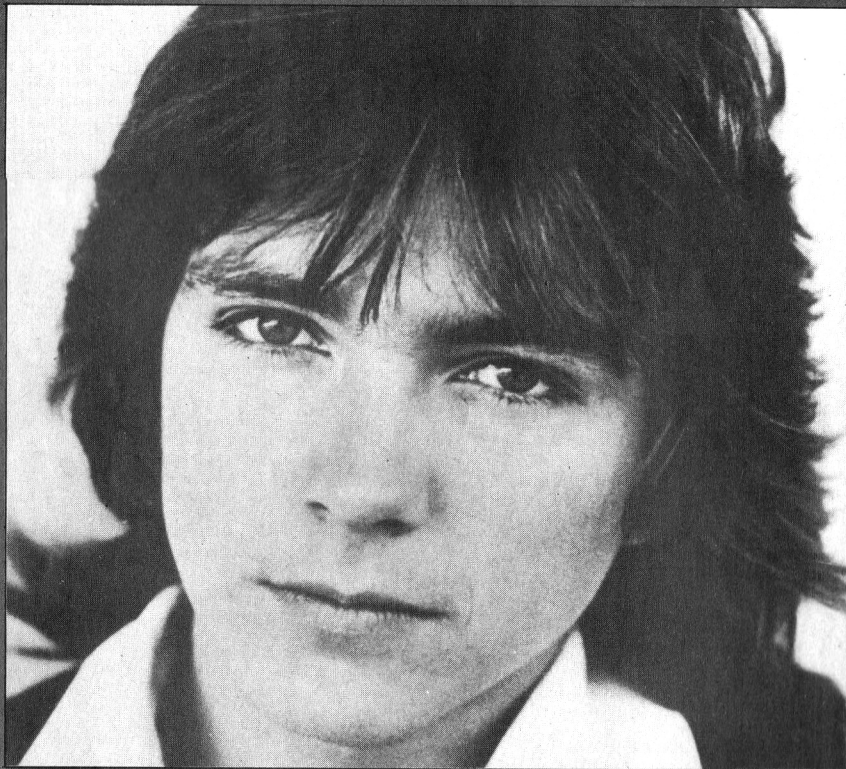


# CASSIDY

TURNED ON FROM P. 17



"I wanted so much to be respected for my music and for my talent. I wanted to believe the kids were coming to my concerts to listen to me. But towards the end, hardly anyone ever talked or wrote about the quality of my performances, or how I sounded.

"All the headlines ever said was, 'David Cassidy played in town last night — 60 little girls were hurt in the crush and 15 had to go to hospital — isn't it terrible.' Sure, it was bad when people got

hurt at my gigs, but it was the last thing I wanted to happen. I really felt awful about it.

"Would you believe that when I played once in Sydney, Australia, and there were mobs of girl fans trampling each other, people actually wanted to have me deported as a health hazard! I sat in front of the TV in my hotel room, and there were all these heads on the screen talking about me as if I was a common criminal or the carrier of some disease.

David Cassidy's "normal problems" — made enjoyably ho-hum by his journey into temporary obscurity — have played an important part in shaping his new artistic and professional image. Quite simply, they have provided inspiration for his songs.

He offers an example: "I was in a hotel room in New York, feeling very depressed because of a problem I had with a girl who meant a lot to me, and the lyrics for a song just came into my head.

"I had to get myself worked out, and that song gave me the answer. I flew up to Caribou, Maine, where I'd been doing a lot of taping, and went hard at putting those words down to music. It did me a whole lot of good.

"The problems I had then have been worked out now. I'm not saying more than that, because I'm through with the whole business of talking about my private life all the time. That was an ego trip which is behind me now. It's over."