



DAVID CASSIDY (LEFT) AND JOHNNY FARNHAM

THE MIND BOGGLES to think how the weeny-boppers would have coped with the situation: David Cassidy, the American teenage idol, and Johnny Farnham, the Australian pop king, giving separate concerts at the same time—which one to go to? But the rival promoters, having thrown down the challenge for the midst of Melbourne's Moomba festivities next weekend, seem to have called it quits.

It all began 18 months ago, when a Melbourne radio station telephoned Cassidy in America and in the course of a broadcast conversation, told him that Johnny Farnham's version of the hit song "Rock Me Baby" was outselling Cassidy's in Australia. Cassidy's response was "Who's Johnny Farnham?" Rumour has it that several people were extremely offended by this comment, and declared pop warfare on the 23-year-old American.

The announcement that David Cassidy would perform at the Melbourne Cricket Ground at two o'clock next Sunday was followed by the news that the opposition planned a free rival concert at the same time at the Myer Music Bowl, featuring you-know-who. The Moomba Festival organisers, who sanctioned both concerts, realised that all was not as it should be, and asked the organisers to withdraw Johnny Farnham.

However, a compromise was reached: Farnham will not appear on stage until 4.20 pm, by which time the Cassidy concert will be over — provided it starts on time.