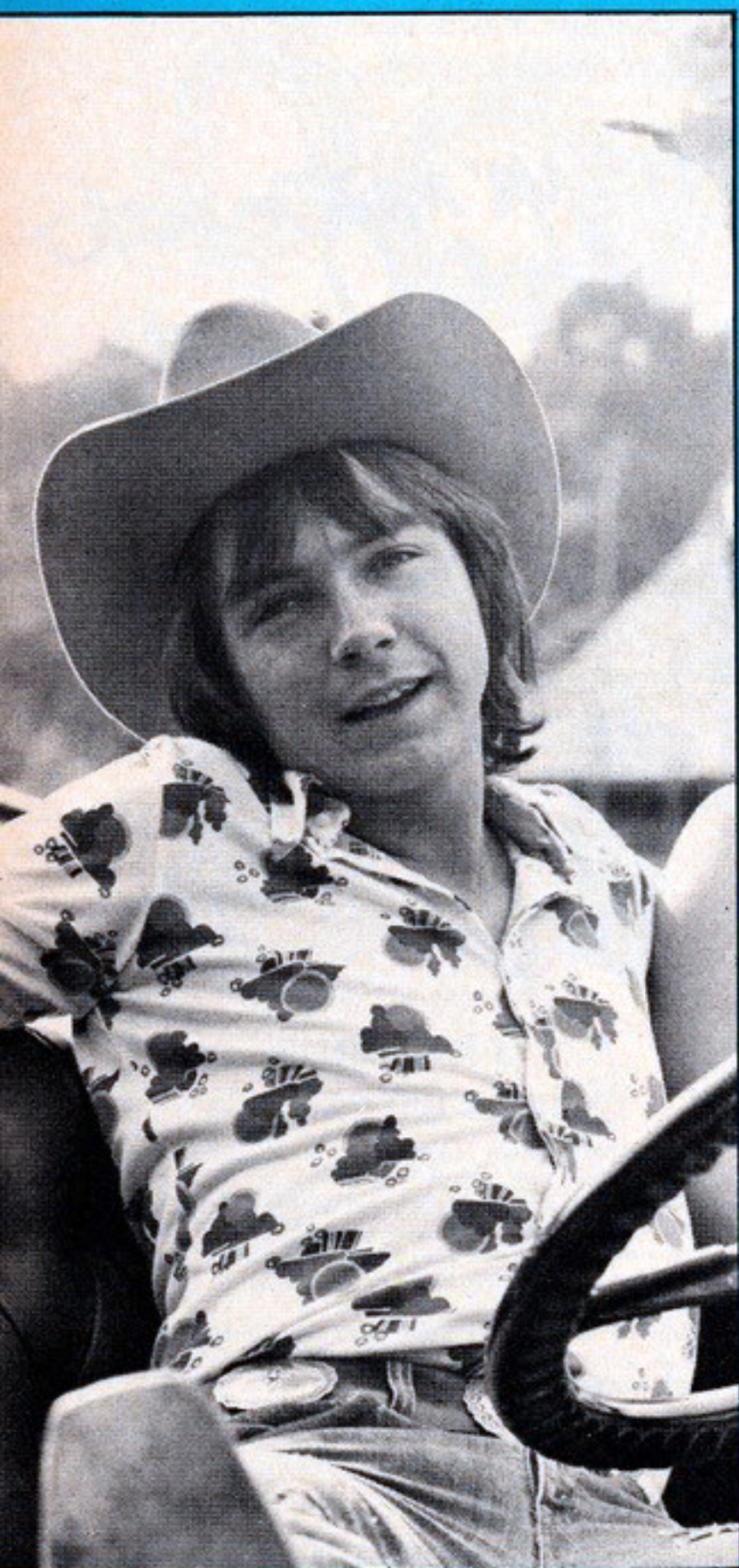


BETWEEN US!



Hey, I just got involved in a whole new hobby and I'd like to tell you about it. You see I've taken up water skiing and I just love it.

A friend of mine kept telling me I'd like it so I finally went up to a

nearby lake one weekend with some friends and gave it a try. My friend was right—I love it.

I was really kind of clumsy at first but I guess every beginner is. I fell in the water quite a few times at first. But I was determined to conquer it and I kept at it and kept at it until pretty soon I was spending every free minute running up to the lake and water skiing.

And now, I'm proud to admit, I think I'm getting pretty good at it. I've been going to the lake almost every weekend—in between concerts—and I've gotten to the point where I can even ski backwards with my hands behind my back! I'm kind of proud of that.

I guess the reason water skiing appeals to me so much is it's something to do outdoors and it's so sort of clean, if you know what I mean.

I mean I spend so much time indoors—in the studio, the recording studio, concert halls, rehearsal halls, offices, airports and hotels—that it's a kick for me any time I get outside at all.

It's so great to be skimming along on top of the water with all that cold, fresh air rushing into my lungs and the water flying by. It's kind of like having all my troubles brushed right off. I guess it's kind of a cleansing experience.

And it's exciting, too, to be able to stay on top of the water like that—sort of like conquering the environment without doing it any harm.

Sometimes I get up in the morn-

ing and all I want to do is drive up to the lake and get out on that water. Unfortunately I sometimes get that feeling in the middle of the week when I have to go to the studio and work on *The Partridge Family*. But it sure gives me something to look forward to when the weekends finally come.

I'm surprised my friends put up with me, though. I never want to stop. They practically have to pull me into the boat in order to give someone else a chance!

And afterwards, when we all come back in to shore and usually go get something to eat, I often find that my head has kind of cleared up and things that were bugging me before now seem unimportant. I seem to be able to see things more clearly after a day outdoors.

I hope you can understand my feelings about all of this. It's still so new and so exciting to me that I just want to tell everyone about it. I highly recommend water skiing to everyone. It's a great sport.

I seem to be getting into a lot of new things lately. I've got a new car—a silver BMW with a sun roof. And I've been introduced to meditation—but that's a whole other thing that I'll have to explain to you some other time.

Right now I'm going to go put my swim trunks on and head for the water. I'll be talking to you next month.

Love! David

BY DAVID GASSIDY
