KinseyToday

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A publication of The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction

Spring/Summer 2002 Volume 6, Number 1



ast February, Friends of The Kinsey
Institute celebrated the opening of the
"Sex and Humor" exhibition at the Indiana
University School of Fine Arts Gallery.
The event also marked the publication of
a companion volume published by Indiana
University Press.

sex humor



McCord and
Douglas McCord
get a kick out of "The
Whimsey Report" at the
opening reception and
preview for Friends of The
Kinsey Institute. At right:
Curator Catherine Johnson.

Top left: Woman and Phallus in 18th-century costume (20th century); etching by an anonymous French artist.

Top right: Baby "reading"

Sexual Behavior in the

Human Male (1948); gelatin

silver print by an anonymous

U.S. photographer.

To choose items for the exhibition, Director John Bancroft and Curator Catherine Johnson went through reams of pictures, posters, cards, comics, magazines, and books; they perused etchings, drawings, engravings, prints, and dozens of quirky objects. Finally, they decided on some 200 items from the Institute's vast collection. There was plenty of laughter at the art opening—proving that they had chosen well, and supporting Bancroft's observation that "there is something essentially absurd and funny" about human sexuality.

How is sex funny? Let us count the ways. There is the human act of sex, represented variously as a gymnastic near-impossibility ("How do they do that?"), or a ho-hum alternative to reading a good book. And then there is the human body. For centuries, nakedness and human genitalia have always seemed to be good for a laugh—the phallus in particular.

What Johnson wryly refers to as "penile art" includes a parade of anthropomorphized male members: there's the jaunty hiker, for instance, or the well-dressed 18th-century bonvivant. Artists have also been imaginative in depicting the phallus as all manner of useful objects: a plow, a ship's mast, a cannon, a flagpole, or even a fishing rod.

Judy Chicago's whimsical "Butterfly Vagina Erotica" is one of the exhibit's few contributions by women. "Sex and Humor" was, in fact, short on feminist humor until the donation of some 1970s comics by women artists, an unexpected gift made when the donor heard about the upcoming show.

SEXUAL

BEHRUIOR

Human

Some of the most fascinating objects are threedimensional, from elegantly simple carvings to fine porcelains. "High" art or mass-produced, many are innocuous when viewed from one angle, naughty from another.

Popular fascination with the Kinsey Reports in the 1940s and '50s generated quite a bit of humor, including a (staged) photograph of a baby intently studying a copy of *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*.

The exhibit's companion volume, *Sex and Humor*, is meant "to inspire discussion about the nature of humor and its relationship to human sexual behavior and expression," according to Catherine Johnson. Edited by Johnson, John Bancroft, and IU SoFA Gallery Director Betsy Stirratt, the book includes a catalog of 42 duotone plates, and scholarly essays by Bancroft (on sex and humor), Frank A. Hoffmann (on the randy comic pamphlets known as "8-pagers"), Leonore Tiefer (on feminist humor), and Mikita Brottman (on dirty-joke collector Gershon Legman).

Sex and Humor: Selections from The Kinsey Institute is available from Indiana University Press (iupress.indiana.edu). View selections from the exhibition at www.kinseyinstitute.org/services/events.html.

Kinsey Today

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The mission of The Kinsey Institute is to promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the fields of human sexuality, gender, and reproduction.

The Institute was founded in 1947 by renowned sex researcher Alfred Kinsey. Today, the Institute has two components, an Indiana University research institute and a not-for-profit corporation, which owns and manages the Institute's research data and archives, collections, and databases.

Point, Click, Submit:

Using the Internet for Research

isit PBS's Frontline website, and you can point-and-click your way to a survey by Kinsey Institute Associate Scientist Erick Janssen. For its program "American Porn," Frontline asked Janssen to write a web column on porn use, and he agreed—as long as he could also include a Kinsey-sponsored survey. The survey was posted in February; in one month, more than 9,400 people completed it. "It was a playful project," says Janssen, but the rapid volume of responses illustrates the value of the Internet to the sex researcher.

