

DAVID MEETS THE PRESS

For over three years now David has been an international Superstar. His picture has appeared in just about every mag and national newspaper you can name.

Far from dying down, David's popularity around the world seems to be still on the increase. More and more he receives letters and offers from new fans in countries that are just discovering his fabulous looks and enormous talent.

In Scandinavia, in Germany, Austria, Spain and Portugal, millions of Cassidy fans eagerly await the release of David's newest song, even though many of them can't understand the words.

Of course, much of David's popularity comes from his appearances on television and the stories and pictures which appear in the newspapers of the world. All of us are grateful for these pix and interviews, but from time to time, you have to wonder if David doesn't get just a bit fed-up with being chased about all the time.

Just to give you an idea of what David's life is like, let me tell you about one of his appearances here last month.

David was scheduled to show up at the Fender Soundhouse in London's Tottenham Court Road. Well, he did... with about fifty photographers and reporters from various newspapers and magazines!

The result was complete and utter chaos! It was bad

enough for the members of the press — there were so many of them that no one got a word with David.

In fact, as you probably noticed, it was so totally jammed that very few photographs appeared (Of course, we got a few, but then David warned us in advance): it was just impossible to get a picture with so many people crowded round.

Well, we all know the result. Because no one could get a story or even a picture, something had to be done. So the next morning, pictures of a girl appeared with the caption "David Cassidy's fiancée?".

Of course she wasn't David's fiancée!!! I wouldn't be too surprised if most of the journalists knew that Gloria Gitone was just one of David's friends when they wrote their stories.

DOUBLY HARD

Some people just have to write anything to fill up space; if the story isn't true, that doesn't matter, so long as they have a story.

Admittedly, all the rush and fuss and bother is hard on photographers and journalists. But it only takes a minute to realise that if it's hard on them, it must be doubly hard on David.

Every appearance he makes David is mobbed by members of the press. He does dozens of interviews each week. And you can imagine, just from the recent incidents in London, how often the press can

make mistakes.

David, despite all the mistakes and misunderstandings has managed to keep a pretty even attitude toward the press. He told me while he was here that sometimes the press did get to him.

"I know a lot of my image and a lot of everybody's image is created by publicity. That's okay, 'cos how else would people find out about anything if it wasn't for the press?"

"But sometimes things get a bit out of proportion. You know, like some people only see me once every six months, so if they come in and catch me when I'm a bit down, they have to write about it, 'cos that's how it seems to them."

"But a week later, when thousands of people read about it, it seems like I'm in a bad mood, unhappy and all that."

"And Pat, you know nothing could be farther from the truth. But try and tell that to some of the journalists! I guess really the reason why most of the stories that bother me are so upsetting is that they upset my fans. And that's the last thing I want."

I had told David earlier about all the anxious 'phone calls we had received from fans who wanted to know if David was getting married.

And it was obvious that he was really upset about the whole affair. As he told me later, "The girls that were with me are both good friends of mine... and so are their husbands!"



The girl on the right is Gloria Gitone, a friend of David's