

EDITORIALS

*"Let the people know the facts
and the country will be saved."*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Assaulting the most vulnerable

**JAMES
PATTERSON**

It happened when no one was around, that way the dark secret could be kept safe.

It was in the child's self-interest not to let anyone know what was being done to him. Most times, it occurred when his mother had left the house.

The boy was good at keeping their secret "because I never want my brother or sister to get hurt by him," he said. "I was afraid that my mother was going to get hurt too."

His fears were soon evident. He painstakingly recalls how he witnessed his dad's repeated rapes of his sister and younger brother. When she became pregnant, she was quietly taken out of state to have an abortion.

"I don't know if it was going to be a boy or a girl," he said. "Now we don't have it."

A repeated victim of his father's lust, the boy finds himself attracted only to members of the same sex. He doesn't see how he can ever live with his family again.

He would prefer to move far away among strangers. He loves his family, but it will take time to get over the hurt caused by the abuse they suffered. He is among the millions of children all over the world who are victims of sexual abuse every day.

Difficult to catch

As a result, many suffer emotional scars for life so their attackers, often close relatives, can have a few moments of gratification.

Pedophiles are difficult to catch, much less convict. Often they terrify their young victims by threatening to harm them or their families if the "secret" is told. When children come forward with allegations that they are the victims of sexual abuse, guardians are often reluctant to put them through the emotional degradation of testifying in public about what has been done to them.

Sexual predators are usually allowed to go free and practice their treachery on other unsuspecting victims. Laws in some states that require convicted pedophiles to register with police are helpful, but because such laws aren't in effect everywhere the impact is limited.

In Indiana, those convicted of a sex act against a child must register with local law enforcement.

Research conducted by the late Indiana University Professor Alfred C. Kinsey may have helped perpetuate the notion among child sex abusers that their behavior is "natural."

More than 50 years

For more than 50 years, what's now called the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction has tacitly endorsed the studies of its namesake.

Kinsey's work, if it can be called that, promoted all forms of sexual contact without discrimination, including sodomy, bestiality, incest and sex with children.

Observations recorded by Kinsey detailed sexual experiments with more than 300 minors ages 2 months to 18 years. He detailed the systematic molestation of infants and children from interviews with people who had had sex with children or observed the sexual responses of young people.

The body of Kinsey's research, as the pioneer effort in human sexuality, is defended by today's Kinsey Institute. It reportedly utilized sexual predation upon infants and children in the name of science, as did the experiments of Josef Mengele, infamous Nazi war criminal. All criminal acts in the name of science, especially sex crimes against children, should be condemned.

The Kinsey Institute at IU in Bloomington has been supported, at least in part, by tax dollars. That is unfortunate. The legislature subtly condones its work by failing to pass legislation that would strip the institute of all public funding and its affiliation with a state university.

No public monies should be used to operate its erotica library or any other part of this institution. The sexual exploitation of children is bad enough as it is. Do we need to study it in college?

Patterson is an editorial writer for *The Star*.

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Sexuality and social problems

**JAMES
PATTERSON**

On a typical Saturday a 9-year-old must have his hair cut. Meanwhile his 12-year-old sister has a gymnastics class about an hour later.

Both children say they need new shoes. The parents disagree. They retort that their feet hurt. They all go off toward the mall.

Everybody is busy now, even on the weekend. All of our time is spent doing things.

Later, the children drift away. They plant themselves in front of a TV and begin to channel surf. They stop on one with a steamy pornographic sex scene in progress. The family's cable subscription doesn't include premium channels but HBO comes through good enough.

Riveted on TV

Their eyes are riveted on the TV as their emotions become a jumbled mess. They see things they have never seen before, feel ways they have never felt before. No adults are around to allay their fantasies or restrict their thoughts; their hormones flow unrestricted.

This is a scenario of life in the '90s. Some say the influences of today's culture, more permissive than ever before, are at the crux of our seemingly pervasive social problems. Others contend that children are going to do what they want.

A related dispute rages around the work being conducted at the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University in Bloomington. The institute conducts study initiated more than a half century ago by its controversial namesake, Alfred C. Kinsey. Kinsey was both lauded and ostracized for publishing information about the sexual stimulation of children, some of them infants.

"Orgasm has been observed in boys of every age from 5 months to adolescence . . ." Kinsey wrote in *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, published 50 years ago. "Orgasm is in our records for a female babe of 4 months."

He is one of the great Americans of all time, believes John Bancroft, the institute's current director. Besides, he contends, Kinsey has become the scapegoat for everything from suicides among the young to an increase in rapes. He insists that Kinsey never observed children engaging in sex, but Bancroft relents that Alfred Kinsey spoke with children about drawings of human bodies that he may have provided.

That's nonsense

Institute supporters, say methods used by the former professor may be outdated but his work remains extremely important. Robert D. Carton, president pro tem of the state Senate, wrote this to a Greenwood woman who complained about the institute's source of funding:

"I suppose a legislator could propose language for the budget to prohibit the Institute for Sex Research from receiving any state appropriations. Frankly, given the international reputation of the Institute, I know there would be significant resistance to this proposal, particularly since the Institute has existed for over 40 years."

But State Rep. Woody Burton of Greenwood believes that is nonsense. Burton will introduce a resolution next week in the House declaring that no more public funds be given to the Kinsey Institute.

"My concern is, are they doing something scientific or are they teaching sexuality, and in my mind should the government be supporting that kind of education?" said Burton. "I don't see the scientific advantage of coming up with the conclusion that it's alright to just go out and have sex with whomever, whenever and however you want to do it."

The Institute has applied for a federal grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The monies would go toward preserving access to research photographs.

Kinsey's director believes that if people were surveyed, the majority would say they aren't bothered by a sexuality research institute.

That may be true, but not everyone has been asked.

Patterson is an editorial writer for *The Star*.