Not surprisingly, e-mail can be at the heart of successful data-gathering. Associate

Director Stephanie Sanders describes the "snow-balling sample," a large sample of respondents built by "e-word" of mouth. Janssen concurs that the Internet "makes it possible to target specific populations that would otherwise be hard to find locally in adequate numbers." Sanders is designing an on-line survey that will look at sexual wellbeing and related factors for women, and her first target audience will be lesbian women. Gays and lesbians often go on-line to create "virtual communities," a phenomenon that Sanders describes as "one of the real strengths of the Internet in sex research. Someone in a small town may not be 'out,' but on-line,

Director's Column

By Dr. John Bancroft



Things are going well here at The Kinsey Institute. We have a thriving research program, breaking exciting new ground; a graduate education program which is going from strength to strength; an excellent Information Service, much in demand; our unique library and collections, which

are increasingly accessible for users from round the world; and an increasingly positive public profile. In 2003 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, with a program of events focusing on women's sexualities. Our mission is clear; providing international leadership in the interdisciplinary study of human sexuality, gender, and reproduction. We are uniquely placed for that role. But to fulfill that mission we must grow. To grow we must generate funding.

I am often asked how The Kinsey Institute is funded. The answer is from a variety of sources, although at present our main "base budget," which covers most of our staff salaries and the physical facilities, comes from the university. We cannot use university money, however, for any acquisitions for our library or collections. For that purpose we mainly rely on royalties, which allows a modest acquisitions budget. Over the past seven years we have had a series

of grants from the Ford Foundation, and additional grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the W.T. Grant Foundation, which have been invaluable during this crucial phase of the Institute's development. Our research has been supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Lilly ICOS LLC, and our graduate training by a grant from NIMH.

I am optimistic that with our successful research program we will continue to attract federal funding in the future. However, that will not be sufficient for proper growth of the Institute. We cannot expect any increase in our funding from Indiana University, and we must raise funds in other ways. In this newsletter, we read about the new Herman B Wells Endowment Fund for the Kinsey Institute Library, made possible by a generous gift from Don McMasters. Our development director, Nancy Lethem, is working with other donors and potential donors to establish a general endowment fund, which would eventually make The Kinsey Institute financially secure from the vagaries of state and federal funding. This next crucial phase is going to depend on the support of private foundations and individuals like Don McMasters and you. Please join us in our mission. Together, we can realize the considerable potential of this unique and internationally important place, The Kinsey Institute.

To find out how you can help The Kinsey Institute, contact Nancy Lethem.





The possibilities are as vast as the Web itself.

she's connected to a lesbian community." And such groups get the word out via e-mail. Add in the ease and relative anonymity of the on-line survey, and the

data returns can be tremendous.

Methods of conducting face-to-face, phone, and Internet surveys may differ, but Sanders and Janssen agree that data obtained by way of the Internet can be useful in

sampling Research Program

populations that are difficult to reach. And there are simple ways to track responses:

for example, assigning user ID codes, or linking to particular survey URLs from sites frequented by specific populations.

Not surprisingly, Internet use is itself a fertile area for research. Janssen and Institute Director John Bancroft are preparing for a project that will examine how people use the Internet for sexual purposes, such as finding images, using chat rooms for "cybersex," and meeting on-line to arrange for off-line sex. So-called "Internet addiction" is another area of inquiry.

The possibilities are as vast as the web itself. To see how Kinsey Institute researchers are using the Internet, visit www.kinseyinstitute.org/research; Erick Janssen's Frontline column and survey can be found at www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/ frontline/shows/porn.

Herman B Wells Endowment Fund for the Kinsey Institute Library

ou could say that The Kinsey Institute's first hero was Herman B Wells: his staunch belief in the value of Alfred Kinsey's work made the Institute itself a reality. The

Kinsey Institute is delighted to announce that Don McMasters has initiated an endowment that will both honor the memory of Chancellor Herman B Wells and help secure the future of the Institute's library collections.

A retired IU staff member, Don has spent many volunteer hours in the Kinsey collections, as well as serving on the Development Committee for the Friends of The Kinsey Institute. Says Library Head Liana Zhou, "He is keenly aware that for the collections to survive and prosper, we must have a solid financial foundation." It was Wells' influence that inspired Don to establish the endowment. "I've known and admired Dr. Wells since the late 1950s," Don says.

"He had a very strong interest in both the operation of The Kinsey Institute and in the IU library system in general."

Income from the endowment will be used for the Institute library's acquisitions, preservation, and special cataloguing projects. It will also support the day-to-day tasks that provide services to researchers and scholars from around the world.

