

# David Cassidy and the Fun Enhance Kids

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David Cassidy lounged on the couch in his hotel suite an hour after he finished Friday night's concert at Hara Arena.

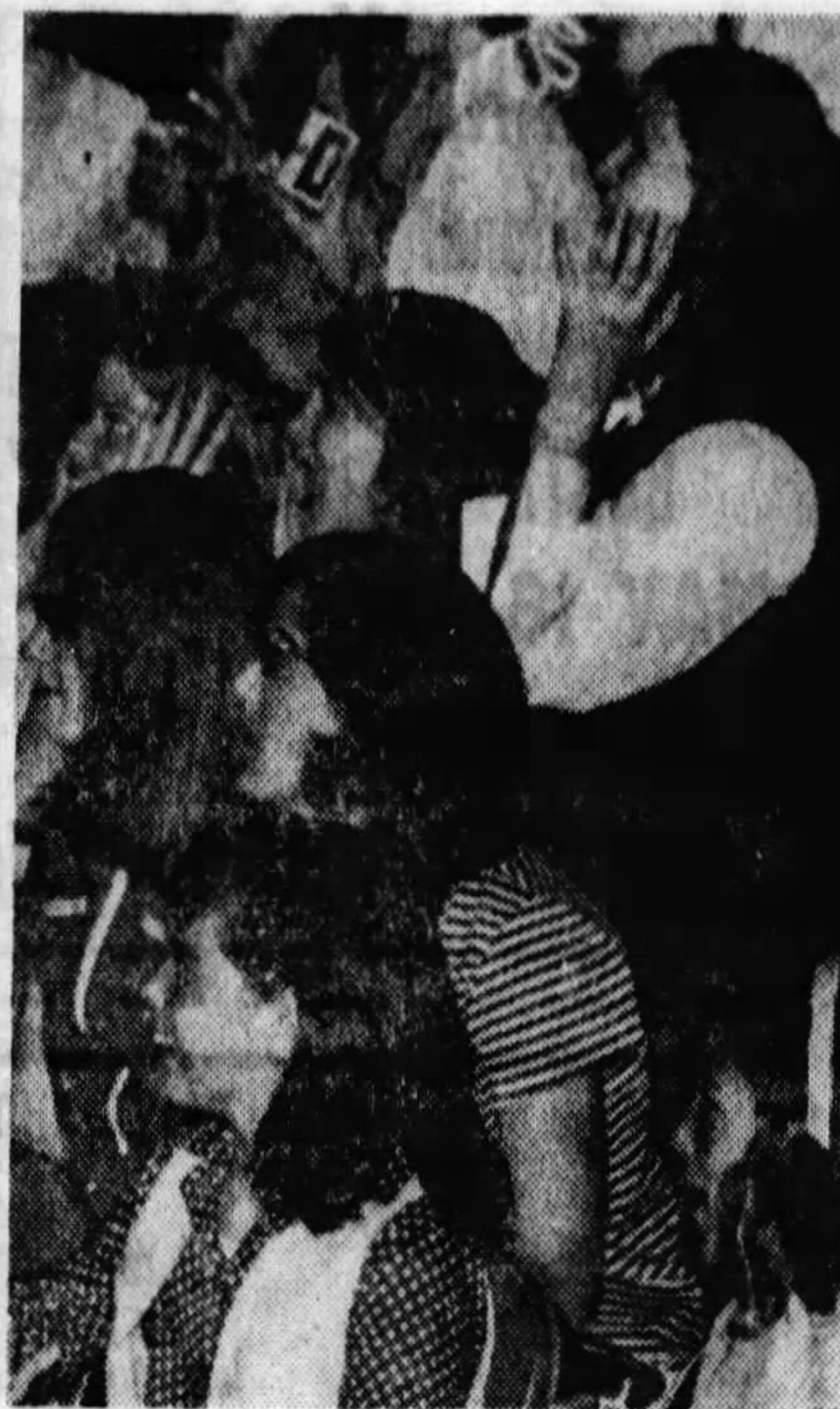
The 21-year-old star of television's Partridge Family relaxed in a pair of faded jeans, a denim shirt and no shoes. He looked the picture of collapse on the couch but answered questions with a smile.

"I GUESS I was pacing myself out there tonight," he offered half apologetically. "I only gave about 75 per cent."

Watching the show an hour earlier, you never would have known it. The close to 6,000 people (95 per cent of them girls—average age 13) didn't

David Cassidy gave the kids just what they wanted at Hara Friday night. He gave David Cassidy. The singer rocked through 11 numbers in a 45-minute performance. He danced from one side of the stage to the other and the screaming, crying, yelling throng of teeny-boppers loved every second of it.

**THE SHOW** was billed as a concert but once Cassidy made his appearance you



## TEENS SCREAM AS DAVID SINGS AND DANCES ACROSS STAGE Concert Leaves Him Exhausted; 'I Was Pacing Myself Out There'

would be hard pressed to call it that.

"They were so loud I couldn't hear myself sing," Cassidy said of his screaming audience. "I didn't know if I was sharp or flat or with the group or what."

There was also the proverbial problem with the Arena sound system. The speakers were getting fuzzy at one point and technicians worked frantically to keep them from burning out.

But the kids didn't care. The only thing most of them came for was to see their idol. You could catch pieces of his songs and hear the instruments if you listened closely enough.

**THE 14-PIECE** back-up group, complete with three vocalists who filled in for 45 minutes the first half of the show, was a *de quate*. Kim Carnes and David Ellingson, both from Los Angeles, did a

duet on four songs.

Then tall, slender, Brooks Hunnicut, an Atlanta girl with hair down to her waist, gave the kids a lot of soul sounds.

The concert started 20 minutes late, thanks to a lost tenor

saxophone and a flute that ended up somewhere on a jet plane between Dayton and Los Angeles. But the kids were patient and for most of them it was worth it.

**CASSIDY** is new to the concert business. Friday's gig at Hara was only his third of a tour that will take up his weekends for the rest of the summer. During the week he'll shoot this fall's segments of the Partridge Family at Columbia Studios.

Saturday he did two shows in Detroit. Tonight he is in Canton, and the first week end in June he hits Cincinnati and Columbus.

"I'm really getting exhausted," he said later over a steak at the Tropic's. "I'm coming down with some kind of cold now so I'm going to have to cool it for a little bit."

**COOLING IT** isn't easy. and David admits he has to 'The kids want him on stage hold himself back to keep from burning out. "I just keep saying to myself, take it easy, take it easy. Sometimes I just like to let it all go."

If he ever does, they'll need more than the 50 or so police officers and ushers who guarded the Hara stage. The kids bombarded the stage with love-notes, coins, snoopy dolls, beads, pictures and anything else that was loose in a 13-year-old's purse.

**PARENTS** sat in stunned disbelief as their off-spring went crazy over the smiling singer who cavorted about the stage in a white, laced-to-the-*navel* jump suit with gold medallion trim.

"I just don't know what it is that sends them up the walls like this," said one parent.

Eight-year-old Cindy Robinson came all the way from Cincinnati to see the show. She had the answer.

"We love him, that's all. We just love him."