



*continued from page 5*

can compete with my work. If I did I'd have to have a serious rethink. I am quite prepared to believe that somewhere out there in the big wide world there is a girl who with one smile, one beckoning finger could make me forget about films, stages and recording. "I'd sure like to meet her . . . but not just yet."

While David can obviously keep level-headed about his springtime flights of fancy, what advice can he offer to the poor fans who are madly in love with him all the year round and can't do anything about it?

"Yeah, I can see the problem," he says. "But you know their love isn't all in vain. I know it exists and I'm very humbled by it and I return it in the only way I know how, by doing my best in whatever I do so that I won't let them down."

"But let's clear one thing up, the feeling a fan has for me isn't the sort of love she could build a future on. If you pressed her hard enough, she would admit that. For the moment, it's fine. I'm out of reach, the nearest she ever gets is hearing my voice on the record player in her room or a shared experience with several thousand more fans in a packed stadium."

"But the time will come when she wants a more personal love, a love she doesn't have to share, a love she can call on the phone and call her own. To truly love somebody for real you have to know them for real and sadly too few people outside my

circle know me for real. I'm not Keith Partridge—not even professionally anymore — and sometimes I'm not even the David Cassidy you hear on record.

"I try to be honest in all I do but you have to remember I'm playing a part some of the time. That's what show-business is all about."

"So to those dear fans who I've seen crying and pulling their hair out over me, I can only say I appreciate your thoughts but if you could see into the future you might very well think 'Wow, however did I imagine I was in love with that guy?' But for the moment, keep it up, we maybe need each other."

When a love affair breaks up for him, what does David like to be left with?

"A warm memory and a friendship that's very much alive," he says. "I hate anything bitter, including that taste in my mouth. I don't see any reason why a romance has to break up amid rows and fighting as long as there has been honesty all along the line. If there hasn't, well, you can hardly have called the relationship love to start with."

"Like I said at the beginning, a lot of good things have to come to an end and it's better that we accept that. If I've had a good relationship with a girl over any length of time it means that we found something in each other that was mutually pleasing. Because the love has died I don't see any reason why those things that we enjoyed should change."

"Anyway, I don't like dis-



liking people, it burns up too much energy that could be better used for work."

Does David think he's a happier person for having known love?

"Sure," he says, "and you know what? It's none the less happy for having lost. Enjoy the challenge, not the victory . . . that's what I say." ☆