

Kinsey report may be flawed

By Abe Asmador
STAFF WRITER

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Controversial data on child sexual response in Alfred Kinsey's landmark 1948 book on male sexuality likely came from a single, unnamed source of mysterious background, says John Bancroft, director of the Kinsey Institute. This is the first time a spokesman for the institute for research in sex,

Institute's new chief says child sexual response study likely all based on sessions with lone elderly scientist.

gender and reproduction has acknowledged serious problems with the child data, which has been under attack for years by conservative groups. The child data was first publicized in

a book co-authored by Kinsey entitled *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* as part of a chapter dealing with sexual response in children. The book, which presented the first large-scale empirical study of sexual behavior, was enormously influential in shaping modern American attitudes about human sexuality.

Bancroft, who was appointed in May

See KINSEY Page 4



Critics say Alfred Kinsey used small, non-random samples.

A1 + A4
INDPLS
Dept.
STAR
19, 1995

KINSEY

Continued from Page 1

to head the Kinsey Institute, says he believes the material was not illegally or fraudulently obtained by the institute.

Ambiguous language used in the book suggested to some readers that Kinsey and his associates had drawn the data from up to

nine pedophiles and perhaps from other sources, not just the one source.

Bancroft emphasized that he believes the Kinsey team probably did interview additional pedophiles for anecdotal evidence, as well as parents who had observed their preadolescent and infant children masturbating.

In the book, Kinsey claimed to

document multiple orgasms in 317 preadolescent and infant children.

The source for the questionable data was likely an elderly scientist who claimed to have had sex with hundreds of men, women, children and even animals from 1917 to 1947, Bancroft says. Kinsey interviewed the man for 17 hours prior to publication of the book.

"I have looked at the data on which these tables appear to be based, and I am fairly confident that the data for all 317 cases (of children having orgasms) appears to be based on the observations of one man," says Bancroft, a British psychiatrist.

The man is identified in the Kinsey files only by a pseudonym, which Bancroft would not reveal. The man apparently was real and was an American, says Bancroft.

Little is known about the 'unnamed elderly man whose long-



John Bancroft says he doubts Kinsey and his associates were out to promote an agenda.

secret files appear to be the actual source of data used in the tables in the 1948 book.

Early Kinsey Institute research into human sexuality has been the target of criticism since it was first published.

Many critics have noted that Kinsey sometimes used small, non-random and likely unrepresentative samples to collect data and then applied his findings to the general population. For example, Kinsey based his beliefs on homosexuality in part on research

done with people in institutions.

Last year, the Family Research Council — a Washington-based, pro-family research and lobbying organization — released a video critical of the Kinsey data on children's orgasms. Robert H. Knight, the council's director of cultural studies, is one of Kinsey's prime critics.

Critics such as Knight and Judith Reisman, who first challenged the Kinsey child data in 1981 and co-authored the 1990 book, *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People*, have said the Kinsey data were used to "promote an agenda" of sexual promiscuity and licentiousness.

Knight, interviewed last week, claims that current sex education curricula in the schools is based on Kinsey's teaching, and that such curricula implicitly condones teen sex and same-sex relations.

But Bancroft says he doubts that Kinsey or his associates were

out to promote an agenda. He describes Kinsey as "a compassionate man" who was deeply troubled by the guilt and shame people accused of deviant sexual behavior felt in years past. Kinsey, trained originally as a zoologist, died in 1958.

When asked if he would have used a source such as the so-described elderly scientist for research, Bancroft says: "I would have proceeded with caution."

But Bancroft adds that critics are mistaken if they think young children cannot achieve orgasm; though young children cannot ejaculate. He says the ability of children to achieve orgasm is well known to sex researchers.

Bancroft speculates that Kinsey may have wanted the elderly man's data presented to him in 1947 to bolster his case that some children were indeed capable of sexual response.