

ASSIDY RETIRE AT 25?

nearly ten years later, he's out in the open again. Report: Simon Kinnersley. Photograph: Brian Moody



they just thought I was a freak. That's why I wouldn't change places with Michael Jackson for anything, because he's even more isolated than I was."

But with anything up to 50,000 girls coming to his concerts, and many more locked out, all of them in a frenzy over him and happy to do absolutely anything for him, surely he can't have been lonely at night? After all, he had the pick of virtually every unattached girl in every town he visited. Surely that meant at least that he didn't get lonely in bed?

"Sure—and how do you meet those girls when you're surrounded by bodyguards? Do you lean through the gates and say: 'Hi darling, what's your phone number, I'll give you a call later?' Of course not. I just didn't get near many of them—I'd usually be sitting in my hotel room alone watching sport on the television. Sometimes

The Partridge Family started it all—then the fans took over David's life . . .

I would phone one of the other guys in the band and ask him to see if there were any pretty girls in the hotel lobby. He'd call back a few minutes later and say that there weren't any, then you'd hear girls giggling—and you'd know why there weren't any pretty girls downstairs!

"Occasionally a girl would pass through my room, but that wasn't the sort of romance or relationship that I was looking for. They weren't interested in me, they just wanted to say they'd been to bed with David Cassidy. You don't have a romance with a girl

who hangs round the lobby of a hotel in the hope of seeing you, then goes to bed with you, before you even ask her name.

"Romance is dating a girl properly, turning up at the front door with flowers, taking her to a drive-in movie, getting all the popcorn, and anything else she wants—and watching the first part of the film. I have this fantasy about making it in a drive-in movie with all the car windows steamed up so that no one can see what's going on . . .

"But that was absolutely impossible before I quit. Even though I like to go into relationships feet ▷