

For yesterday's HEARTTHROBS the beat goes on

By Jenny Vogt
COX NEWS SERVICE

Just when you think the world's becoming a safer place, 10,000 screaming Florida teen-agers mob teen idol Luke Perry of "Beverly Hills, 90210."

Such anarchy is nothing new.

In 1959, Fabian got his fans so overwrought that police had to use fire hoses to cool them down when he appeared at the grand opening of a New Jersey doughnut parlor. And David Cassidy's world tours inspired such mass hysteria that in 1974 a 14-year-old fan suffered a fatal heart attack at a London show.

"I think the main appeal is a certain look, something young girls can fantasize about without feeling too freaked out about, like someone with more of an edge," said Pamela Dell, entertainment editor of *Teen* magazine in Los Angeles, at 34 one of the oldest and biggest teen publications with 1.4 million subscribers.

"It's that horrible American ideal that Prince Charming is going to come along and make your life perfect. . . . It's completely unrealistic, but no one is realistic if they're 14 years old and growing up in this society."

Here's what has happened to some of those Prince Charmings over the years:

David Cassidy

Fifteen years after his last concert tour, David Cassidy is back on the road with new music, a new wife and a new image. He plays Sunday at the Strand in Redondo Beach.

Cassidy, 41, the former cherubic-faced star of "The Partridge Family," is seeking to distinguish his current musical style from the bubble-gum rock he played as character Keith Partridge in the hit 1970s television series.

"I was always more of a hippie than Keith was and was genuinely more into a progressive, harder-edged music than he was," Cassidy said in a phone interview. But when asked to describe his current musical style, he said simply, "successful," referring to his 1990 album, "David Cassidy," which spawned a top-40 single, "Lying to Myself."

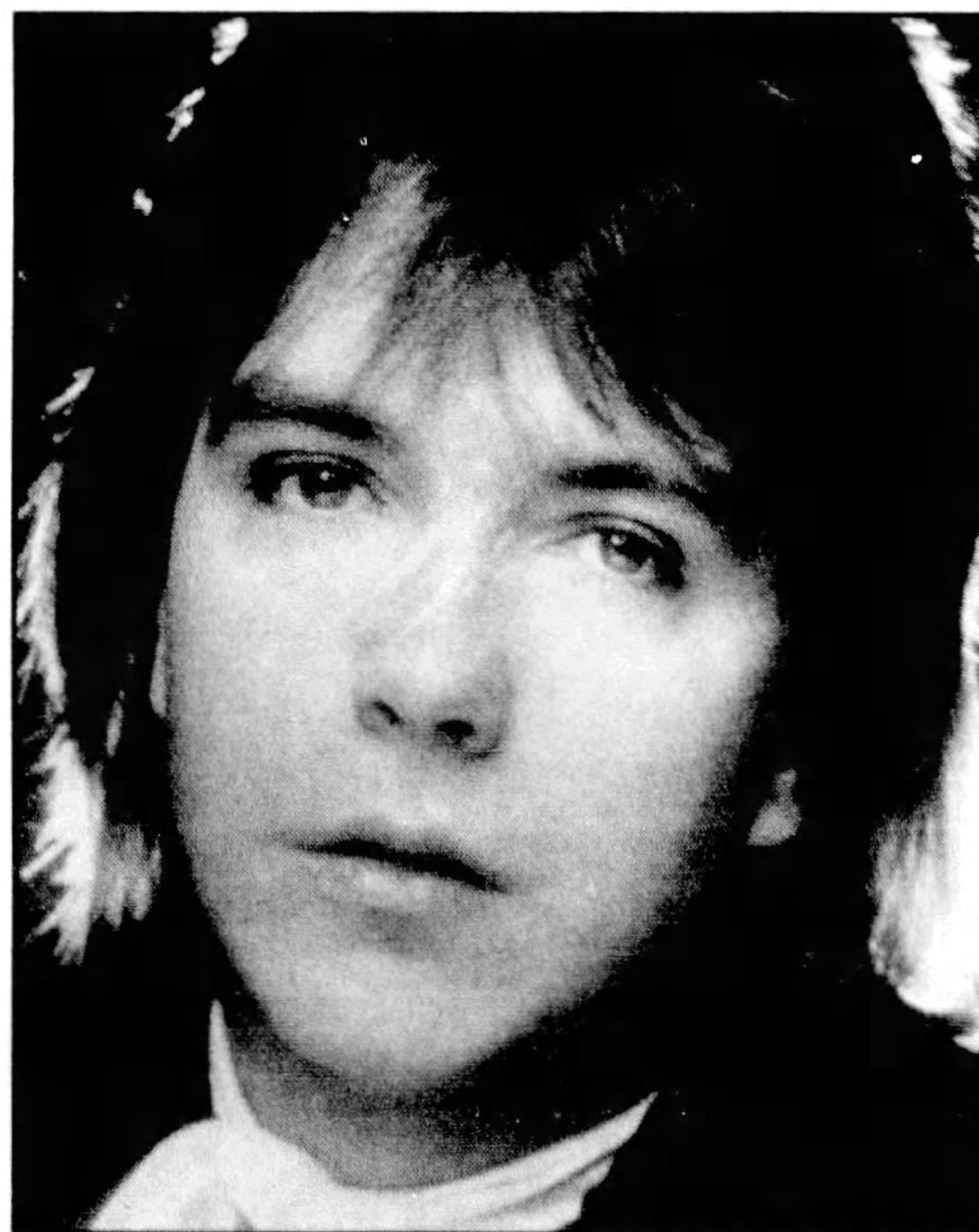
A lot of people were surprised by how well-received his album was, said Cassidy, who bristles at the "former teen idol" label. "I think for the first time I got real critical acclaim for my writing."



