

Delusions, drugs and a discredited doctor

Barry Austin of Birmingham is so fat that you only have to look at him to know that his favourite food is seconds. At 47 stone, he's the heaviest man in Britain. He is almost large enough to qualify for his own postcode. If he has ever watched Rosemary Conley's hip and thigh exercise video, he obviously didn't realise that it was not the sort of video you watch slouched on the sofa, funneling pizza down your throat.

He told Angus Deayton in the final episode of *The Temptation Game* (BBC1) that: "I get all miserable and really freaked out when I'm not eating." So he must rarely be miserable. John Owen, the landlord of his local, says: "Barry'll come in here, he'll start nice and quietly: 19 pints of Snakebite; ten BMWs, which is Bailey's, Malibu and whisky; ten large vodkas; eight large Bacardis; six bottles of Coke; eight bottles of orange." The man behind the

counter at the Hygienic Fish Saloon (slogan: "We're too busy frying haddock to think of a less stupid name"), filled us in on Barry's taste for a pre-supper snack: "A couple of kebabs. And while he used to wait for the kebabs he used to eat a saveloy. And a spring roll. And he used to have a piece of fish as well, to nibble on the way home."

His food intake has recently shrunk, after his stomach was tricked into feeling fuller by the insertion of a balloon (maybe one of Branson's spares). But at the height of his eating, Barry downed 43,000 calories a day — which, for those of you who follow a healthier diet, is roughly equivalent to two million lettuces. Claudia Schiffer eats less in an entire year.

Deayton was using Barry Austin's obesity as an example of the perils of succumbing to temptation, and how food can become as addictive as a drug. But it was only

when Barry announced "I don't think I am overweight, I think I'm a slim person", that I realised that kebabs and saveloys almost certainly have at least as strong an hallucinogenic effect as the plant that was being investigated in Channel 4's *Sacred Weeds*.

If you've never been accosted on dark street corners by somebody offering you *salvia divinorum*, that's because it's native only to a small part of Mexico, where the Mazatec Indians like to chew it during religious rituals. Too scared to monitor the effects first-hand, two anthropologists, a psychiatrist and a pharmacologist gave the drug to a couple of human guinea-pigs and then asked *them* how it felt.

The answer? Quite pleasant, but clearly not the same kind of hallucinogenic hit you get from 43,000 calories a day. But what was startling was how the academ-

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

ics' observational research achieved the mind-bending effect of making recreational drug-taking seem dull. And why didn't they just ask the Mazatec Indians what it felt like?

You could see why Carlos Castaneda stuck to the peyote favoured by Yaqui Indians — a powerful drug which, only a short time after ingestion, had the cataclysmic effect of turning

Castaneda into a bestselling author in his native California.

But an infinitely more dismal and painful insight into what academics will do in the name of research came in *Secret History: Kinsey's Paedophiles* (Channel 4). We have known for some time that the first "scientist" of human sexual behaviour was a flawed man: But *Secret History* laid bare just how shameless and misguided Alfred Kinsey had been to use the detailed private diaries of a predatory paedophile as the scientific evidence for his claims that children often enjoyed sexual contact with adults.

He wrote in one book: "The adult contacts are a source of pleasure to some children and sometimes may arouse the child erotically and bring it to orgasm. It is difficult to understand why a child — except for its cultural conditioning — should be disturbed at having its genitalia

touched." Is it really that difficult?

Perhaps it is if you rely for information, as Kinsey did, on a rapacious paedophile like Rex King, a US Government land examiner whose job took him across Arizona and New Mexico. These trips gave King plenty of opportunity to prey on young boys and girls. He molested more than 800 of them, although — as Kinsey's researchers recalled — King would have sex with just about any person or animal that was handy. He'd already been through most of his relatives.

He kept detailed records of his encounters. Kinsey was thrilled. He wrote to King: "I congratulate you on the research spirit which has led you to collect data over these many years. Everything that you have accumulated must find its way into scientific channels."

Kinsey saw King's data as a gold

mine, proving that children were sexual beings from birth: but it wasn't scientific data, it was just a catalogue of child torture. Drawing conclusions from this data was, at best, like making jewellery from gold stolen from the fillings of those gassed in Nazi concentration camps.

