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recording studio. I can hide behind a character or a song but in real life when I'm confronted by real people I do seem to put up this protective shield without trying to. The trouble is most of the strangers I come into contact with want to talk about one subject . . . me. And more than anything else, that's what makes me dry up.

"You know how show business people sort of stick together, even choosing to live in communities like Beverly Hills and Bel Air outside Los Angeles? Well, I always thought that was kinda strange until I became a well-known figure through television. Then I realised that it's only show people who don't go around talking shop to each other all the time. When a bunch of us get together, we might ask friends what they've got coming up and a new album or film might be discussed for a few moments but, by and large, we prefer to save business talk for business hours.

"But I'm getting off the point, aren't I? Good time David Cassidy. I'll tell you what I really like to do when I'm feeling light-headed and happy. I take a special girl friend out for a meal in one of Los Angeles's many delightfully quiet restaurants. Then I'll put the roof down on the car and speed out to the beach letting the wind make an untidy mess of our hair. Then we'll walk along the shore holding our shoes in our hands and letting the waves break over our feet.

"There's nothing like fresh air, the sound of the sea,

and a fast drive to make a girl feel romantic! Other times I'll have a small party at home but not too often. I like my home to remain as private as possible because it is my refuge. Clubs and discotheques? Well, I won't say I never go because that wouldn't be true. They aren't really my scene, but the funny thing is once I get inside a club in the early hours of the morning and the heat and the atmosphere soaks into me, I always end up having a good time.

"I guess the reason I don't look forward to discos is be-

cause I'm not the best dancer in the world but then I prefer the slow ones, anyway, and in the darkness of a club, nobody's watching the elegance of your dance steps!

"But what makes me feel most light-headed, what gives me the best time of all, is being on stage in front of a full house in a big arena. I hope you all realise that I stopped touring because it was time to think of other things and, anyway, the constant travelling was beginning to get me down. But as for the performing itself, I can't imagine anything

GOOD TIME DAVID

else on this planet that could give me as much pleasure.

"In the wings before the curtain went up I would be feeling nervous. But as soon as I heard the driving music behind me, almost drowned by the noise from thousands of enthusiastic fans, all my fears vanished. I felt ten feet tall on stage and without a worry in the world. Now I haven't felt that buzz for quite a while and I'm missing it. Maybe in the not too distant future it will be time to pack a few more suitcases, book a few more plane rides and hotel rooms.

"But right now I'm being a good time David by hanging out quietly and getting back to a mental and physical peak. This sort of semi-serious reputation I've got doesn't do me any harm, you know. For a start I haven't been sent any really dumb movie scripts to read. Now that is a depressing job."

There is something else that David does, not so much to give himself a good time but those less fortunate than himself. He doesn't like to talk about his charity work, but we dragged it out of him!

"I guess you mean the Special Olympics, the charity for mentally retarded youngsters. I did two years as National Youth chairman because I wanted to give something back to society. If I can use my name, position and popularity to help a very worthy cause other than my own, I feel a whole lot better. I depend on others to a large extent to get me through, so I figure I should devote some spare time to helping those who need it."

