



► he's learned to say 'No'. So, if he's feeling completely down, he doesn't commit himself to too many public appearances now.

He's also acquired a most effective 'defensive' technique in interview situations, where he can appear to be answering a question, while he is not, in fact, giving away any information at all!

This is one of the reasons I'm so glad I got to know him first in those early days. Because, once David gets to know you, he doesn't feel it necessary to 'fence himself in' in this way. And that reminds me of another great thing about him. . . . Once he's got to know you, he'll never forget you.

For instance, the second time I met him was when he was staying on the Ocean

Sabre. Some six or seven months had passed since our meetings at the Dorchester. Naturally, I'd have known *him* anywhere, but I didn't expect him to recognise *me* — certainly not without a bit of memory-nudging. As it happened, I first set foot on the yacht with quite a crowd of other people. And David picked me out at once. "Hi, Pat," he called over. "It's really good to see you again — nice to see a familiar face around."

MATURED

Considering that he must have met several thousand people in the course of his job in between times, I reckon that was really something. And it's that kind of genuine interest and friendship that I've come to expect from David since

then. He has his off-days, of course, just like everyone else. And then he's positively un-speakable! But, in the few years I've known him and worked with him, he has matured remarkably. He's learned to keep his moods and tempers to himself. He's learned to be more at ease with people, so he can now actually enjoy meeting new folks, whereas it used to be torment for him.

In short, he's learned how to retain his own genuine personality and to be a star at the same time. He's also learned how to be a better actor, musician and concert performer. In fact, taken all round, I'd say he's learned to be a nicer guy, too.

Not a bad track record for four years at the top.

ANY OF THESE PIX CAN BE YOURS!

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◀ photo A



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