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June 2, 1983

CHARGES AGAINST KINSEY UNFOUNDED,
IU OFFICIALS SAY

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.--A syndicated newspaper column has drawn strong criticism from Indiana University officials. The column, written by Patrick J. Buchanan and distributed by the Tribune Syndicate, attacked on ethical grounds the sex research conducted more than 30 years ago by the late Alfred Kinsey. The column also has drawn fire from the current staff of the Kinsey Institute, still located on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington, Ind.

Buchanan's column, released in mid-May, draws on material ** from a chapter by Judith L. Reisman in a book to be published later. Reisman is, according to the column, currently in residence in the sociology department of Haifa University in Mount Carmel, Haifa, Israel.

Professor June Machover Reinisch, current director of The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, labeled the allegations as "sheer nonsense and a blatant attempt to generate publicity for the book.

"As soon as the column came to our attention, we literally closed the institute and dedicated our total staff to an internal investigation of each of the charges," Professor Reinisch said. She said that the investigation "found no evidence which could support the charges."

Chancellor Herman B Wells, who was president of Indiana University during the decades when Kinsey was conducting his studies, and Indiana University's current president, John W. Ryan, questioned Reisman's analytical methods and criticized the columnist and the syndicate for not attempting to verify the validity of her charges. They issued the following statements:

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** Judith Reisman's book:
Kinsey, Sex and Fraud (co-authored with E. Eichel)
was not published until 1990.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT JOHN W. RYAN:

The integrity of research conducted by Professor Kinsey and members of the institute nearly 40 years ago still stands today as a benchmark of stellar achievement. Recent, careful reviews of the research methods employed, substantiated by comment from persons associated with the institute during his tenure, reaffirm what was verified in the 1950s when world attention was focused on Professor Kinsey's work--namely, all interviews were conducted with great integrity and were guided by strict ethical standards with all contributors protected by utmost confidentiality.

Indiana University continues to be proud of its association with the Kinsey Institute and appreciates its importance in advancing the quality of life for all people--which is the highest calling a university has to serve.

It would be regrettable if persons opposed to Professor Kinsey's research were to think that just because the institute has come under a new directorship Indiana University will be any less vigorous in defending its academic freedom.

STATEMENT OF HERMAN B WELLS:

Persons familiar with Dr. Alfred Kinsey's work know that he was a taxonomist, interested in the classification of species and types. His investigation of gall wasps was taxonomic just as his study of human sexual behavior was taxonomic. He collected human data through interviews; he was not a laboratory scientist.

I knew Dr. Kinsey well. He consulted with me frequently because the sensitive nature of his research resulted in issues that affected the university. His candor, integrity and dedication to scientific research were above question. The worldwide attention attracted by his publications drew both favorable and unfavorable criticism but not even the least informed critics stooped to scurrilous accusations against his person.

Apparently iconoclasts believe that the time is ripe to attack distinguished scientists.