

much too demanding for most men, let alone a youngster of Desi's age.

But Patty and Desi went right on seeing one another, although according to a reliable source, Lucy once begged her son during a rehearsal of her show. "Please don't see her anymore."

On the night of the Emmy Awards, Patty turned up with an older woman she identified as her mother despite the fact that few folks who saw the lady believed that she was really Patty's mom. After she won her Emmy (and her acceptance speech still ranks as one of the enigmas of our time) she kept a late supper date with Desi. Then a few days later it was revealed that she had eloped to Las Vegas with a rock and roll promotor named Michael Tell, telling everyone that she had met Mike several weeks earlier and had accepted his marriage proposal then.

No sooner had Patty and Michael plighted their troth, than she applied for an annulment. And she went on a talk show to tell the world, "I'm going to have a baby." Even in Hollywood, where folks stopped counting months a long time ago, her announcement was startling, and soon an embarrassed spokesman for Patty explained that she really meant to say she was going to "adopt" a baby.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch house in Beverly Hills, Desi was dialing Kim Darby's number again.

For a little while, after a long period of going around asking herself, "what's a mother to do?" Lucy seemed to relax. She went off to Palm Springs with Gary and young Lucie and Philip Vandervoort for a few days of sunning, feeling secure in leaving Desi at home.

By the time Lucy returned, Patty had maneuvered herself right back into the delighted Desi's life; and the two of them seemed closer than ever.

Then came the shocker. Patty Duke really was going to have a baby—by courtesy of Mother Nature instead of an adoption group. And, while Patty's figure grew, other people were figuring too. For instance, who was the father of this expected child? Would Patty ever name him? The answer seemed to be no. Patty didn't even confide in her closest friends.

A week or so before Lucille and Gary Morton cut their anniversary cake, Desi slipped off to Palm Springs to see Patty. And when the Morton household began making preparations for a Thanksgiving party, Desi and Patty shared a pre-holiday repast at The Luau, a famous eatery in Beverly Hills. Between courses, they sat holding hands and looking at each other as if they were very much in love—and didn't care who in the world knew it.

But then the shocker came as Rona Barrett announced on her TV gossip show that Patty was definitely pregnant with Desi, Jr.'s love child.

But, this isn't to say that Desi singled out Patty as his one and only. In fact, since that evening out with Patty, he has dated at least three other as yet unidentified beauties. And he has been seen in public with Kim Darby.

But as Patty's pregnancy develops to the expected date of her baby's birth, Desi does indeed seem to be spending a great deal of time with her.

Perhaps it is because he feels that she desperately needs a good friend now. Perhaps it is because, no matter what the

prior situation was, he really loves her and believes it is his child that she carries.

But, right now, it's no secret among her closest friends that Lucy is sick—heart-sick and agonized—over this latest episode in her son's life. She has heard people refer to it as a "scandal."

Does Desi really love Patty?

Right now as we go to press, his obvious devotion to her would indicate that he does love her. Yet, how easily this handsome teenager could find someone to take her place. We wonder what would have happened if his resumed pursuit of Kim Darby had met with more favorable reaction. Would he still have gone back to Patty when she became "available" once again after her annulment?

We do not know the answers to any of these questions. And more important, neither does Lucy. She must ask herself these very same questions—and others—over and over again as she struggles to find her way through the maze that has suddenly become a way of life for her. As a devoted mother she has done all she can. She warned Desi over and over again not to get out of his depth with women older than himself. She begged him to keep away from women who perhaps because of their emotional problems would entangle him in unsavory involvements.

The next act in Desi's romantic history remains to be seen. But let us hope that the curtain will ring down a happy ending—for both him and his mother Lucy. She deserves some rest, some peace of mind, from her children. So far her struggle with motherhood has been all uphill. ●

DAVID CASSIDY

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want to achieve? It isn't possible to know true happiness when you must face all these questions."

But seconds before he'd said, "You can be happy just knowing what your goals are. That's the case with me."

Some semblance of coherence entered David's conversation, however, when he tried to analyze himself more objectively.

"It's important to assert yourself," he said. "When I was younger, I didn't do that. I restricted myself."

His bitterness was very real. It couldn't be ignored. He had to do certain things; there was no choice. "I had to go to school," he said. "I had to do everything that was expected of me."

Because his father was Jack Cassidy and his stepmother Shirley Jones, the pressures were even greater. Undoubtedly he thought of her as an intruding stranger, someone who stepped into his private little world without warning. And this was so with the children Shirley and Jack had—Shawn, Patrick and Ryan. He had to be friendly whether he wanted to be friendly or not.

To understand David's feelings a little better, let's see what another young actor in a similar situation had to say. "You are trapped, really trapped. You have to smile

when you feel like crying. You are compared to someone you don't love yet who guides your life. You work very, very hard, and if you succeed, people say that it's because of a famous parent. If you fail, they say that they knew you didn't have any talent in the first place. All this comprises a nightmare that only those who have endured it can appreciate how ghastly it is!"

Outspoken, yes, but true. How much of this applies to David remains to be seen, but the circumstances are more than a little parallel.

Another aspect of David's situation is the age difference between himself and the people he most often associates with as an actor or, rather, as Shirley Jones' stepson.

"I have to exist in a world where everybody is older," David said somewhat sadly.

He seems lonely, but the question is whether that's what he wants—or what he has to settle for.

"People shouldn't be afraid of solitude," he suggested. "It's very valuable especially if you use it to learn about yourself, to discover where your strengths and weaknesses are."

David is not adverse to admitting that he has his share of weaknesses. He views his tendency toward aloneness as not always beneficial but chalks it up to the way life has made him.

But he is ambitious for the future. He wants to accomplish a great deal, yet there is about him a fatalistic resignation to being disappointed somewhere along the line.

"Everything is a stepping-stone," he said, looking at his future. "I want to do as much

as I can but only because I choose to do it, not because somebody has forced me."

Trivial things bother him. Idle conversation is not his bag.

"I like getting my mind into everything," he said. "I don't like standing around and doing nothing."

But what David fails to comprehend is that he can't always be active; he can't always be pursuing a goal, a career objective. For then that goal, that objective becomes an obsession, a master in itself. And it might force him back into the trap from which he is trying to escape.

People are important; they are necessary. Not just as career helpers, but in personal relationships. Yet David refuses to get involved.

He doesn't seem to place romance very high on the agenda. He dismisses the idea of a family with a wave of his hand. And there is in his attitude what can perhaps be termed subconscious animosity over the sudden change of direction in his childhood—from a home comprised of himself, his father and his mother to a home altogether different with a stranger as his father's mate. Time has modified this feeling somewhat, but it is not thoroughly dismissed from his outlook.

David is not happy now. And he may never be as long as he tells himself that happiness will never be his destiny, that he is doomed to an endless succession of goals, with none of them really meaning very much. It can only be hoped that his attitude will change and mellow with time, that he will realize that "people who need people are the luckiest people in the world." ●