

out the same old facts to a stereotyped batch of questions. It sometimes surprises David that reporters will still start off an interview by asking him basic things like when and where he was born, how old he is — that sort of thing.

'Not that I expect everyone in the whole world to know know things like that automatically!' he points out. 'But I reckon that, if I was going to interview a guy who'd had a fair bit of publicity during the past couple of years, I'd do some homework before I went along to meet him. That way I'd have a ground-work of information ready and I wouldn't need to waste time on it during the actual interview.'

Reporter

But the kind of reporter who really does put David's back up is the one who has already, to all intents and purposes, 'written' his feature in his head — before he even shakes hands with David!

You can sense this after about five minutes, according to David, because all the questions have the same angle and the interviewer hardly waits for an answer to one question before hustling David on to the next one. So David never gets the chance to break off at a tangent and cover new ground, which is what he likes to do. Because he reckons that this is the only way to say something new and interesting.

David knows that, with the wrong type of reporter, what he actually says will make very little difference. The report will just pick and choose those things that happen to fit in with its writer's preconception!

David knows exactly how it all works out and he resigns himself to this sort of thing long ago. Actually, one of the first things he learnt about

stardom was that you can't afford to let yourself get hurt by publicity which conflicts with the real you. If David had let that worry him, most likely he'd have had a nervous breakdown long before now! He's been the subject of more false rumours than he can remember!

Since the Partridge Family began, one of the biggest rumours has been about David and Susan Dey. Hardly a week passes without a new story starting to buzz around along the lines of... 'David and Susan are dating regularly', 'David and Susan are madly in love', 'David and Susan are planning to marry', etc. etc.!! etc.!!

On the other side, you get the more malicious type of gossip, like: 'David and Susan really hate each other', 'David and Susan are always arguing on set and wouldn't be seen dead together off the set!'

It all sounds so stupid, doesn't it, when you hear a whole lot lumped together like that? It's obvious that they can't all be true, so you can be sure that the most likely explanation is that none of them are!

...But when you come across them just one at a time, their

effect can be more dangerous, unless you already know the truth from some absolutely reliable source of information. So, when you're tempted to believe a rumour, remember this... Next week there will probably be another one going round — saying exactly the opposite!

You must know how easily rumours can be started and — even more important — distorted from your own experience. A little hope or fear, which somebody happens to give voice to, can soon be the great event or disastrous calamity which is being passed on as indisputable fact!

I suppose the moral of all this is: steer clear of rumours and wait for them to die a natural death.

Attitude

Well, that, at any rate, is the attitude which David adopts for most part. He lets the rumours, the newspapers and the big publicity machines get on with it, while he puts his energies into his work.

David reckons that it's much more valuable for him to give his attention to that rather than to worrying and fretting about all the false facts and opinions which are circulating about him.

You see, he has faith in his lane. He knows that they trust him and believe in him and that they won't be swept along on the tide of the first piece of false information about him that they hear! At least, that's what he hopes.

So David has maybe learned to sit back while lies are told about him, although he still can't help getting really up-tight if he ever hears of any specific ones!

But one thing David still hasn't learned. And that is to tell lies himself! It's something he's never been much good at, in spite of his talent as an actor!

