

this attention flattered his masculine ego. He was reigning monarch over all those screaming, adoring young girls.

Then, through a strange twist of fate, the network decided to pilot Bobby's new show on an episode of the *The Partridge Family*, despite the loud and violent objections of Shirley Jones and David. Shirley was finally pacified by being offered a cut of the profits of Bobby's new show. This made many feel that Shirley had in a sense sold out her step-son, "something a real mother would never do." Now, Bobby's back on TV, and David has lost all those girls back to Bobby again. In a sense, it was like losing a lover, losing the adoration of the teenage American girl.

Perhaps it all seemed a painful repetition, on a professional level, of the pattern of lost love that plagued his childhood. Like the girl who sent David a 'Dear John' letter so many years ago, David's young admirers may be sorely tempted to switch to Bobby Sherman as the new object of their affections. Perhaps this has reinforced David's feeling that he is incapable or undeserving of love. At present he's dating Judy Strangis, of *Room 222*. But no one is waving any banners over the great love affair they're having—it's more on the casual side, to say the least. And he's been dating other girls, as well.

Susan Dey, his co-star on *The Partridge Family*, has been romantically linked with him in the past, but that's something she bitterly regrets. All it proved to be for her was a searing humiliation. No one is sure, but word is that Susan was beginning to fall in love with David. And just when things seemed to be getting going in a strong way, the press picked it up, and David announced to the world, callously, that he just considers Susan a friend. That would be quite a blow for any star-struck young woman, and there's no reason to think Susan was an exception.

David has pulled no punches about his attitude toward the really big question—marriage. He's stated that he would never marry a woman without having lived with her first—for a period of about six months to a year or two. That's the only way, he maintains, you can get to know a person. And it is always more than wise, he tells us, to check out the area of sexual compatibility before marriage. And there are many intelligent people who are in complete agreement with David.

While we're sure David means what he says, it is also true, and he must realize this, that a statement such as the one just related can only serve to scare off more than a handful of potential Mrs. Cassidys. Maybe that would suit David just fine.

"I don't want to get married till I'm at least thirty," he says. "I'm sure I will go through a lot of changing during my twenties, a lot of stretching and growing. While I'm doing that, I just can't see a wife in the picture."

David doesn't even want to be linked with any one girl by the press. "I don't have (a steady girlfriend)," he said recently. "And I'm not really looking for a steady girl—I like to play the field. The columnists have been writing about my dating this girl and that girl, but it isn't true. As a matter of fact, I haven't dated the same girl twice!"

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