

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DAVID?

Have you noticed the number of "experts" around these days? The place seems to be swarming with them. From dishwashers to dog biscuits—you name it, and you can bet your life that someone, somewhere is an expert on it! Switch on your TV set and it's ten to one you're just in time to catch an expert on the weather (!!) or the lesser spotted toadstool who's there in your living-room, expertising away like mad.

Well, I'm not saying there's anything wrong in that. After all, everyone's got to earn a living... and it's nice to know that *someone's* bothered about the lesser spotted toadstool. Anyway, it set us thinking, and it wasn't too long before somebody asked the obvious question:

If there's an expert on everything, where is the "expert" on David Cassidy?

Now that's a question that we'd really like to know the answer to!

Of course, we reckon we know quite a bit about David

ourselves; but we'd be the first to admit straight away that we certainly don't know *everything* about him. In the first place, I'm not sure whether any one person can ever really know every little detail about another. People are rather different from lesser spotted toadstools, aren't they?

You know what I mean... You can know hundreds of facts about someone: when he was born, how tall he is, the colour of his hair and eyes, even his favourite clothes, music and so on—but that doesn't necessarily mean that you know and understand him fully as a human being. You're getting a bit closer when you know all about the events in his life which he feels to be really important to him, when you know about his early childhood and the way it's affected his growing up.

But I don't think you can ever really say that you "know" someone properly, till he *means* something to you as an individual... till he stops being a long list of facts, a file entry, and is important to you simply as a person. As always, love is the key. And that's where computers fall down.

'Cos, no matter how accurate they may be, you could never talk about a computer knowing somebody in human terms, could you?

The other important thing about love is that people will open up to you once they know you love them. They don't have to hide things from you any more, or put up a front in self defence. Your love gives them faith and trust in you, and a chance to open out and be themselves.

Now, as you can imagine, that sort of feeling is particularly important to a guy like David. For him, there's always someone round the corner, waiting to attack or to criticise—maybe through jealousy... Who knows? Anyhow, over the years, David's had to learn to close himself in and protect himself from that kind of attack. It took him a while to learn, 'cos basically he's a very straight person who hates the idea of putting up barriers of any sort. But, when you're constantly surrounded by flashing cameras trying to catch you off guard and reporters trying to snatch their next headline from your lips—well, then, you have to look after yourself if you're going to survive at all.

RELAXING

So David learned. But, all the while, he was ready to grasp any chance he got to relax with folks he could trust, to open up and just be himself for a time.

Of course, he's always had several really close personal friends, some of whom he's known since high school days. They're the people he might invite around for the evening or