Frankie Avalon, today a father of eight, hit the charts 30 years ago with "De De Dinah."



At 41, David Cassidy, above, is back on the road with new music, hoping to shake his Keith Partridge image, below.



UPCOMING

- **What:** David Cassidy in concert.
- **When:** 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Sunday.
- **Where:** The Strand in Redondo Beach.
- **Tickets:** \$25 at the Strand, 316-1700, and Ticketmaster, 480-3232.
- **Information:** Dinner reservations available. Doors open at 5 and 8:30 p.m.

Although Cassidy promises to play some of his old hits such as "I Think I Love You" while on tour, he stresses it is not a nostalgia tour. Still, former "Partridge Family" co-star Danny Bonaduce is opening for Cassidy with a stand-up comedy act at some venues. (Bonaduce isn't scheduled to appear at the Strand engagement.)

"People ask me, 'Why, now that you have this credibility going, would you do that (include Bonaduce),' " Cassidy said. "But I have a unique knowledge of how funny he is, and he has not disappointed me."

Bonaduce, 32, has been in the news for more than his comedy career. He recently had some scrapes with the law and was placed on probation in August for beating up a transvestite prostitute in Phoenix.

Cassidy took his first big image-breaking step in the mid-1970s when he posed for a semi-racy "centerfold" in *Rolling Stone* magazine (the photo was cropped a few inches below his navel). These days, public relations photos show a slightly stubbly face, the formerly full cheeks looking more trim than in the old days.

Cassidy married his writing partner, Sue Shifrin, last year, and they have a 7-month-old son, Beau Devin. He is divorced from actress Kay Lenz.

Becoming a dad for the first time "is the greatest experience I've ever had in my life," Cassidy said. "Now I understand why people go gaga over their kids."

