



David Cassidy, whose New Zealand and Australian tour starts late next month. "The music," he says, "will be almost all new . . . And I won't be wearing those skin-tight white tights."

sub-verse. His appeal has also been described as bisexual.

"I think it might be true. I think it probably is true," he responded thoughtfully, "but people are so hung-up on putting labels on things. They are so insecure, they have to secure their own image by drawing lines and saying, well, this is who I am and that is not who I am."

He has no interest whatsoever in perpetuating this bisexual-appeal label, as other stars, notably David Bowie, have in blatantly drag acts.

"That's not me. It's distanced for them, going from whatever they were to doing to drag-rock. I had something a bit the same, going from on-screen where

I was the clean-cut, 'can I have the keys to the car, Mom?' kind of image, to my stage act.

"I will change now that I've left 'The Partridge Family,' but I think I was so

By
BARBARA HALL
in New York

successful in that vein that success will work against me. I think I will have to work just as hard again to change the image."

David cites "freedom" as the best thing his success has given him.

"Once I have got over my commitments, he was

referring to 'The Partridge Family') I have the freedom to decide where I want to go from here, what I want to do, and not worry about paying the gas, the electricity bill."

David admits that he vacillates between wanting to get out of show-business and wanting to go further.

"There are times when it gets too overpowering, and I ask, 'What am I doing?' that it's all madness. I've imagined myself doing all sorts of things, but to be practical about it, I just don't know anything but showbiz. I'm just devoted to it.

"Which is kind of a bore, because I feel stifled and want to try other areas. I don't think of myself as a showbiz person, you know. All of my friends, except

maybe two, are outside of showbiz."

Accompanying the rumors circulating in Hollywood that the slender, bubblegum giant was refusing to finish his contract, was another that, at the grand old age of 24, Cassidy was set to retire to his Hawaiian retreat.

Retirement is not in the cards.

But already David visualizes a life of occasional commuting to stardom from Hawaii.

"I would like to set up a residence there and spend as much time as possible on the beach. It's really great because I can rejuvenate myself there. I can go and get all the juices going and come back to do whatever I want."

David wants to get away from the system which includes mobbing, but, more importantly, the pressures, pace and tempo of the city.

No Eskimo outfits

If time, and his fans, permit, David wants to see a bit of Australia. Like many Americans, he has a very vague image of the country — but he was convinced it was cold.

I warned him that Australia was not, as he thought, like Alaska, especially not in February, but he hadn't planned wearing Eskimo outfits either.

"I can't tell you very much about what I'll be wearing, nor what I'll be singing. But the music will be almost all new. I'll do some of the old tunes, but I don't want to dwell on them too much. And I won't be wearing those skintight white suits.

"I have to go out and be not what I was three years ago, but who I am today."

Note: David Cassidy's New Zealand and Australian tour will start in Auckland on February 26, go to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, and end in Perth on March 15.