



DAVID: A CHARITY CASE?

Each one of us is really quite a few people. I know that sounds funny, but if you think about it, it's so true.

We have one personality for our friends, another for our teachers and friends at work, and still another for our parents.

CONCENTRATE

We show one part of ourselves at a football match, and quite a different part at a disco, while someone completely different turns up at family gatherings.

Things are pretty much the same with everyone. And that includes David. In the past, we've tried to show you as much of David as possible. We've done features on David at work and play, and David on tour, and last month we told you how David's friends and fellow musicians feel about him.

But this month, I'm going to concentrate on the side of David that so few people seem to pay any attention to. Because many people have accused David of "publicity stunts", and promoting him-

self, and even of exploiting his fans.

Maybe it's time to discuss the side of David Cassidy that his critics ignore.

Ever since David was a young and struggling actor, he has realised that, even with the grind of trying to get work, he was pretty lucky.

And when he began to become famous, David found that there were a number of ways to help people less fortunate than himself.

And that was by using his fame, his personality and appeal, to gain publicity and attention for those who were less fortunate. But somehow, with a masterful skill, David has actually managed to keep the focus *off* of him, and *on* the worthy causes. I was curious about how it all went on, but I was very quickly informed.

"I wasn't exactly planned that way," David told me. "But I knew that there were a

lot of things wrong that could easily be put right, if only folks could see the problem.

"I guess I just have this faith in people. I really believe that, if everyone really knew what all the facts were, we could solve a lot of problems much more quickly."

An example? Take the plight of the handicapped. David had long been aware of the problems of the less fortunate. When he was still at school, he had attended classes with fellow students who were mildly handicapped, and he saw at first-hand the problems which they had to endure.

TRAGEDY

"It's really hard to say which of their many problems is the worst. Of course, just trying to get along in a complicated society is problem enough for most of us. But when you have cruel and thoughtless people teasing and, taunting you as well, it's a real tragedy."

David never forgot the heart-break and anguish which some of his schoolmates had to endure. And last year, he finally got a chance to do something about it.

Each year, a group called The Special Olympics Youth Society organises special "Olympic" Games for handi-

