

BACK TO WORK!

The holiday is over for David and the rest of the Crew . . .

Like they say, all good things have to come to an end... And the same goes for David's maxi-vacation! He's now back at the centre of the action in L.A., looking back on the biggest chunk of time he's had to himself since superstardom struck a couple of years back.

For a few months he's been able to live his own life again, and do the things he wanted to do . . . He's been able to escape the pressures of living in a kind of goldfish bowl, where he couldn't do or say anything without it making the headlines next day. He needed that chunk of time to himself, as he pointed out to me: "For a while you're so high on the thrill of it all that you think you can go on for ever without needing a break. You know, you drive yourself on and on, and you don't notice that you're getting kinda used to feeling tired — till suddenly something inside you goes 'snap', and you find it out the hard way!"

David reckons he was given a warning sign during his last trip to Britain: "I'd been keeping to a crazy schedule," he recalled, "because I simply refused to miss out on anything . . . The only thing I didn't manage to fit in was enough sleep!"

As you'll remember, David's exhaustion opened the door to a flu bug which confined him to his flat for those last few precious days of his visit. Of course, we were all sad and worried about him, but I don't think any of us fully realised just how much we had to worry about. At that time David was approaching breaking point. He'd given everything to that European tour, and he just didn't have any more to give. "I guess I'd come to the end of my energy reserves," he explained, "so the strike was something of a godsend for me personally, although I know it's made life tough for some of my friends . . .

DUE BACK

"You see, according to the original programme, I was due back on the Partridge Family set in mid-May, and I don't figure I'd have made it through the season the way I was shaping up. I was too tired to cope with all the pressures, so it was great to know that I'd been given some breathing-space!" Even David never reckoned on that breathing-space stretching so far! But he's really made the most of it. He must be one of the first guys to commute to Hawaii, for a start! And when he's not been sun-soaking on the

beaches or sorting out his ranch on Maui, he's taken time off to look up old friends, or just loon around in his L.A. home.

"I guess it's puzzled the dogs some!" he told me. "They're not used to having me around the place for whole days on end . . ." And now all that is a thing of the past. David was back at work in the recording studios by the end of June laying tracks for a solo single and album. On July 10th he waved goodbye to his Hawaii home for a spell and revved up for a new schedule, as tight-packed as ever!

So, how did he feel about coming back to all the old pressures? "Oh, it's totally different now," he told me reassuringly. "Back in May, I was tired of everything . . . I just didn't want to know! Right now, I feel on top form . . . I don't remember when I last felt so fit. I certainly haven't gotten this bronzed in years! So I'm really ready for work now. In fact, I've been feeling kinda restless this last month or so, 'cos you can have too much of a good thing, you know. And, believe it or not, I actually love working, when I'm not too tired to enjoy it!"

That's good to hear, because since David's return to Los Angeles, he hasn't had any time to spare for much else! For a start, he's been



Above: Helen Parker
Below: Jannion Harris



Above: Sandra Consani
Below: K. White



Here are the other four contest winners' portraits of David. ▶