



David Cassidy at his press conference yesterday.

By a Staff
Reporter

Cassidy holds court

David Cassidy, the reigning king of pop and the weeny-boppers' idea of heaven, held court in Kings Cross yesterday and talked about himself, his career, his future, his image, his life style — and his arrival in Sydney.

Cassidy had no clear ideas about Australia before flying into Mascot on Thursday. "It was like walking off the aircraft on to Mars," he confessed.

He is, however, anxious to know more about us. "I

want to walk around and meet people."

It is an ambition that appears unlikely of fulfilment. For whenever or wherever this young man now appears, pandemonium is not far behind.

Getting into his press conference at the Sebel Town House yesterday was rather like trying to gate-crash the Kremlin. Twice I had to present my credentials to security guards.

In the best traditions of showbiz royalty, we were kept waiting, reassured

from time to time by announcement that "David is on the telephone to the United States."

In keeping with Cassidy's youthful image, we were refreshed with fruit juice and sausage rolls.

Still, he was worth waiting for. Cassidy turned up wearing a blue and tangerine shirt, blue jeans, what appeared to be a shell necklace, and he sat in a green velvet armchair on an orange rug.

That's the kind of image

you can't get on the television.

Cassidy, who will appear at Randwick Racecourse today, seemed a little weary. The face that has launched 10 million bubble gum packets and is pasted like an icon on weeny-boppers' bedroom walls, was that of a somewhat world-weary cherub.

Half a dozen well-brushed little girls of the proper weeny-bopper age — from nine to 14 — who should

have been at school, but weren't because they had won some competition enabling them to be present, watched rather like early Christians in ecstasy.

Cassidy rose to fame from the ranks of the Partidge Family TV series and is reputed to have sold 17 million records, as well as innumerable T-shirts, jeans, dresses and bubble gum.

"I am a media child," he said. "I was brought up on TV. But my image isn't the real one."

"I am a product of my environment," he said, "and I think we influence each other."