

Security Guards Ward Off Fans

Bemused David Cassidy Not Amused At Amusement Park

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MASON, Ohio — Most folks travel here to have fun at a new sprawling, \$30 million amusement park called King's Island. David Cassidy's four days here could hardly be called fun.

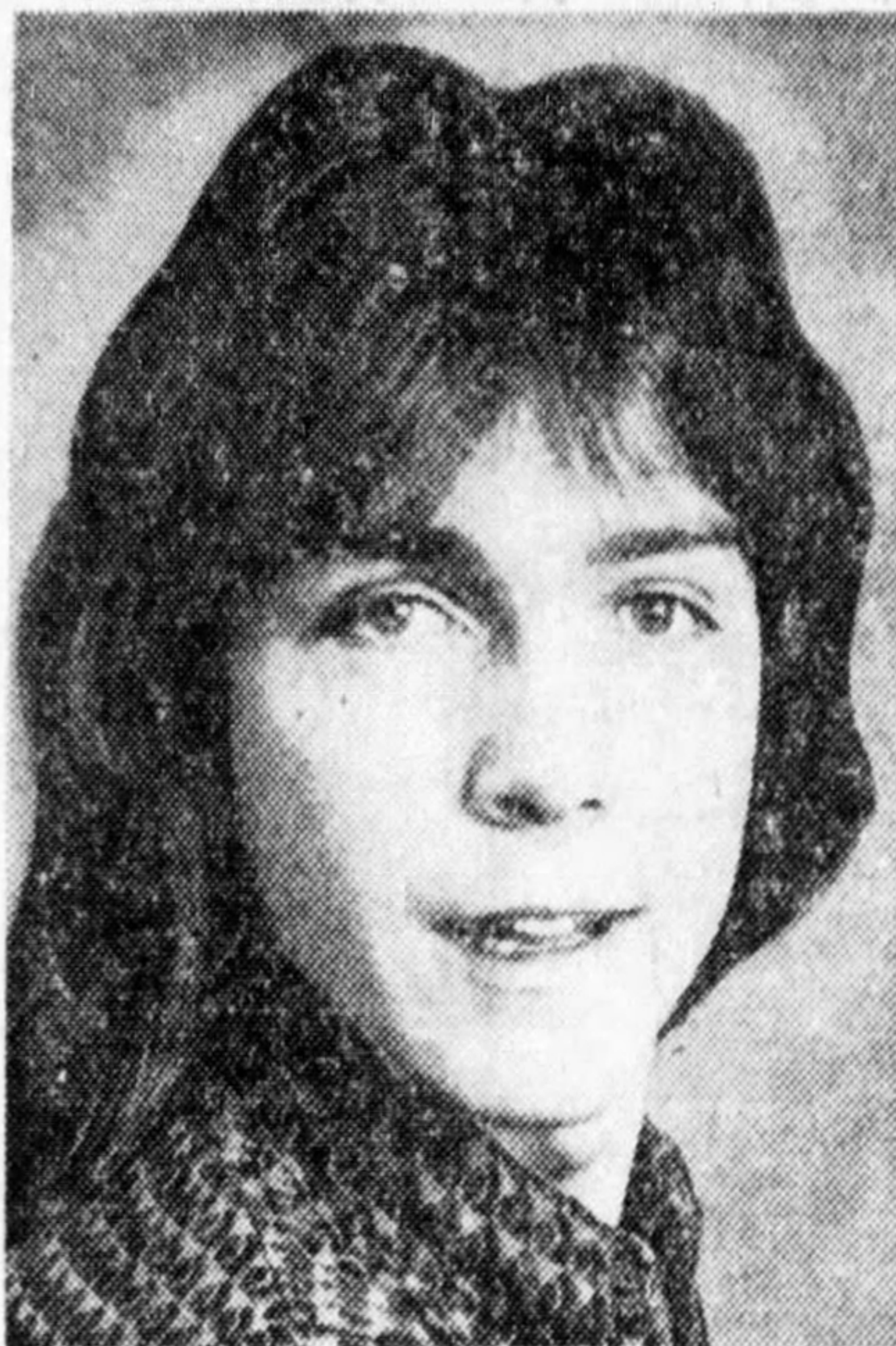
Unless, of course, your idea of fun is being shut up in a trailer or a hotel under heavy guard, with an occasional stroll in the presence of six sheriff's deputies.

