

How the weeny boppers got a soaking



A girl is dragged dripping from the pool...but the hotel did not let her in

They waited for days and still didn't meet their idol

Story: JAMES GRYLLS. Pictures: PETER PITTILLA and IAN CURRIE

THEY scrambled through the windows, danced along the roof, and plunged fully-clothed into the hotel pool yesterday... all for a glimpse of David Cassidy.

The weeny-boppers had declared open day at Manchester Airport's Excelsior Hotel. And while their hero slept, the girls played....

Julia and Brenda swung their legs off the roof and watched Margaret and Jane dive into the ice-cold pool... scores of others staged a sit-in as horrified staff tried to clear the hotel lobby... and still more girls played hide-and-seek in the kitchen.

Then, after 13 hours in his suite, the star emerged to meet the Press, plus one devoted half-asleep fan, 13-year-old Laura Cobain, from Aberdeen.

Laura, who waited outside the hotel for three days, and hadn't slept for 30 hours, said: 'One kiss from him made it all worth while.'

Legs

'David was much smaller than I thought,' she admitted. 'But he's perfect, everything a girl could want.'

The star himself had only one complaint—'the tour is too hectic. I seem to have been helicoptering all over Britain for a week.'

He said he enjoyed the fan-worship—'It's good for my ego'—but was worried for the safety of the girls on the roof and in the swimming pool.

He discussed what it feels like to be a star, what he's going to do next—'I'll change'—and how the only person who knows what he earns is his manager.

Outside, hotel porter John Burrows was still trying to talk down from the roof three girls who said that perhaps if they broke their legs David Cassidy would come to see them in hospital.

Later at Manchester's King's Hall, Cassidy strode on stage and made the morning's antics look like child's play.



A BOBBY'S EYE VIEW

MISS LESLEY HOLLINS is just five, a teeny weeny-bopper who needs a little help from a friend to see the action at last night's concert.

Lesley had travelled with her parents all the way from Birmingham, but until that friendly PC came to the rescue she hadn't even caught sight of the singer.

Sitting happily on the shoulder of PO Geoff Kitchen, she said: 'David's marvellous and what a nice policeman.'



At last! Fans get a glimpse of David Cassidy...behind securely locked doors

The woman behind the star

AMID the 40 men—bouncers, publicists and technicians—that surround David Cassidy, walks a lone woman.

Strawberry blonde, swathed in champagne, mink, and Arpege. Unmarried.

Her name is Ruth Aaron, the woman in her 30's whose job it is to mastermind the whole Cassidy cavalcade.

'I have known David since he was about eight years old and in short pants,' she said.

'But since he has become a star I have never felt the need to mother him. He is not

By MICHAEL CUERDEN

that sort of a boy—he's never had the problems and excesses that some young stars have fallen down on.

'When I began with David I thought he would be successful—but never dreamed it would be this big,' she said.

'The only thing I don't like about it all is that for the first time I've had to start playing hide and seek.'

'We have to keep him away from the fans to protect them as much as to protect him. I really worry about these young girls who have come such a long way from their

homes to stand around in the cold.'

Being Cassidy's manager, she says, doesn't mean being around him all the time. 'I don't ever feel that I have to be fetching coffee for him and that sort of thing, nor do I baby him. He just doesn't need it.'

Then she swept out to the Austin Princess on permanent hire when she's in Britain, to return from Cassidy's hotel to her own.

Her driver, Cyril Barnes, says: 'She's quite a woman.'

'At the end of the day when everybody else is ready to drop, Ruth is still there working on papers, thinking ahead to the next step, and anticipating the next problem.'



RUTH AARON: 'I knew him like a man.'