



The saying is as old as love itself. In springtime, a young man's fancy turns to love. Well, we're glad to be able to report that David Cassidy still qualifies as young and as he's still footloose and fancy-free, he's in the market for love as much as the next guy. And why not?

"Why not indeed?" says the man himself. "My work keeps me busy but not so busy I don't get a chance to look up now and again and see that the girls are as pretty as they've ever been. Why spring? I guess it's the same sort of thing that happens to plant life. When the weather begins to get a little warmer and the days stretch out a few minutes longer every day, the buds open up. They come out of their protective casing and take a look around.

"It's nearly the same with us. I mean all winter you're mainly concerned with keeping warm and love is something you more or less keep for the television series. But come the first spring lambs us guys are throwing off our winter cloaks and eager to see what's coming our way on the breeze.

"I know the year officially begins on January 1 but I don't think anybody really comes alive until spring. It's the best tonic in the world, a real pick-me-up even if sadly the outcome is sometimes a let-me-down. But it shouldn't matter how a love ends. It's while it lasts that matters.

"I guess you all know the line that goes 'Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all'. Well, I'm convinced that's true. Lucky is the guy whose first love turns out to be his love of a lifetime but then there's a lot to be said for experiencing several, even many, relationships before you settle down.

"You can learn something from every encounter with another human being, so I guess I come out on the side of playing the field for a while! Mind you, that's not to say I regard falling in and out of love as some sort of game. Playing it that way only leads to heart-break and disappointment all round. Love to me means throwing yourself into a relationship, enjoy it for what it is, trying to give more than you take, putting the other person before yourself.

"It means floating on air one minute and being brought down to earth with a hefty bump the next. Never having

to say you're sorry like the film 'Love Story' said? Well, maybe that's how it is for some folk but I've never found it that way. I've discovered that in love both partners say things, hurtful things, on the spur of the moment. I don't know why, I suppose we all need reassuring so we want to test our partner's love.

"Anyway, there have been a number of times when I've been very grateful for the word sorry. Have you ever stopped to think just what a powerful thing love is. I don't mean making the world go round and making your heart beat faster. It struck me some time ago that the more you use the love that's inside you, the more you have to give. It never runs out which is more than you can say for most things in life.

"Lock your love up in a safe, try to save it up for a rainy day and what happens? When that day comes you discover you've forgotten how to use it. No, I'm all for spreading it around because that's another thing I've learned... the more you give to other people the more they want to give it back. Now who ever heard that about money?"

But can David concentrate on his work as his mind wanders to those pretty girls?

"Sure," he laughs, "and if anybody around me notices my concentration lapse, they are down on me like a ton of bricks. Actually I'm disciplined about my work, it's very important to me and as you know I'm ambitious about it and that's why I don't want to settle down just yet. My career needs one hundred per cent effort and dedication from me and marriage needs some working at too.

"So I figure it's best not to take on too much in the way of responsibilities until I feel I can share my dedication between the two. But a new love can work wonders for my work. It does wonders for my morale and when my morale's flying high, so am I. The pressures seem to lift a little. The gruelling days don't seem so long and those waiting around times that usually bore me are filled in by thinking about my date for the evening.

"I don't put up any fight about getting too heavily involved with one girl. It's just that I haven't met one yet who

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