Cassidy, hero of young rock fans, was the center of attention as "The Partridge Family" filmed on location at King's Island. Some 48 extra policemen and security guards were hired to hold back the crowds (about 30,000 adoring faces daily) and keep 13-year-olds out of the "Partridge" wing of King's Island Inn.

"They're doing a good job here," Cassidy observed over the burly blue and gray shoulders shielding him from his fans. "Last year, when we filmed at Marineland, they didn't have any extra security and the girls chased me into the men's room."

"On one hand, I want the security. On the other hand, it makes the fans very inhibited."

Cassidy, a soft-spoken, nice young man of 22, seemingly has come to grips with



DAVID CASSIDY

"I don't know what's going on."

the national adulation he receives as his ABC-TV series goes into its third year. However, three gold records and a large bank book as lead singer of "The Partridge Family" have robbed him of personal development.

"I don't even know what the real David

Cassidy is like," he lamented. "Anything outside of the TV show is a threat to our image. This is the career I chose four years ago, and even in my wildest dreams, I could never have imagined this."

"My goal was to become a respected, working actor. That's become kind of distorted now and I don't know where this is going to take me. Obviously, I don't see myself as the 28-year-old lead singer in 'The Partridge Family,' but I don't know what I want to do when this is over."

'I'm A Dummy'

The financial success of "The Partridge Family" will pull him over the rough spots to come, he feels.

"It won't be necessary for me to do beach blanket bingo movies. I don't worry about money now, so I don't have to do anything I don't want to do."

"I personally would have liked to see the role grow more, but I'm one of six singers in a show that works, so we can't tamper with it. I like to sing rock and roll, but I also like the music of 'The Partridge Family' — it's good music for what it is."

"But look where it got me . . . I'm a dummy. Everybody else in the family

comes off smarter than me. And I work so much I don't know what's going on. A lot of people ask me about campus problems. How do I know? I'm in a studio whitening up all day."

"People ask me what I think of 18-year-olds getting the right to vote. I don't know what's happening. I'm voting for Dewey in November."

Despite his words, there is no bitterness in his voice. Cassidy sounds, simply, sincere. He attempts honestly and often with great difficulty to express himself, moving his hands constantly, as if trying to pull out the thoughts.

"There has been so much written and said about me, I have to be immune. All that stuff in the fan magazines — it's all jive, a lot of sensationalism. I don't read much of it, because if I did I'd probably eat my guts out."

It is his heart that Cassidy is currently eating out, on location at King's Island. This episode of "The Partridge Family" has him falling in love with the park's public relations director, played by former Miss America Mary Ann Mobley.

She's an "older woman" and can't return his affections, according to the script. As if this isn't humiliating enough,

the script also calls for Cassidy to be filmed on nearly every ride in the park — with terror on his face. Nobody ever explained why the terrible terror — just part of the "dummy" image.

So, while Cassidy works on his terror, the fans watch some amazing acrobatic feats by cameramen.

One brave soul rode the 61-mile-per-hour roller coaster backwards, on his knees, operating a camera from the front seat. You remember the front seat of a roller coaster . . . the one you always pretended to be running for, but which you secretly hoped would be filled when you got there.

And David Cassidy sits locked up somewhere, waiting to be let out for a few minutes before the cameras.

"I can't really complain," he says good-naturedly. "Who knows, five years, 10 years, I could be laying carpet somewhere."

If tampering with success is dangerous, this could be the year of the beginning of the end for "The Partridge Family." It has some new competition, come September, in its Fridays at 8:30 p. m. (Channel 4) time slot. CBS is moving "Sonny and Cher" to 8 p. m. Fridays, while NBC puts Brian Keith and Shelley

Fabares in a new doctor show, "The Little People," at 8:30.

It is doubtful, however, that the new competition is any reason to go out and buy carpet shears.

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