

Really, Dr Kinsey?

"According to the Kinsey Report
Every average man you know
Likes his lovey-dovey to court
When the temperature is low.
But when the thermometer goes way up . . ."

A lot more than the lyrics of Cole Porter will need rewriting unless serious charges against the late Alfred C. Kinsey and three of his colleagues are rebutted. The Kinsey reports (one in 1948 on males and the companion five years later) claimed that sexual activity began much earlier in life, was more varied and more frequent, and displayed less horror of age differences and same-sex relationships than anyone at that time imagined. It was as if, to follow Mr Porter again, "Anything goes". In *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud* Dr Judith A. Reisman and her colleagues demolish the foundations of the two reports.¹ At the one-third mark the book switches target to the "liberal" codes of sexual morality and sex education that have been built, it is alleged, on the Kinsey findings. The important allegations from the scientific viewpoint are imperfections in the sample and unethical, possibly criminal, observations on children. Any questionnaire survey in a normally private area is subject to bias from differences in those who respond and those who refuse, and there is no ready means of checking the information. The book goes beyond that, however, for Kinsey et al questioned an unrepresentative proportion of prison inmates and sex offenders in a survey of "normal" sexual behaviour. Presumably some at least of those offenders were also the sources of information on stimulation to orgasm in young children that can only have come from paedophiles—or so it must be hoped. Kinsey, an otherwise harmless student of the gall wasp, has left his former co-workers some explaining to do.

1. *Kinsey, sex and fraud: the indoctrination of a people*. By Judith A. Reisman and Edward W. Hichel. Edited by John H. Court and J. Gordon Muir. POH 53788, Lafayette, Louisiana: Huntington House Publishers. 1990. Pp 237. ISBN 0-91031120X.
