

DRUGS ARE

It's sometimes hard to believe or imagine that superstars like David Cassidy really are like the rest of us — with the same senses, likes and dislikes and the same feelings and emotions — happiness and sadness. But, no matter what appearances might tell you, they really are human beings and no different from any of us.

Although David appears to live in a dream world, on a cloud remote from his fans, leading a wonderfully happy and glamorous life, he is a very real, down-to-earth person. And, not too long ago, David's world was certainly down because one of his best friends died, suddenly, at the age of nineteen. The shock really knocked it out of David and broke him up. The most tragic thing to David, however, was that he knew his friend was troubled and deeply involved with drugs, and it was the drugs that finally killed him.

His friend was a guy David used to go to school with, skip school with, go out on dates with, talk over the future with — a real buddy in every sense of the word. But, as often happens in everyone's life, your schoolfriends mostly go their own ways. For David, it was a successful future in acting and singing, eventually leading up to the Partridge Family and the status of superstar. But for his friend it was one set-back after another. On top of his disappointments, his friend lost his mother, and then he turned to drugs. David knew about this, but there was nothing he could do or say to stop him.

This is why David wants no part of drugs, because he personally knows what they can tragically lead to. David admits that he had drifted slightly apart from his friend, and hadn't seen too much of him in those

last two months, nor any of his other friends come to that matter. David was caught up, working day after day, filming, and recording for hours, but even so he would invite his pal over to his house and try and spend time with him as busy as he was.

But an invisible barrier between the two boys had grown up. When they were younger, they talked of what they wanted to be and their hopes, but only David had his hopes and dreams come true.

They first met when David moved to Hollywood from New Jersey. They loved going off to the beach and earning extra pocket money together doing part-time jobs. David knew what he wanted and went out and did it on his own. His friend was glad and happy for David, only it wasn't happening for him. When he lost his mother, he felt he had nothing left, so he found consolation in drugs. David tried to encourage him and point to himself as an example. He didn't need drugs to be happy.

David's friend knew everything about drugs and was aware of the dangers. He knew what he was doing and David didn't stand a chance of trying to talk him out of it. As David said, "You can't help someone who doesn't want to be helped, no matter how hard you try".

David's only hope now is that the death of his close friend will be a kind of a warning to others who think that drugs are an easy way out of problems. They're not, as his friend's death proves. It really upset David that such a young and talented life, for his friend WAS talented, should go to waste. He hopes his own sad personal loss of an important and dear friend will be a warning to others.

SAYS DAVID CASSIDY

In 22 years, David Cassidy's seen an awful lot of life . . . and an awful lot of sadness, too. And the saddest thing of all is drugs and what they did to his best friend . . .

DAVID CASSIDY

