to David.

"What's it like when mobs of fans get out of hand?" I asked him.

"Pretty frightening for a little guy like me," he humbly admitted, "but I try to keep a few friends around for protection."

At this point a cruise boat hove to and from a megaphone came the blaring voice, "And on the right, is the private yacht of American TV singing star, David Cassidy." David was embarrassed but managed to wave to a few fans on the boat. He was terribly polite and somewhat subdued, but he really came to life and sparkled when he acknowledged his fans.

"What's your biggest ambition in life?"

"I want to have the right mark to aim at. I want to take my music more seriously than I have done in the past," he said.

"What do you want to try to get-over to your fans?"

"I want them to know me as I am. Sometimes a writer will form an opinion of me in, say, an hour, and it couldn't be accurate in such a short time. I could be

in a bad mood through a headache or anything," David explained.

"How do you feel about this fantastic success of yours," was the next question.

"I hardly know where to start. I didn't plan anything like this. Never could have imagined it could all happen. At first, the lack of privacy really got me down. I was almost scared to go out the door. But, I know now that I was looking at it all from a negative viewpoint. It's true, I can't go into a movie house, but there are places I can go."

We wanted to know if David was finding it hard to cope with the reaction of his fans.

"Sometimes, when I see these girls in a mass, they terrify me. They'd probably rip off my clothes if given a chance. On the other hand, it's all very exciting. For example, I love the feeling of walking out on the stage; and feeling the response. Everybody loves turning someone on—whether it's sexual or mental. I dig it," he said with a grin.

"What's your work-schedule like, David," I asked.

"Incredible," he answered. "Really tiring. I'm up every morning at 6:15. People call me on the phone and I've got two alarms to make sure I'm up. I work till evening and then most nights I've got to go to the Recording studio. I've got to record at least two songs a week for the show as well as the Partridge Family album. Total filming time with the Partridge family is 55 hours a week. Then every Friday, I'm flying off to one city or another and usually manage to get in two shows, and then back to LA. Sunday night."

With such a tough schedule we wondered if David ever had any time left over for fun and girls.

"No, I really don't have any time to myself these days. As far as girls are concerned, there was a girl once, but there just wasn't enough time to develop any kind of a relationship," he explained.

"What about all your fans," we asked.

"Out of the question, they're all too young. Looking around, I see twelve and thirteen year olds. Little girls of nine and ten write to me on scented paper asking me to wait for them to grow up. That's cute, don't you think?"

"Do you ever think you'll get married?"

"When the right girl comes around, I'll know it; but, for the time being I'd like to remain a bachelor for a while."

"You seem to be handling your overnight success in a very 'cool' way. How do you do it?"

"I've grown up in a show business atmosphere and spent a lot of time in Hollywood. As you know, my father, Jack Cassidy, is an actor and my mother Evelyn Ward, was a singer and actress. Shirley Jones, my stepmother plays my mother in 'The Partridge Family.' Working on the show gave me the chance to sing as well as act. I guess all summed up, I was better prepared than most guys who are thrown into the limelight all of a sudden."

"Why did you pose nude for the 'Rolling Stone' music paper?"

"Well, first of all, I didn't do it for

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