

at turned David Cassidy's concert into a nightmare

THE STAR

Victim Bernadette fights for her life after stampede

the crowd and became separated from her friends in the crush even before the concert began.

At one stage the music was stopped because girls were being crushed as a section of the 35,000 crowd swept towards the stage.

After the show Bernadette's friends searched the stadium for her and shouted her name in the street outside.

Vanda said: "Eventually we went to the police. They asked us to describe what she was wearing and then we knew she was the girl in hospital."

Her unconscious body had been passed over the heads of the screaming, scart-waving

girls while David Cassidy was singing on-stage.

Terry Wing, a nurse and St. John Ambulance man, gave her the kiss of life and heart massage all the way to hospital but he said: "She was still not breathing when I last saw her."

Terry, 27, from Harrow Weald, said: "It was impossible to tell how long she had been in that condition. When I left the hospital, I felt she must be dead."

Hundreds of girls were given first-aid during the frenzied concert — Cassidy's last in London—but yesterday only four were in hospital. With Bernadette the saddest of them all.



From yesterday's Mirror . . . Bernadette is given the kiss of life as she is carried from the concert.

The organiser

THE promoter of the David Cassidy concert yesterday claimed that reports of trouble at the concert had been "blown out of proportion".

Mei Bush said at his London home: "On Sunday night I thought the show was incredibly successful and David thought it was the best he had ever done."

"These girls sleep, eat and dream David Cassidy for three months before he gets here. When he appears on stage, they just crumble. "There were 35,000 at the show and I would say 34,998 of them enjoyed themselves. They've had their scream, their shout, their faint. It was good exercise for them."

Mr. Bush said the stadium was checked and no crash barriers were broken. The only person with a broken bone, he said, was one of his own security guards.

He said the Greater London Council had asked him to supply 160 people for security duty—but in fact he provided 250 and the White City organisation supplied another 150.

Mr. Bush, a promoter for twelve years, went on: "If the situation had looked bad I would have stopped the show entirely—but the situation never looked that bad."



David Cassidy, the 24-year-old American singer and teenyboppers' idol who is making his farewell concert tour after four years at the top.

Picture by DAVID MAGNUS.

DAVID CASSIDY was all set last night to head for Manchester . . . and so were hordes of weenyboppers who adore him. Their rendezvous point: Manchester City football ground, where tonight Cassidy will bow out of the live pop-show business with a final spectacular concert.

Eighteen thousand young fans will pack the stadium, grief-stricken at the thought that they will never get another chance to see their idol in the flesh.

More than five hundred security men will be on hand to keep order—forewarned by the riot that halted a similar concert at London's White City Stadium on Sunday night.

Fear

Yesterday Cassidy called off an appearance at Capital Radio's London headquarters because, he said, he had not slept all night and he feared another outbreak of teenymania. He also failed to turn up at the BBC-TV studios to meet Michael Aspel.

After four years at the top, the star who shot to fame with TV's "Partridge Family" is opting for the quiet life—at the ripe old age of twenty-four.

Why the girls went berserk

THE teenyboppers who went berserk at David Cassidy's concert were not to blame. They just couldn't help themselves.

They were the victims of mass hysteria—a highly-infectious tidal wave of emotion which, once started, is almost impossible to stop.

In its grip, even the meekest girls find themselves irresistibly impelled to rush forward, screaming and tearing their hair.

Why? Because their adrenal glands pour out hormones that pep up the heart, making it beat faster.

Pressure

At the same time their blood-pressure rises, pouring fats and sugars, the main sources of energy, into muscles. Those involved feel no pain at the time, even if injured.

How to stop the emotional pot boiling over?

A leading psychiatrist who has made a special study of the problem—on football terraces as well as pop festivals—said: "The best thing to cool mass hysteria seems to be a good downpour."

"Maybe some overhead sprinkler system could be turned on when the fans get too 'turned on' themselves."

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