

This month in my column I'd like to talk to you about one of the nicest things that exists in the world—friendship.

Now, I know love is an even nicer thing, but it doesn't happen quite as often as friendship. And friendship can fill in the empty times between love—and make love even greater when it happens.

I was sitting around the set the other day thinking about how many wonderful friends I have. Looking around, I saw all my fellow cast members—Shirley (who's a very special friend), Susan, Danny, Brian, Suzanne and Dave.

Each one of them is someone special to me and I know that, no matter what I do in the coming years, they'll always mean a lot to me.

A lot of people seem to think that Susan and I should either be madly in love or not speaking. The truth is very much mid-way between the two extremes. We are very good friends, and friends are one of life's most wonderful things.

Even the crew members on the show are friends. They're the guys who make sure the sound and the lights and the props and everything are just right. They're just as important to the show as the people in front of the cameras and I'm proud to call them my friends too.

But I guess my very best friend right now is my roommate Sam. He's a very real, sincere kind of guy—and the best possible friend a guy could have. I think he helps me out in so many ways that I don't even know about.

I lead a rather hectic life and Sam helps to smooth over a lot of the rough edges. He's there when I need someone to talk to. He picks me up when I'm down and he yells at me if I get out of hand.



I hope that everyone in the world has one good friend like Sam. And I hope I'm as good a friend to him as he is to me.

We've known each other a long time and we know each other very well by now. I can't put anything over on him. He always knows when I'm trying to get out of something—or into something. You might say he keeps me human, if you know what I mean. Friends like Sam are priceless.

I'm a very fortunate guy. In addition to all of the friends right around me, I also have you, my fans.

I may not know each of you individually, although I'd sure like to, but I know you're there. I read the letters you write and I just can't help but feel good. To know that I'm doing something that is of value to you, that entertains you or whatever, makes me feel that maybe I'm giving you something in exchange for the love and friendship you offer

I wish that somehow I could be a close friend to each and every one of you. I wish I could be there when you needed someone to lean on or someone to talk to or just someone to listen. But since that's not really possible, I'll just keep doing all I can

Yes, friendship is such a fantastic thing. I hope every person in the world has as many marvelous friends as I have. And I hope that I will always be able to recognize true friendship so I will never unknowingly step on it.

I'd like to thank every one of my friends just for being my friend—but that's a little impossible, too. So I guess I'll just continue to be the very best friend to them that I can in return and maybe each one will know how I feel.

I hope each of you knows how glad I am that you're there.

Love & Friendship, David