The relationship between Shirley Jones and her stepson, David Cassidy, doesn't figure. The love they share for each other is unique and so obvious that there are many in show business who refuse to believe it is real. The more heartless of the hardened Hollywood gossips have desperately attempted to find a flaw in that happy picture of devoted stepmother and loving stepson. The rumormongers have, for the most part, wilted beneath the strain of their attempts to shatter the image.

It all seems to be a bit too good to be true. Shirley's friendship with David, for instance, is evidently big enough to bridge the generation gap that exists between so many natural mothers and sons, even though almost 20 years separate Shirley and the young Cassidy. Then there's the added /please turn to page 100

