

Look Who's Older

Actor **Leslie Nielsen** is 81.
Actress **Tina Louise** is 73.
Actor **Burt Reynolds** is 71.
Songwriter **Gerry Goffin** is 68.
Singer **Bobby "Boris" Pickett** is 67.
Bandleader **Sergio Mendes** is 66.
Singer **Otis Clay** is 65.
Actor **Philip Anglim** is 54.
Actress **Catherine Hickland** is 51.
Actress **Carey Lowell** is 46.
Singer **Sheryl Crow** is 45.
Actress **Jennifer Aniston** is 38.
Actor **Damian Lewis** is 36.
Singer **D'Angelo** is 33.
Actor **Brice Beckham** is 31.
Singer/actress **Brandy** is 28.
Actor **Matthew Lawrence** is 27.
Singer **Kelly Rowland** is 26.
Actress **Q'orianka Kilcher** is 17.
Actor **Taylor Lautner** is 15.

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Cassidy in the early '70s.

Cassidy performing in 1991.

Photo: KATHY VOGLESONG

I REMEMBER TILLIE

David Cassidy wants to know arcade icon's fate

By MARK VOGER CELEBS WRITER

COME ON, GET HAPPY, New Jersey. Upcoming **David Cassidy** shows in Sewell (Feb. 23) and Red Bank (Feb. 24) will be the singer's first of 2007. What's new this time around? "I find more and more as the years drift by, I go back to what I grew up with," Cassidy tells **CELEBS**. And so he is planning to add an acoustic miniset ("just me and my guitar") showcasing his '60s influences. The one-time "Partridge Family" heartthrob inquired about the fate of arcade icon "Tillie" during a phone interview.

CELEBS: Thanks for setting some time aside.

CASSIDY: Oh, my pleasure. It's Asbury Park. Are you kidding?

CELEBS: Right — you and the town go way back.

CASSIDY: Way. I can't even remember the last time I was there. But, boy, I have some incredible memories of Asbury Park as a kid, boy.

CELEBS: You used to stay there with your grandparents, right?

CASSIDY: Yeah. My grandparents lived in West Orange. When my mom and dad (Evelyn Ward and Jack Cassidy) were divorced, I moved in with my grandparents when I was 5. Every summer from the time I was 5 until I was 11, I'd go to Asbury with both my mom and my grandparents. I have some early photographs of me on the boardwalk with my grandparents.

CELEBS: Do you remember an arcade that had a big clown face outlined in neon?

CASSIDY: I remember it!

CELEBS: Well, that clown face became an icon. Bruce Springsteen and his band once posed in front of it...

CASSIDY: I know.

CELEBS: So a lot of Springsteen fans and others formed a group called Save Tillie. The clown face was actually cut off of the building before it was demolished.

CASSIDY: Oh, my God.

CELEBS: You're never tempted to revisit Asbury Park?

CASSIDY: Actually, two summers ago, I was in Red Bank. A friend of mine has a house in Monmouth Beach. I took my son (Beau) there and spent a couple of days there with his son. We went and played golf and did all the stuff that dads and kids do. I shared some stories about Asbury Park, although we didn't go there.

But I took my son to West Orange; I drove by the house I grew up in. I took him all through New Jersey, but we didn't get to Asbury Park. There's a part of me that doesn't want to go back there, because I don't want to see what happened to it. You know? I want to preserve the memory of what it was for me. But you've tweaked my interest. Tell me a little more about that clown face (laughs).



Tillie is saved!
June 11, 2004.

Photo: KATHY VOGLESONG

CELEBS: Well, it was a whole big thing. On the day (in 2004) when they removed the block of wall with Tillie's face — as you can imagine, it took a huge crane and a lot of construction workers, many of whom were volunteers — people came from all over with beach chairs. People were grilling; they were playing Springsteen music on boomboxes. It was like being at a Rolling Stones concert.

CASSIDY: Only, it was a Springsteen festival.

CELEBS: Yeah. And I'll tell you — when the crane finally started lifting Tillie off, it felt weird. You really felt like this was the end of era.

CASSIDY: Has Bruce Springsteen commented on that a lot?

