

● Handsome David Cassidy, from the time he lived in the comfortable middle class town of Ruthherford, New Jersey, has tried to be his own man.

"Being independant is important to me," he said. "It makes a man feel virile

"If they watch me, great. If not, it doesn't make me any better or any worse."

He does not have to have an image to make a big score with the female set. His father, Jack, a big star on Broadway

starting with his initial song and dance success 'Wish You Were Here' opposite blonde blockbuster, Sheilah Bond, could have had his pick of all the red-heads and brunettes who hung around Sardi's restaurant until he came in after

IF I GOT A GIRL PREGNANT...



David and his stepmom (and costar) Shirley Jones are close; Jan Freeman is his standin.

to know how nobody owns him."

David comes from a family where his father was a most independant soul. Jack Cassidy, David's dad, comes from Richmond Hill, Queens, a place where a hard-nosed Irish kid would be pushed around by large young German boys and Italian gangs when Jack was growing up. He never ducked an issue when it came up, but neither did he go around looking for an argument.

"I knew I didn't have to prove my manhood," Jack said one evening at Downey's Steak House which he frequents when he is in New York.

Manhood and virility are synonymous with sex to many people. If that were true only heavyweight champions and sky divers would qualify.

"David is a sensitive boy," his stepmom Shirley Jones has said, "and to hurt anything is beyond him." David, a big wheel on the teevee scene, never tries to impress the girls he dates with his superstar powers.



the show break. But Jack chose to fend them off, not worrying like many other male stars that if they don't have innumerable affairs they become less than he men.

"Sex is a very private thing," David had been told, "and you will have to protect and be gentle with whoever it is that sex and love are taking place with."

David's parents and his stepmom Shirley have not shielded him from sex and left him ignorant to the dangers and not aware of the joys. He has been brought along at a mature pace.

"We don't hide things in our house," he admitted.

"Everything is out in the open with us."

To a young boy growing up sex seems like some mythical and quite unattainable thing. But when he reaches his mid-teens it is more an actuality than a myth.

"I began to look at girls," David said

(Continued on page 71)