David Cassidy says he's ready for career again

By MARILYN BECK

HOLLYWOOD — Shaun Cassidy might be generating the impression that he's not allowing pressures of "Hardy Boys" idolhood to bother him, but his brother David said: "He calls me up in a panic all the time. He says I'm the only one who can understand."

David parlayed "Partridge Family" fame into international success as a bubblegum rock artist. He bowed out of the business a few years ago when he found himself unable to cope with its pressures any longer.

David feels that Shaun's able to handle fame more easily than he did, "because I took things too much to heart, felt misrepresented, manipulated. But he's a very wise soul, and by nature much less intense."

Still, he added: "Though Shaun's less bothered by the business than I was, he is bothered. No matter who you are, the situation's not easy to take when you're harrassed by people knocking at your door at 4 a.m."

David, who's 28 and looks 18, feels he's ready to knock on the show-business door again. He's cutting an album for the Warners-Curb company, makes his first post-"Partridge" acting appearance as an undercover narcotics officer in the May 28 installment of NBC's "Police Story," and is expecting to star this summer in a two-hour TV movie that will be used as a pilot for a David Cassidy series.

"I don't have to work," he said.

"I made enough from my records and tours so that I can retire nicely for life — for a nice long life. But I want to work. I feel it would be real nice to be a success again."

What about the pressures attendant to success?

Well, the way he puts it: "I'm ready now for the disapoointments and heartaches, the thrills and spills, whatever."

Whatever.