



These were the rumours that David had become accustomed to early in his career. He didn't like them, but he could cope with them.

But the rumours that came out when David returned to the studios, following the removal of his gall bladder, these rumours were something else.

Looking back on it, it's easy to see how the first rumours came out.

After all, David had been in hospital for quite a while. Despite the reports that he had been in hospital because of a gall bladder operation, a lot of people were ripe for the rumours that David had been hospitalised for an overdose of heroin.

### RUMOURS FLYING

"You've got to remember that this was 1971," David says looking back on the scene. "Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin had both died of overdoses the year before, and there were rumours flying around about almost everyone involved in music.

"Drugs had been more or less a cliché in the days of the jazz bands, back in the 30's and 40's. Although people who were in them agree that there was some drug taking, no one reckons that there was as much as some folks seem to think there was.

"When you put it into that kind of background, it makes it a little easier to see why people were jumping to conclusions."

Well, perhaps it was a little bit easier to understand. But what gave the story real life was David's first appearance back on the set.

"Because I'd lost eighteen pounds, it was pretty evident that I was looking a bit unhealthy. I was a bit pale, 'cos I'd been out of the sun for over a month, and I was without a doubt as weak as I've ever been.

"Somebody just jumped to a conclusion, and that's when the rumours began to fly."

### CONVINCED

And fly they did! David was reported as dead, dying or barely recovered from a drug overdose. His loss of weight and weakness was cited as proof that his stay in hospital had been a cover-up.

So many people became convinced that David was a drug addict that it was ridiculous. He even had old friends writing to him, and telling him

not to worry, if he ever needed help, he could count on them!

"So many people were taking it for granted that I really was on drugs that it really became difficult to convince them that it was a rumour."

That's partly what bothered David. So many people had come to believe that he was addicted to one drug or another that they simply wouldn't believe it, *even when he told them!* Of course, it gradually became obvious that, for some one who was supposed to be either dead or dying, David was doing quite a lot of work!

And it helped when he began to regain some of the weight that he'd lost—instead of looking like a victim, he was beginning to look like a victor! Of course, his recovery was heralded with stories just as false as the ones which accompanied his illness. "Cassidy Kicks Habit" one paper announced.

But at least that was an improvement over "Cassidy Suspected Of Drug Addiction!"

Following the decline in interest that surrounded David's supposed "habit", other stories regarding his health seemed to follow it with monotonous regularity.

### ANNOYED

These could be loosely lumped together as the "injury rumours".

They began with the news that David had broken his leg. The next one was that he'd been blinded in an accident.

These two were quickly followed by the rumours that he had been run over by a bus, that he and Bobby Sherman were fighting over the same girl (who turned out to be The Typical Fan—whoever that is!).

They went on and on, and have ever since.

And it's one of the things that has annoyed David most about his business.

DON'T MISS PART 52  
OF THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY  
WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE  
FEBRUARY ISSUE OF  
THE DAVID CASSIDY MAGAZINE