# My friend Cassidy



## THE HIDEA WAY KING OF THE WEENY-BOPPERS

NO ONE took any notice of the shambling figure in the long, tatty overcoat.

With a cloth cap pulled down over his face and hornrimmed glasses, he shuffled out of a taxi and through the thousands of weeny-boppers milling outside the baseball stadium in Antwerp, Belgium,

They were there to watch pop idol David Cassidy in the dress rehearsal of his British tour, which starts this week.

And I dread to think what they would have done if they'd known the real identity of the man in the long overcoat. For

some of them had paid more than £3 of their pocket money to see him, David Cassidy, King of the Weeny-boppers.

The disguise is the only way he can slip unnoticed into a concert hall or stadium without being torn limb from limb. It was a good warm-up, though, for his

British trip, which begins tomorrow when his chartered Caravelle jet touches down. After that, just about anything can go

for what promises to be the wildest pop tour ever.

idol . . .

Cassidy,

Weeny-

boppers,

hysteria in

Antwerp.

David

I shall be meeting David The pop again when I compere his concerts at Belle Vue, Manchester, on Tuesday and Wednesday, and at the King of the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. whips up the

It promises to be Beatlemania all over again.

But being a pop idol has its problems, and when David arrives in Britain he'll have to start looking for somewhere to stay.

The original plan was to fly into Bournemouth and stay at Lord Montagu's country home at Beaulieu. From there, he would be flown to his various gigs by helicopter.

## Dropped

But the fans got to know and the plan had to be dropped.

Now tour organisers are trying to find somewhere anywhere-for the 22-yearold pop star to sleep during his three-week stay in Britain.

No hotel will risk the invasion of teeny-bopper fans -a fear that is even greater for private house-owners.

So at the moment, David —said to be earning £5,000 a night for his concert touris a pop millionaire of no fixed abode.

This week the Cassidy package has been jetting across Europe and I caught up with them at Antwerp.

It meant renewing a friendship with David that began when I "scooped"

## 'I must not let my fans down'

everyone else on radio by getting him as a guest on my B.B.C. show last September.

We seemed to hit it off pretty well-maybe it's because we are both on the "diddy" side—and a few days later I was his guest aboard Ocean Sabre, the yacht he chartered on the Thames for his last British visit.

I knew then the sort of security that's needed to guard him from his fans.

Because as he chatted happily on the deck of the yacht, teenage girls dived into the Thames to try and swim out to their golden idol.

Fortunately, they were rescued by a police launch so who knows what they are going to get up to this week?

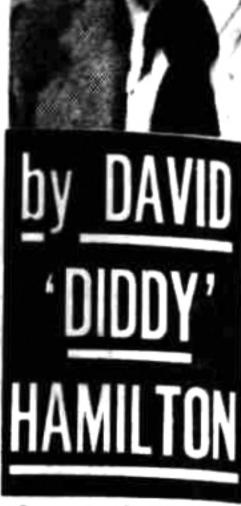
What sort of social life does David enjoy during all this?

In his dressing-room he told me: "I've absolutely no social, life at all.

"Throughout the week I've been out and enjoyed fresh air for exactly one hour.

"That was in Hamburg, when I managed to slip out of my hotel and hop into a car for a drive into the country.

"While in England I was



A special Sunday People interview by the TV personality and top DJ who is on tour with the new king of pop.

hoping to see some of the beautiful countryside, but I know there's no war.

"These are the presentes of the pop star. But while people want you, you have got to see that you cont let them down."

I was able to see exactive what he meant about the pressures while we were m Antwerp.

While his entourage sat down to a dinner of steak and salad in the first-floor restaurant of the five-star Amigo Hotel in near-by Brussels, David ate his meal locked away in his hotel room.

Cassidy's effect on the 4.000 Belgian teenagers v.s. fascinating.

### **Hysteria**

He gyrated on stage in a white skin-tight jump-sut with multi-coloured embroidery and a min. coloured belt.

It was an act calculated to wring the last drop of hysteria from an audience that was entirely female and entirely teenage apart from one or two mothers who have chaperoned their daughters.

When it was all o was back to his s This is the lonely pop ster who admirers into su of frenzy that h run and hide fr

DAVID HAMI. TV and radir was talki PETER Oh.



Read the Sunday People NEXT WEEK