

## Video seeks to discredit Kinsey work



Alfred Kinsey

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**Kristi Hamrick**, director of communications for Family Research Council, describing Kinsey Institute research of the 1940s

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**Paul Gebhard**, who joined Kinsey as a researcher in 1946 and served as the institute's director from 1956 until 1982

PHOTO PAGE

# Conservative group attacks Kinsey data on children

**Kinsey Institute** denies allegations that researchers did sexual experiments with children

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A Washington, D.C., think tank launched an attack today against Indiana University's Kinsey Institute and particularly its research methods involving data about child sexuality.

The Family Research Council released a video called "The Children of Table 34," based on allegations raised in a 1990 book about the 48-year-old Kinsey Institute.

Kinsey researchers "laid a framework for sexualizing children," a framework on which all subsequent sex education has been built, charged Kristi Hamrick, director of communications for the council.

"They laid the foundation for sexualizing children and for the way in which we have made our children sexual prey," she said. The council is calling for Congressional hearings into the data involving children.

The Kinsey Institute denied the video's allegation that researchers carried out sexual experiments on children.

The institute has said repeatedly that information about child sexuality came from childhood

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memories of some interview subjects and from interviews with teachers and a small group of pedophiles.

The institute never employed, paid or trained these men for such information, it said.

Critics of the institute "apparently hope that if Kinsey and his work carried out more than 50 years ago, can be discredited, modern sex education will lose its credibility also," said psychiatrist John Bancroft, the institute's new director, in a news release Tuesday.

The video draws on allegations raised in 1981 by Judith Reisman and published in her 1990 book *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People*.

Table 34 refers to a data table that documented multiple orgasms in pre-adolescent males.

The video questions the circumstances surrounding the collection of data about child sexuality, published as part of Kinsey's groundbreaking 1948 book, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*.

The council timed the release

with the beginning of the new school year to emphasize the need to rethink sex education and its effect on children, Hamrick said.

A host of controversies involving children and sex "all comes from this data," Hamrick said. She cited the notion that children are sexual at birth, to the distribution of condoms in schools, to the recent Calvin Klein ads of teens in their underwear — ads later withdrawn after a public outcry.

Kinsey's research "is having a tremendous negative impact on our culture today and the kinds of things we tell children," Hamrick said.

Founded in 1981, the Family Research Council has risen in profile since the Republican takeover of the House of Representatives in November 1994.

Council president Gary L. Bauer, for example, helped draft Kansas Senator and Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole's June speech attacking Hollywood and its values.

"Gary's really a brainchild of strategy on family issues," said Hamrick. "He's the guy that people come to. We have had numerous presidential candidates in and out of the office weekly."

The video's premise "is completely ridiculous," said Paul Gebhard, who joined Kinsey as a researcher in 1946 and served as the institute's director from 1956 until 1982.

Gebhard watched a version of the video about four months ago, he said.

"The allegations are false. We never did any experiments with children or minors," he said by phone from his Brown County home. "The information we got on childhood sexuality came from the observations of nursery school people, parents and pedophiles."

It would be impossible to contact any children whose experiences Kinsey researchers collected, Gebhard said: "They're all now in their 50s or 60s and we never knew their names anyhow."

It would be impossible to validate the data without doing a survey of sexual responsiveness in children themselves, Gebhard said.

Researchers did not consider turning admitted pedophiles over to the authorities any more than they considered exposing people who admitted to having premarital sex,

Gebhard added.

"There couldn't have been any research if we turned them in," he said. "Of course we knew when we interviewed pedophiles that they would continue the activity, but we didn't do anything about that."

Providing such absolute assurances of anonymity was the only way to guarantee honest answers on such taboo subjects, said Gebhard.

"The guarantee meant, 'Whatever you tell us, no one else will ever know.'"

Gebhard, now 78, said he doesn't expect Reisman to drop the on-going allegation "because it's lucrative."

"It sells her book, she gets lecture appearances, she loves all the attention and she likes the money," he said.

For her part, Reisman said she feels "even more strongly today than before" about the allegations she raised.

"If they have nothing to hide, let's look at the data," she said by phone from Arlington, Va. "If they have nothing to hide, let's have involved scholars and scientists speak to Congress in a search for the truth. I can't see a problem with that."

In May 1991, Reisman sued IU, the Kinsey Institute and institute director June Reinisch for \$5 million. Reisman claimed they "defamed her and violated her free-speech rights."

Reisman charged Reinisch and the university with conducting an orchestrated campaign against her designed to "squell negative publicity" generated by her 1990 book, *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People*.

Reisman eventually dropped the lawsuit in 1994 for financial reasons, saying it was too expensive to continue.

Asked about Gebhard's remarks, Reisman said, "all I can say is it's not a scientific answer, is it?"

"He's got a serious allegation of child abuse, let him answer the allegation," she said.

Reisman also urged Bancroft to do "what the institute should have done 30 years ago: investigate what their own people were involved in doing. I don't understand how you

can build anything until you understand what it's built on."

Bancroft said that some of Kinsey's original conclusions have "needed to be revised." But the sex researcher's commitment to "a more honest appraisal of the sexual aspects of the human condition remains."

"Kinsey believed that the evaluation of human behavior could not be based on scientific inquiry alone, but that evidence of how people actually behaved should be taken into account," Bancroft said in his release.

"He strove for objectivity in his inquiries by insuring his informants of anonymity and by avoiding any value judgments of their behavior," he said. "Kinsey's pioneering work has contributed to more open discussion of sexual issues. In several respects his original conclusions have needed to be revised but his commitment to a more honest appraisal of the sexual aspects of the human condition remains."