

girls who screamed and tried to run to the stage. It was enough just to see you—to be in the same room where you were!

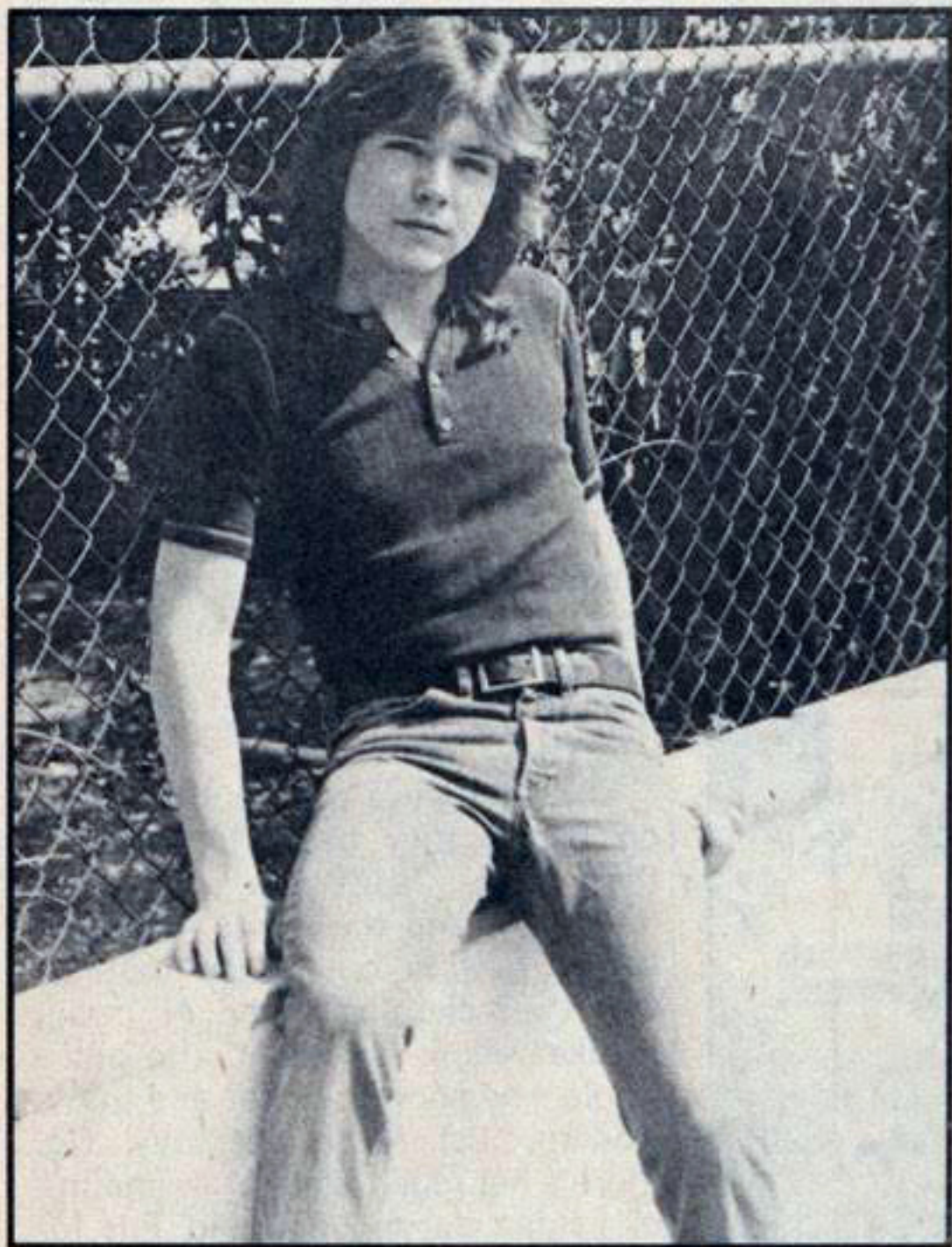
Those girls—the ones who hounded your every step—who waited at your door and followed you everywhere—did they finally go too far? I always felt you had a right to a private life, but they would never leave you alone. It hurt me to read about them, and to see the pictures of you looking so sad.

These same girls are talking about you at school today. They say you've already stopped recording and doing concerts because you don't care anymore. They're saying you became such a big star so fast that it went to your head. And now you think you're too big for the show, too. It's like everyone is secretly plotting against you!

I didn't say a word, because I knew it wouldn't make any difference if I did. I knew what they were saying wasn't true, but they would just laugh at me if I tried to explain.

### YOU LOOKED SO HAPPY

Now I'm in my room, and as I write this I keep looking at a poster of you that I have on my wall. You're wearing the white, tasseled costume you wore when I saw your concert, and you are smiling. And somehow I



know that if I could see your face right this minute, it wouldn't be happy at all.

Dear David, I wish I could help somehow to make it all the way it was in the beginning. Before more and more of the pictures I saw of you showed your mouth turned down at the corners, and your eyes so sad and tired. You've made me so happy, and given me comfort so many times, and yet I'm helpless to do the same for you.

### IS IT ALL OVER?

The past is over, though, and soon you won't be on the show anymore. It hurts me to write it—I can't believe I won't be seeing you again. But things change, and I guess I'll have to face that I'm not the same either. My braces are gone, I have some boy-friends, and I'm not as shy as I used to be either. I know I have no right to expect you to stay in the same place.

Well, I've poured out my heart enough for now, but I do want you to know one thing. For every girl who puts you down for leaving, there are hundreds like me who understand, even if we don't know all your reasons.

You have so much talent to share with all of us, David. Maybe for a while you just want to be alone to think about what you want to do next. Whatever it is, you'll be sensational! Just don't be gone too long, okay?

Your fan always,  
Alice



# "IS IT REALLY ALL OVER?"