Frankie Avalon

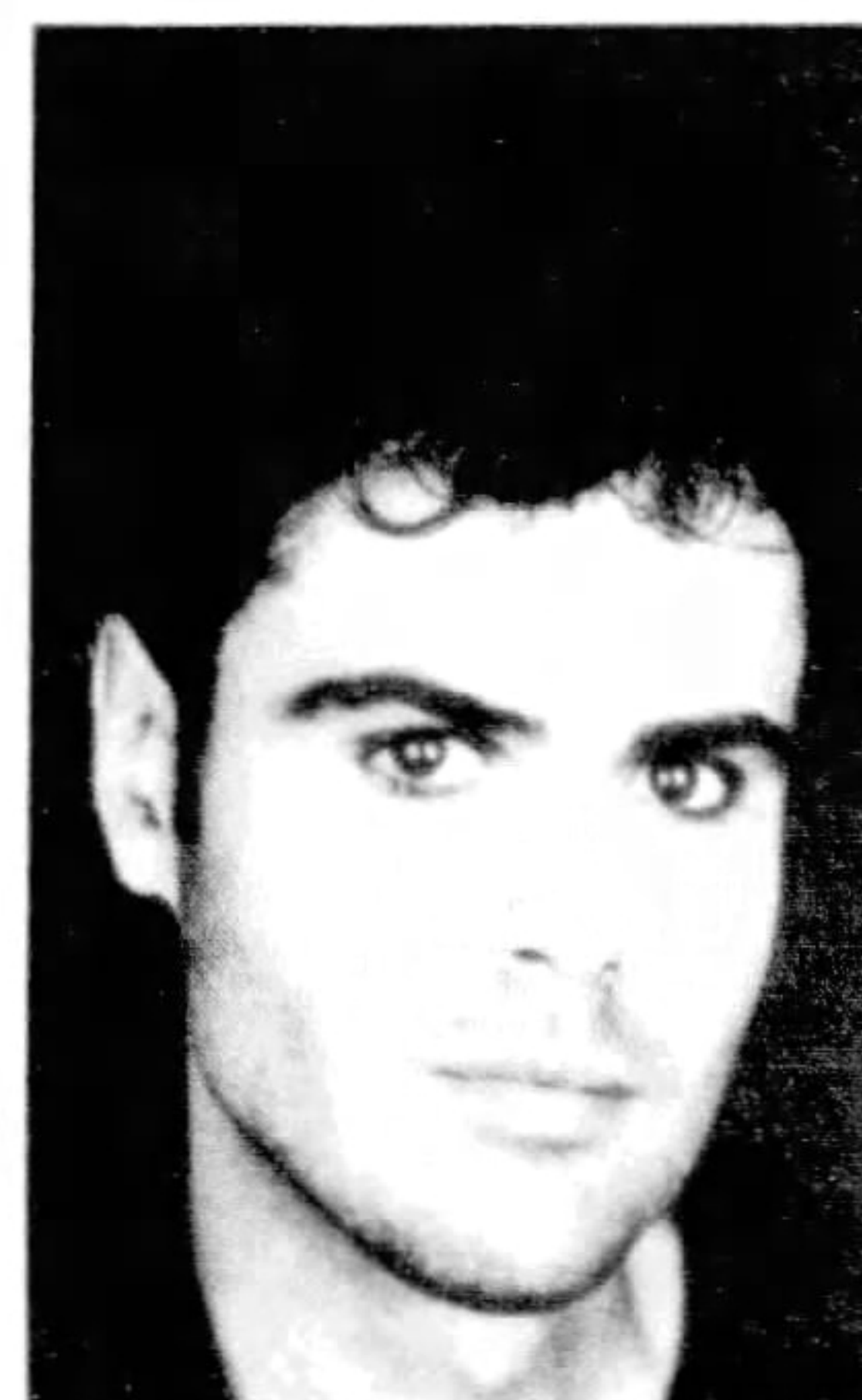
He is known for his beach party cavorting with Annette Funicello, his dreamboat voice and his tightly curled black hair.

And more than 30 years since he attracted national attention with his first hit, "De De Dinah," Frankie Avalon is still traveling the world with a nightclub act.

Avalon, originally a trumpeter, is among several "golden boys" who grew up on the south side of Philadelphia — including Fabian and Bobby Rydell. The three toured together for the first time in a 1985 show called "The Golden Boys of Bandstand," although Avalon and Rydell had worked together in the same bands before either started recording.

In 1987, Avalon reunited with Funicello for "Back to the Beach," a sequel of sorts to the

IDOLS/E13



Donny Osmond, who now sports a stubbled look, lives with his wife and kids in Irvine.

