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rector called everybody back to work, and with good-natured groans they all went, leaving the story for the next day.

Most of the people who either know David well or work with him have been amazed at how high his spirits have been lately. He's always been cheerful and ready to laugh at practically anything, but as one of his friends on the "Partridge" crew says, "Lately it's been like all he wants to do is make everybody feel better. I guess he's just feeling so happy that it's contagious."

BEGINNING TO BELIEVE

When you ask David why he's so "up" lately, he'll just grin and tell you that he hasn't exactly got the roughest life imaginable! And while it's certainly true that most people wouldn't mind being a star with several million fans...nevertheless, it hasn't always made David

DAVID admits he's changed!





DAVID USED to fear that his success was just a dream!

this happy!

What's changed?

Susan Dey, who knows David as well as anybody in the world, thinks that David has just actually begun to believe that he's a real star. "I think he always expected to wake up one morning and have it all turn out to be a dream," she says. "But now it's been going on for some time, and I think he's stopped worrying that it's only going to last three weeks, or that every time the phone rings it's someone telling him that his career is over. It hasn't been until very recently that he's felt able to enjoy the things that come with success, without worrying that he's going to lose them sometime next week."

If Susan's right, then David certainly should be happy! Less than four years ago, he was sharing a little apartment, living on hot dogs, and driving a succession of the rattiest cars ever to die on a freeway! His success has made almost every one of his dreams come true -he has a beautiful house in Encino and an absolutely fantastic "getaway place" in Hawaii. He's been able to travel all over Europe and England, and he plans to do a lot more. His friends include people like Elton John-people whose talent he respects, and who respect his talent, too. And that makes him feel fantastic!

And now he's finally beginning to believe that it's not all going to evaporate at any moment. Now he can settle down and just dig being young, talented, and successful!

And so, according to Sam Hyman —David's roommate—he whistles day and night... and so he entertains on the set practically every lunch hour... and so, at recording sessions, the musicians get high just being around him! And people who don't really know him well, look at him and say that there's a new David Cassidy!

David's much cooler around the house, too. He's more relaxed and gets enjoyment out of simple pleasures like rough-housing with his new dog Bulls-eye—an English setter. He no longer feels guilty about having free time . . . and he makes the most out of all the free time instead of wasting it!

But the truth is, the David they're seeing now is actually the old David! Sam, who probably knows him better than anyone, says that he's now seeing David as he was in high school for the first time in three years! "This is the way he always was then," Sam says, grinning. "Why do you think I made friends with him in the first place?"

Sam nods thoughtfully. "It's the old David," he says. "And you know something? It's nice to have him back!"