CELEBS: I don't believe he ever made a public statement, but he did make donations to Save Tillie. Of course, the cause

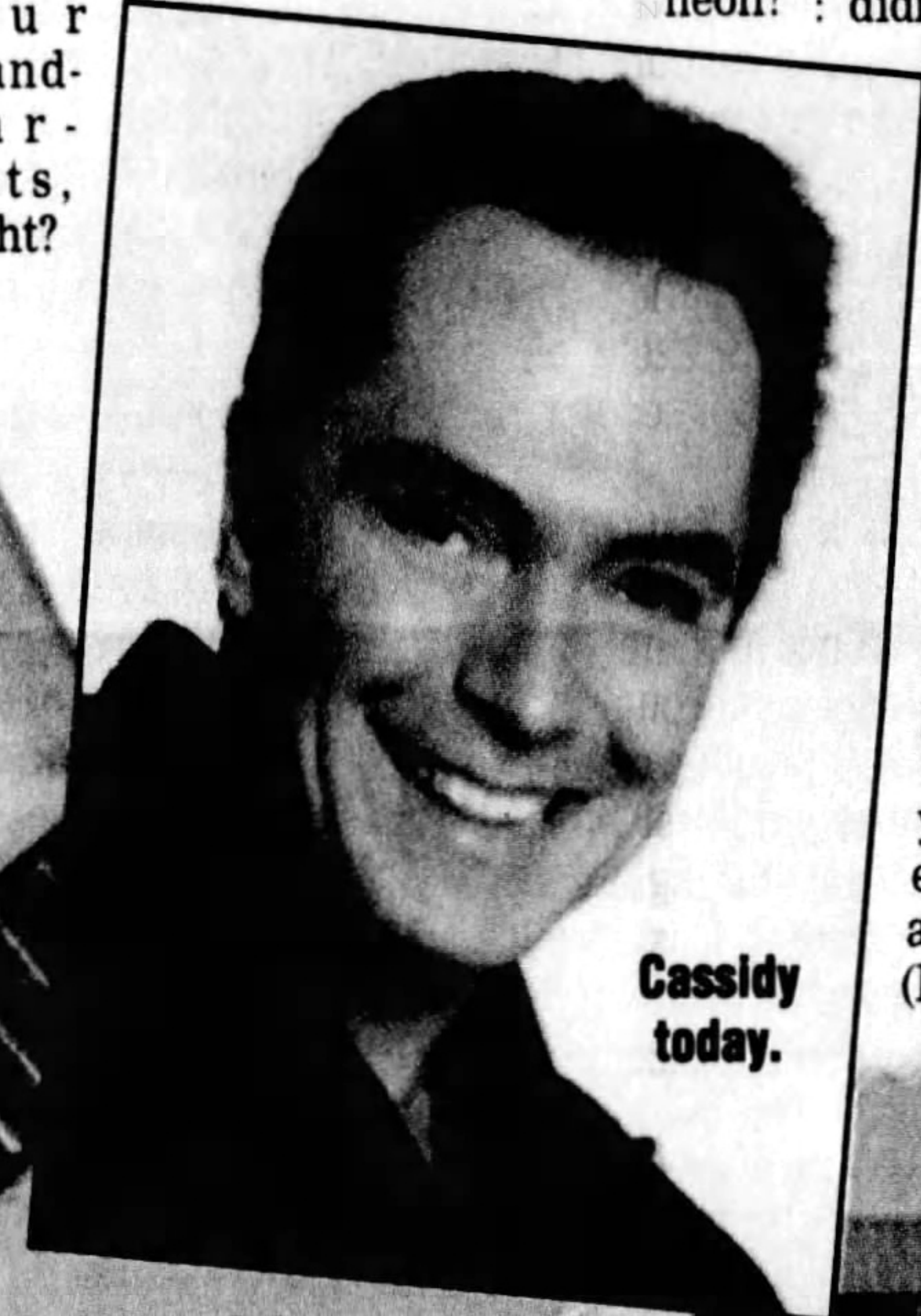
DAVID CASSIDY is scheduled to perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Commerce Bank Arts Centre, 519 Hurffville-Crosskeys Road, Sewell. \$28-\$98. (856) 256-8660. www.sjlivearts.com. ■ Cassidy also is scheduled to perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank. \$25-\$100. (732) 842-9000. www.countbasietheatre.org.

was controversial, because some people were saying, "It's just peeling paint on a decaying building! What's wrong with you?"

CASSIDY: Yeah, exactly! Why are we not saving the whales? All this for a clown (laughs).

CELEBS: And believe it or not, right now, Tillie is being stored at the waste processing plant in Asbury Park.

CASSIDY: Wow. That's great. Perfect place for it, man. C



Cassidy today.

A vintage Asbury Park post card.

