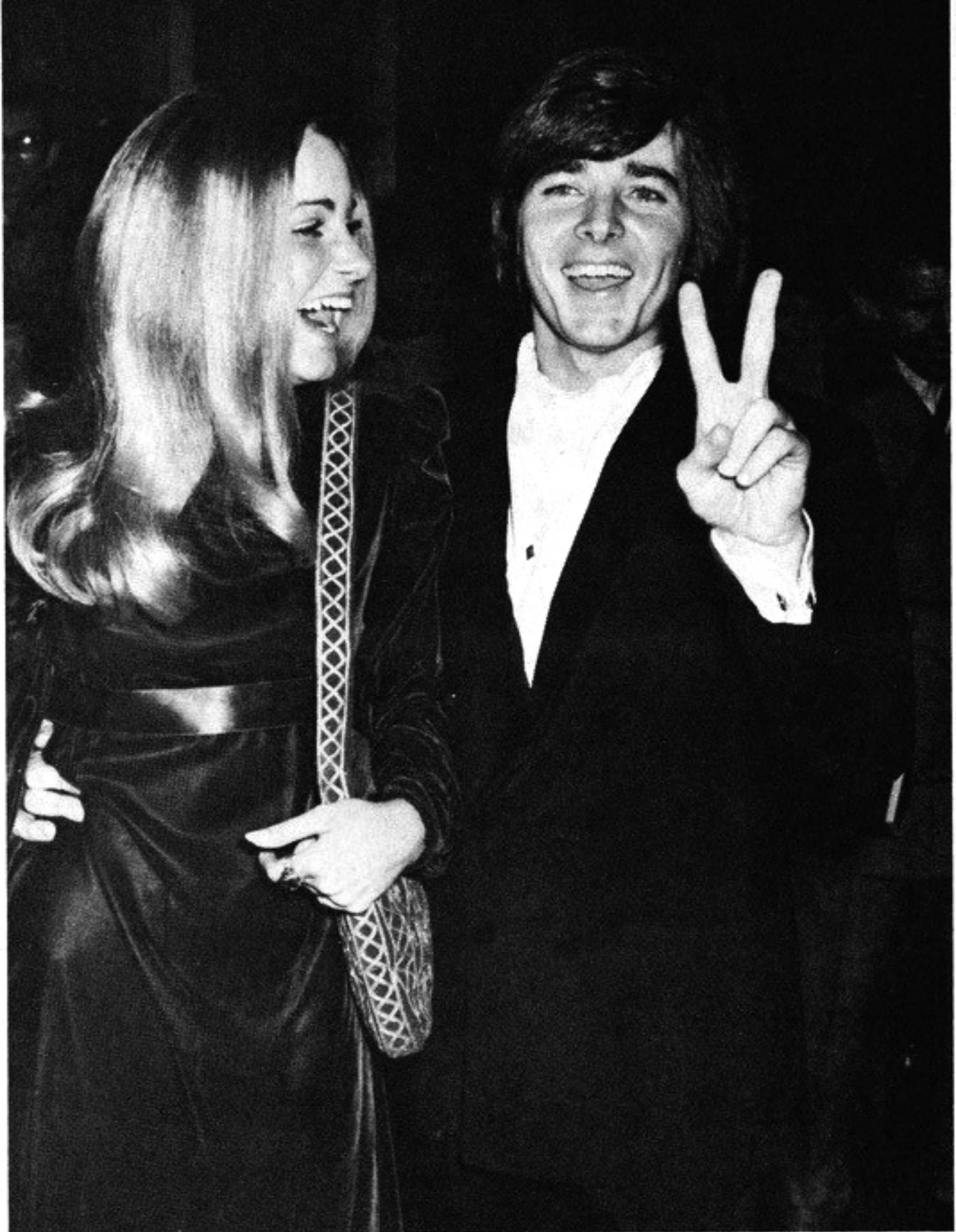


*Bobby seems to have conquered the girls of David's dreams—beauties like Lori Jensen. Small wonder that they have a running feud—professional and personal.*

By **KENT BURRSTRUM**

■ "When I was younger," the baby-faced young star explained, "I remember a couple of times I thought I was in love. I got a 'Dear John' letter once when I went away to camp. I was about fourteen and my girl friend of six months sent me this letter the first week I was away, saying she'd found someone new. To say I was upset would be putting it mildly. I just went crackers for one or two days."

Psychologists tell us that traumatic experiences like these, rejection or simply fear of rejection, can emotionally scar a child for life, can make him incapable of giving love or of accepting love freely given in adult relationships. David Cassidy's childhood was one filled with such emotional traumas—within and outside of his family. It was a painful childhood, filled with uncertainty, instability and fear. And at twenty-



# THE GIRL HE LOST TO BOBBY SHERMAN



one, an adult under the law, David is an uncertain young man. The teen idol of millions of youths across the country, the object of many a young girl's virtual adoration, David is still searching for an answer to the question that plagued his childhood: "Why can't anyone love me for myself?"

Like the hit Partridge Family record, "Doesn't Somebody Want Somebody To Love?" David is desperately looking for somebody he can love. But the irony of it all is that he has become something of a recluse, trying to avoid a lot of contact with people. "I don't want to be a teenage idol," he protests. "I can't go out anymore."  
**(Continued on page 76)**