

David Cassidy hops along

By JOEY LeBOURGEOIS

Post Reporter

About the only thing that didn't happen to David Cassidy's part of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Sunday night at the Astrodome was a stampede.

And if there had been one, whether of young girls, or cattle the row of sheriff's deputies lining the fence could probably have handled it.

Although those officers made the scene look like an affair of state, they couldn't ward off the many problems the co-star of TV's Partridge Family faced.

The problems were all effects of the sound system, and the total sound produced was distasteful. Here are the parts that led to that total sound:

● Take the Astrodome itself, for instance, a facility

designed for anything but music. The echo in the man-made cavern bounced across a quarter beat after fresh notes were sounded.

● With David singing through the public address

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speakers and his band (just short of a small orchestra) broadcasting from speakers in the middle of the arena, there was enough of a lapse in time for Cassidy to be a half beat ahead of the band.

● Halfway through the twenty minute production Cassidy explained that he was fighting the flu and then took a swig from a bottle of cough medicine. The fluid may have taken care of the cough, but it didn't stop his voice from bouncing up and down the scale instead of sliding smoothly.

And on top of all that, David was so far removed from his audience that he appeared to be the star puppet, and as such was unable to project his charisma across the arena with the desired effect.

Don't get the wrong idea about his fans, though. David's mere presence was enough to provide delicious excitement from the young teenagers, even though a subtle vacuum was left by the poor view, the poor sound and the way the show seemed to be competing for time.

David sang a few of the songs he has made hits, such as "I'm Here, You're Here," "I Woke Up in Love This Morning," and of course, "I Think I Love You." The other less obvious songs were difficult to discern.

When received with boisterous applause: David said, "I can hear you, I can hear you. Thank you."

His fans should have yelled back, "What?"