At worst, the data was scientifically worthless: it didn't seem to occur to Kinsey that asking paedophiles if their victims enjoyed sex wasn't likely to produce the most objective answers. How did Kinsey accept their testimony that the children's quivering and yelping was evidence of orgasm rather than of revulsion and fear?

So why, then, wasn't there a public outcry when this trivel on children's sexuality was published 50 years ago? Paradoxically, it may have been due to the very ignorance about sex that Kinsey was trying to dispel. Now that really does blow your mind!

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Pedophile's diaries basis for Kinsey report on children

By Tim Reid
LONDON TELEGRAPH

Alfred Kinsey, whose groundbreaking "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" was published 50 years ago, based much of his "scientific research" on the experiences of a sole predatory pedophile, according to new evidence.

Mr. Kinsey, credited as the father of the sexual revolution whose statistics and research ushered in the age of sexual liberation, based a key section of his book about the behavior of children on the experiences of a man who had abused at least 800 boys and girls.

That man, a U.S. government land examiner now identified as Rex King,

was given the code name "Mr. Green." He was contacted by Mr. Kinsey after he had heard that Mr. King had recorded in explicit detail his catalogue of abuse in a series of diaries, which he had buried in the Arizona desert.

Mr. Kinsey's reliance on this pedophile was disclosed a year ago with the publication of a biography.

But the content of the diaries, recorded over a 20-year period, were disclosed for the first time in August on British TV in a program called "Secret History." It reports that Mr. Kinsey's chapter on the sexual behavior of children was based solely on Mr. King's experiences, after the sex-

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ologist had convinced himself that they were "vital data."

In 1948, Mr. Kinsey published large sections of "Mr. Green's" diaries verbatim in his book but, rather than presenting them as the claims of a child abuser, he put them forward as the first scientific "proof" that children were sexual beings from birth.

In what scientists now say totally discredits much of Mr. Kinsey's research, he published — with no independent corroboration — "Mr. Green's" detailed descriptions of

how he abused hundreds of children. "Mr. Green" lent his analysis a quasi-scientific bent by timing children's reactions with a stopwatch.

Mr. Kinsey, who died in 1956, concluded that children could, with the assistance of an experienced adult, enjoy sexual activity from the moment they were born. This claim appalled his critics.

Judith Reisman, an academic, said: "We have a whole chapter in which children have been tortured for this so-called scientific data. This data suggests that a minimum of 317, and a maximum of 1,200 children [were abused], with some boys being sexually raped around the clock."

New evidence also suggests that Mr. King was active with children

until 1954, more than 11 years after he met Mr. Kinsey — during which time the sexologist continued to collect his "data" for his research.

"If Green was sexually abusing children until 1954 — and Kinsey's last book came out in 1953 — that would certainly mean that all the violence and all the abuse was going on throughout the entire time Kinsey was collecting this data," Miss Reisman said.

"Based on Kinsey's writings, he approved fully of adult-child sexual interactions. Not only that, he recommended that adults could effectively aid their children in better sexual lives by giving them 'orgasms' at a very early age."

Vincent Nowlis, one of Mr. Kinsey's original team, has spoken for

the first time about his disgust with the sexologist's methodology. He said: "When I saw the table on timed orgasms . . . carried out to a fraction of second, I thought it was an absurd page in science."

But Paul Gebhard, a senior member of Mr. Kinsey's team, defended the use of "Mr. Green's" accounts of his illegal activities, saying: "We knew it was illegal, but it's very important for people to study childhood sexuality. Green . . . contributed a fair amount to our knowledge of sexuality in children!"

The current director of the Kinsey Institute, John Bancroft, believes Mr. Kinsey was morally justified.

He said, "Unless we know about these behaviors, we'll be in a much

worse position than if we have no information about them — that was Kinsey's view.

"Kinsey didn't ask anybody to carry out any particular form of sexual behavior. He simply asked them to let him know of their experiences."

Dr. Adrian Rogers, the director of the Conservative Family Institute, described Mr. Kinsey's research as unbelievable and unscientific, "yet it was given an almost sacrosanct authority."

Victoria Gillick, a leading moral rights campaigner in Britain, said that Mr. Kinsey was the "first of the sexual freak shows."

"He was the excuse that was needed as justification for sexualizing the young, a process that has continued to this day."