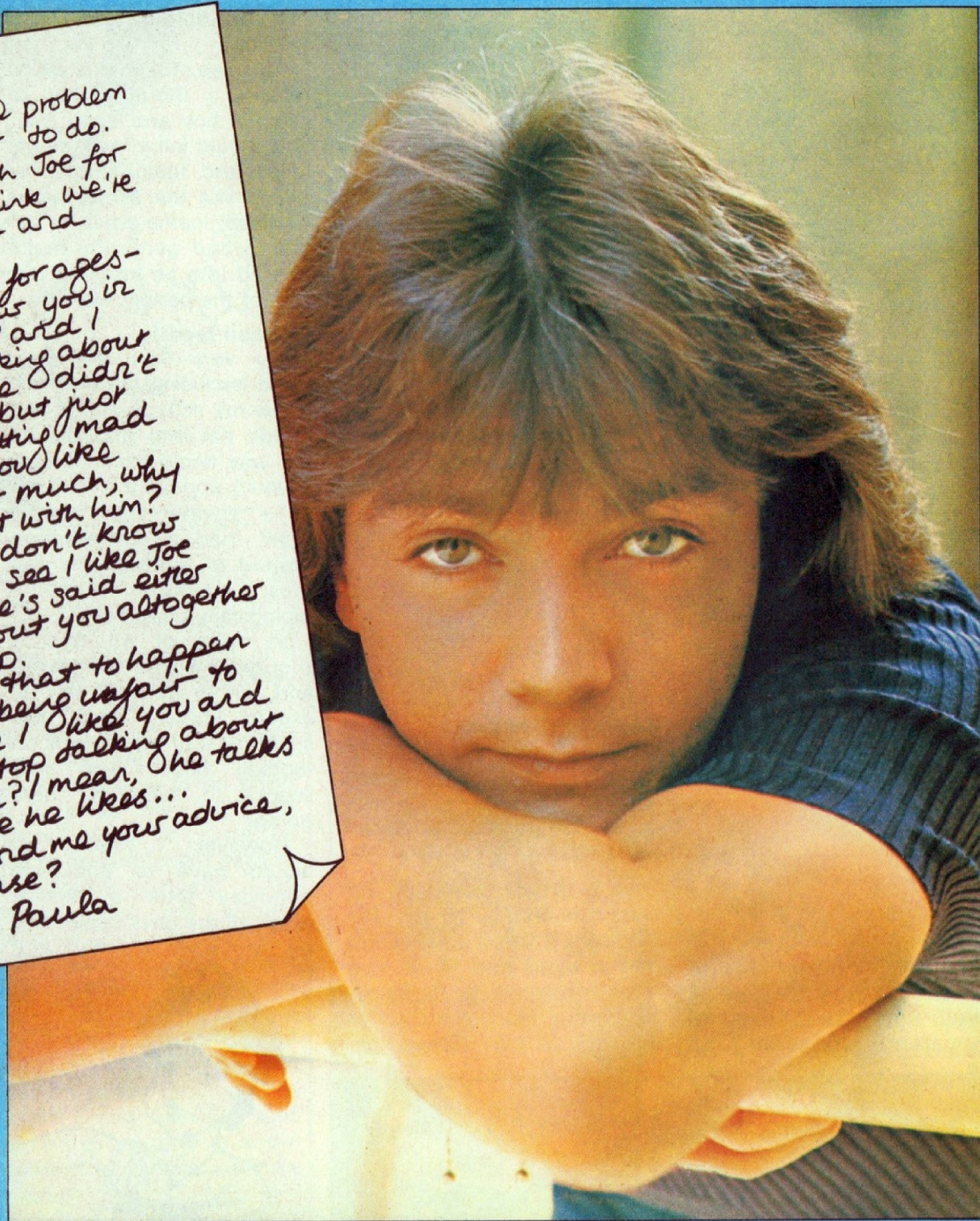


'YOUR BOYFRIEND v ME!'

Lots of you have written to me on this touchy subject, and what could be touchier than the other boy? The other boy meaning me, of course. Are you getting confused? Let me straighten you out by giving you an example of a typical letter:

Dear David,
 I've got a special problem and I don't know what to do. I've been going out with Joe for a few months but I think we're going to break up soon and you're the reason!
 I've liked you for ages - ever since I first saw you in 'The Partridge Family' and I couldn't help talking about you to Joe. At first, he didn't mind too much, but just lately he's been getting mad and saying, 'if you like David Cassidy so much, why don't you go out with him?'
 Anyway, now I don't know what to do. You see I like Joe quite a lot but he's said either I stop talking about you altogether or we break up.
 I don't want that to happen but I think I'm being unfair to you, too, because I like you and why should I stop talking about somebody I like? I mean, she talks about the people he likes...
 Can you send me your advice, please?
 Paula



Well, Paula, and all other girls with your problem, I hope I can help you.

First of all, I think your boyfriend is pretty understanding. I'm not so sure I could be so gracious if a girl I was dating insisted on telling me how great another guy was all the time.

Sure if she was talking about a really good actor or athlete and she respected him for his talents, I think I'd understand, but if she started telling me how much she loved him, I know I'd want to break up with her.

If you think I'm being too harsh, think of it from the

other point of view. Suppose your boyfriend kept saying how fantastic Susan Dey was... How would you feel? Not very happy, right?

As gently as I know how, I want to tell you something else. You must be practical too - you see you could be

passing up a boyfriend that would be better for you than I am. What if we really got together and you discovered that you couldn't stand my way of life? After all I travel, a great deal, I'm never home, I don't even have time for proper dates... See? You

might be much happier with someone else!