

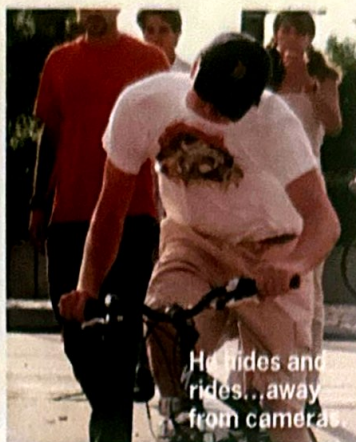
# WHAT YOU'RE DYING TO KNOW ABOUT



Leo DiCaprio under cover



More of his "I'm not game" face



He hides and rides...away from camera

Lopez reportedly fired her makeup artist and friend because she believed he was supplying confidential info about her to the press.

One publicist says the worst case of very personal information being leaked occurred when a magazine found out that one of her clients was pregnant before the actress was even three months along. She had told only a few family members that she was expecting when the tabloids threatened to go public with the news. "We had no choice but to announce it first," says the publicist. "They blackmail you. You either have to admit it to their publication or they make you reveal another juicy story in exchange for their not running the item you *really* don't want them to print."

## The Cost of Fame

Psychologist Debra Mandel, PhD, who's worked with celebrities, says rumors—whether true or not—can cause stars emotional distress. "For example, calling someone anorexic who's overcome the illness can make the person so upset that they develop an eating disorder again, and it isn't easy for a star who's having trouble getting pregnant to keep reading that she's expecting." But rumors of infidelity have the most disastrous effects on relationships. "They can cause partners to become suspicious and distrustful of each other...even if nothing's going on. If that couple is having problems, they can totally fall apart."

And the lack of privacy can be as troubling as the rumors. "I've counseled celebs who have become depressed,

stressed, and paranoid because they can't leave the house without being photographed or followed," says Mandel. "Plus, the feelings of seclusion and isolation can cause stars to become addicted to drugs and alcohol." Leo Braudy, PhD, author of *The Frenzy of Renown: Fame and Its History*, adds that one of the worst things that can happen is when stars feel like they can't trust *anyone*. "Friends and family are their anchors, and if they become suspicious of them, they lose a fundamental sense of reality, which can be devastating."

But it's the physical dangers of stardom that are most frightening. Gwyneth Paltrow is just one of many stars who has threatened action against the paparazzi. "It's unacceptable," Paltrow said, "especially when there's the life of a small baby in your hands." But as it turns out, when stars fight back—whether through legal action or physically—the paparazzi usually prevail. The photographers who reportedly ambushed Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake have filed assault-and-battery charges against *them*, and Leonardo DiCaprio has totally given up. "I have to find a way to deal with it until there's a law," he has said. "I just wish they wouldn't follow me around and make my life miserable." ■

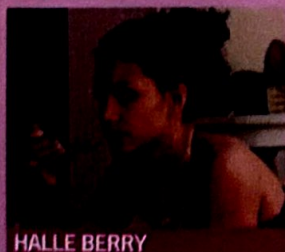
## Stalker Scares

According to forensic psychiatrist Park Dietz, PhD, the public doesn't hear about most celeb stalkers because the stalkers are incentivized by publicity, so stars try to keep them a secret. Here are some who made news anyway.



NICOLE KIDMAN

Nicole Kidman was granted a restraining order against her stalker, Matthew Hooker, who sent her letters, showed up at her home, and also asked her out for ice cream and if he could tutor her children.



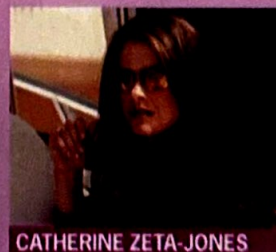
HALLE BERRY

Greg Broussard repeatedly contacted Halle Berry's manager Vincent Cirrincione, threatening him not to continue to keep him and Berry apart. Berry, Cirrincione, and Berry's publicist got restraining orders.



SHERYL CROW

Crow faced her stalker, Ambrose Kappos, in court in November 2004. He was arrested after he sneaked backstage before one of her concerts and allegedly tried to shove his way into her limo. Kappos was acquitted.



CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

Dawnette Knight stalked Catherine Zeta-Jones and sent 26 letters to people who knew the star, threatening to "slice her up like meat on a bone." Last July, Zeta-Jones testified at a preliminary hearing. Knight pleaded not guilty.



BRAD PITT

In 1999, Pitt was stalked by 19-year-old Athena Rolando. She broke into his home, and his assistant found her in an upstairs bedroom, wearing his clothes. She was arrested, and Pitt was granted a restraining order.