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The Interview

by Christopher Sylvester

Interview has become a commonplace of journalism. Opinions on the functions, methods and merits of Interview vary considerably. Some claim it to be the highest form, a source of truth and in its practice an art. Some despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into lives, which diminishes their personality.

V.S. Naipaul feels that 'some people are wounded by interviews and lose a part of them selves'.

Lewis Carroll never consented to be interviewed for he believed it to be 'a just horror of the interviewer'.

Rudyard Kipling considered it 'immoral, a crime, an assault that merits punishment'. H.G. Wells referred interviewing to be an 'ordeal'. Saul Bellow describes it 'like thumbprints on windpipe'.

Despite the drawbacks interview is a supremely serviceable medium of communication. Interviews are the most vivid impression of our contemporaries and the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence.
