

Hysterical teens stampede at David Cassidy concert

— Brad Wheeler



May 26, 1974 That March, pop star David Cassidy had been described as a “health hazard” by an Australian minister. Some 300 teenagers had suffered minor injuries at a Melbourne concert,

where fans worked themselves into an agitated lather in their affection for the I Think I Love You- crooning heartthrob. In London two months later, a crowd of 35,000 at White City Stadium was similarly frenzied. In the crush to get closer to the stage, several fans were trampled. One, 14-year-old Bernadette Whelan, never recovered from her asphyxiation. Cassidy sent a note of condolence to her parents; a coroner called her “a victim of contrived hysteria” and suggested that “trendy, high platform shoes” had contributed to girls tumbling in the swarm.

Cassidy took a hiatus from performing. Exhausted at the age of 24, he never regained his pop-culture eminence.

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