

CASSIDYSTERIA!

IN ORDER TO RESTRICT the spread of Cassidysteria which appears to be caused by Cassidy himself, the pop star was hidden in the country home of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu when he recently visited this country. However, so powerful is the disease that many boppers were smitten with it and found themselves sneaking through the dense undergrowth around the estate in order to reach Mr. Cassidy. Strict measures were taken to restrict this outbreak of Cassidysteria and the star was immediately flown out. But these poor, unfortunate, boppers should never have been exposed, for experiences in Amsterdam a day or two before had left no doubt as to the power of Cassidysteria. Curiously, in Amsterdam, it was discovered that one cure was to dress Mr. Cassidy in a dirty old mac, floppy cap, and horn-rimmed spectacles prior to his journey to the stadium where the concert was taking place. He actually walked through hundreds of milling boppers and not one was affected. However, when he appeared on stage in his skin-tight boogie-suit, the disease immediately struck thousands.

Spots

Back in England, Cassidy was smuggled from Beaulieu to a hotel in Manchester, but three boppers immediately went down with the disease. As if drawn by some enormously powerful magnet, they found themselves stealthily creeping round the back of the hotel, up the fire escape, and inside the hotel. As they poised



A severe outbreak—Belle Vue, Manchester, 1973

outside the door of Cassidy's bedroom, gripped by Cassidysteria in its most powerful form, they were spotted (that is to say, they were seen—spots are not usually a symptom of Cassidysteria) and removed as far as possible from the source—Cassidy himself. It is not thought that they were anxious to be cured, however.

At the same hotel three other even more serious cases were reported. This time, consumed by Cassidysteria, three girls threw themselves into the swimming-pool, apparently thinking that they would be admitted to the hotel, and thence to Cassidy, because they were soaking wet and likely to catch cold. They were mistaken in this belief, however, as removal from the source is, as we know, the only hope. Another young bopper was so seriously affected that she climbed on to the hotel roof and threatened to jump off unless Cassidy appeared at his window. Again, this would have served only to aggravate her condition, and she was persuaded to come down.

Doughnuts

One bopper appeared to develop a resistance to the disease.

Although suffering from it caused her to leave her job in Scotland, sleep for three nights on station platforms, and then wait for hours outside the hotel, when she was actually invited in to meet Cassidy, present him with a doll, and be kissed by him, she seemed calm and particularly happy. However, at Cassidy's concert later, 400 boppers passed out.

The disease has been known before in other forms, Elvisitis, Beatlemania, Jagger-Jagger, T-Rexles, and Donnybrain, for example, and research is going on to find a common link and hence a cure. Scientists report that preliminary findings seem to



indicate that the disease is caused by eating too many doughnuts. So much for scientists!

Chemistry

The earlier idea that Mr. Cassidy himself causes the disease seems to be more believable than the doughnut theory, but if this were the case, then Cassidy himself would not suffer from it, he would merely give it to the boppers. But in fact he does. This is how David describes it: "A lot has to do with the audience. They can really get me up! If I'm not that excited about doing it one night, and I feel the intensity and the energy is there, it really excites me. I give a little more and then they give a little more—it becomes a chemistry. I usually give out more than I want to. Something terrific happens, and I suddenly start feeling really high and I let myself go."

What David is describing is clearly Cassidysteria. Will they ever find a cure? This is a question we must leave unanswered. Meanwhile the whole business must be left in the capable hands of the backroom boffins and their doughnuts.