

TWENTYONE THINGS – About David Dawn

From the Sunday newspaper supplement, *Parade Magazine*, May 7, 1978

- 1) His real name is Leonardo David Cooper, which you may have seen as the song writer's credit on his songs.
- 2) His four albums have sold a total of more than 30 million units worldwide, 20 million of those are for his last album, *David Dawn*, alone.
- 3) His single, "I Need You Love," off of that self-titled album, has also sold more than 20 million copies, worldwide, and spent four months in the top ten on the *Billboard Hot 100 Singles* chart.
- 4) Though selling more than 5 million copies domestically, *David Dawn* only topped the *Billboard* album chart for seven weeks, but it was in the number 2 position for another eleven weeks, and was in the top 5 for a combined thirty-five weeks.
- 5) David and his *Grand Point* co-star, Rebecca Merriwether, have never gotten along.
- 6) He hates his first two albums, which, as such a young kid, he had no artistic control over. As he told *Hit Parader*, "They sound like the Archies, while I wanted to sound like The Beatles."
- 7) In Season 6 of *Grand Point*, his third with the show, his salary per episode jumped up to \$17.5 thousand from \$1800. That's an 870% increase.
- 8) His maternal aunt, Linda O'Donnell-Cramer was his business manager until she became the president of his company, D.Dawn Enterprises in 1976. She is also married to his record producer, Tommy Cramer.
- 9) David's first movie gig was in Martin Gantry's *Those Secret Moments*, but the scenes were edited out of the final cut.
- 10) **REDACTED AS A MAJOR SPOILER**
- 11) For the last two years, he has been steadily involved with session vocalist, Sylvia Dutch. They met during the recording of his album, *David Dawn*. When they met, she was 23, while he was coming up on his 18th birthday.
- 12) His father, Art Cooper, was the Commander of Army Intelligence at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base until he retired in 1960. He now runs a successful private security and investigation company.
- 13) He left *Grand Point* at the insistence of its star and executive producer, Donald Richardson, who thought he needed to move into a new phase of his career.

- 14) David's first acting role was in a community theatre production of *The Pontiac Diaries* in 1969, at the age of 11. He played Zeth Greenwood, the same role Donald Richardson debuted in on Broadway in 1942 when he was 12.
- 15) His first car was a cherry-red '74 Ford Mustang Ghia-bodied Coupe, which he bought new for \$3600. Last year he bought a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II convertible for \$60 thousand, also cherry red. In between he bought a Mercedes-Benz 450SL for \$28 thousand. It, too, was cherry red: we see a pattern emerging.
- 16) His best friend is Donald Richardson's son, Wether, who shares the same birthday with him, June 8, though is one year younger.
- 17) David wrote the story and directed portions of the 2-part episode that was his final one as a regular cast member on *Grand Point*.
- 18) According to witnesses, he recently was eating in a small restaurant when a waitress was treated so horribly by a customer, who loudly complained about her to management, that she was in tears. David quietly confided in the manager that she did nothing wrong and slipped him a \$100 tip to pass on to her.
- 19) He has another aunt who is nun.
- 20) He is currently finishing up the shooting, in a starring role, of the big-budget science fiction film, *Lineage*, directed by Armon Chandler.
- 21) The *Wall Street Journal* recently estimated his worth at \$75 million. He turns 20 this June.