Your donation to the Herman B Wells Endowment Fund for the Kinsey Institute Library will build on Don McMasters' generous gift—and help sustain unique resources that are vital to research and scholarship in human sexuality, gender, and reproduction. For information, contact Nancy Lethem, Director of Development: nlethem@indiana.edu, or 812-855-7686. <



(L-R) Librarian Liana Zhou, Director John Bancroft, endowment founder Don McMasters, and Bill Yarber, **President of the Friends** of The Kinsey Institute.

Women's Sexualities: Perspectives and Portrayals

In Honor of Kinsey's Sexual Behavior in the Human Female, 1953

In 2003 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Kinsey's *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*. Throughout the year, the Institute—along with other departments and organizations in and around Indiana University—will present events that address women's diverse sexualities and their relation to gender and reproduction. The schedule includes

- an art exhibition, featuring invited artists and selections from Institute collections
- · public radio and television forums
- a panel discussion of current research in female sexuality
- a forum on academic freedom, sponsored by the American Association of University Professors
- a film festival

- a lecture series, including speakers on women's health and sexuality, arts, science, and history
- a national conference, "Women's Sexualities: Historical and Interdisciplinary Perspectives"

Events begin in February 2003 and continue throughout the year.

Look for a full schedule in our fall newsletter, or keep up to date with the planning

committee on our website:

www.kinsey institute.org/services/2003.

To participate in planning, contact

Dara Eckart (deckart@indiana.edu).



Two women seated on a bed; 20th-century etching by U.S. artist Clara Tice (1888-1973); donated in 1950.

Kinsey Today

Inside



Sex and Humor

2+3 Director's Column

Herman B Wells Endowment



Research on • Recent and the Internet Upcoming Events



Women's Sexualities

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

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Sexual Minority Youth Conference July 19-21

Sexual Minority Youth in the Heartland will train a wide array of professionals to serve the needs of young people who are struggling with issues of gender identity and sexual orientation. The program is sponsored by IU's office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Student Support Services. GLBT Coordinator Doug Bauder says, "We get calls every week from teens and from professionals seeking support for their clients. This conference will help us create more safe spaces and increase the number of trained, clearly identifiable support professionals in Midwestern communities."

Kinsey Institute Associate Director

Stephanie Sanders will lead a workshop on theories of sexual orientation, and sexual health clinic therapist Carol

McCord will present on developmental psychology of GLBT youth. The conference also features tours of The Kinsey Institute and a keynote address by former U.S.

Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

Registration is ongoing. To obtain more information, visit www.iub.edu/~glbtyou, or call (812) 855-4252.

Summer Institute 2002

The Kinsey Institute's second Summer Graduate Research Institute in Human Sexuality will be held June 9-16. The focus is "Interventions for High-Risk Sexual Behavior: Design, Implementation, and Evaluation." Twenty-five graduate students from seven countries will study with international leaders in the field of sex research. For more information, visit www.kinseyinstitute.org/graduate.



Sexuality Research Fellows Program Retreat

The Social Science Research Council hosted a week-long scholars' retreat this spring for post-doctorate fellows of the Sexuality Research Fellows Program. Participants used the rich library and archival collections for research on a wide range of topics: the history of sexuality in 20th-century Germany; the birth control movement in 1920s Virginia; prisoner correspondence; Kinsey correspondence with renowned American visual artists; gender, sexuality, and aging; the correspondence of Harry Benjamin and transgender sexuality; the Arden House 1955 Meeting on Abortion attended by Mary Calderone, Alfred Kinsey, and Alan Guttmacher; and secondary analysis of the Kinsey interview data regarding homosexual behavior.

Visiting scholars included Laura

Carpenter (Johns Hopkins School of
Public Health), Diane di Mauro (SSRC),
Dagmar Herzog (Michigan State),
Pippa Holloway (Middle Tennessee State),
Jonathan Katz (SUNY Stonybrook), David
Linton (Marymount Manhattan College),
Joanne Meyerowitz (IU), Susan Stryker
(GLBT Historical Society), and David
Whittier (Columbia).

As one participant said, "It was the single most rewarding and invaluable research week that I've ever had, much aided by the Kinsey staff, who were extremely helpful and friendly." Program director Diane di Mauro hopes to organize future retreats at The Kinsey Institute.

Find It on the Web

For recent research publications and Institute news and events, visit "What's New" at www.kinseyinstitute.org/about/new.html.

Director John Bancroft outlines his view of gender equality in "If I could choose, what kind of sexual world would this be?" at www.kinseyinstitute.org/about/if-I-could-choose.html.

Graduate Students at The Kinsey Institute

THE NEXT GENERATION of scholars in human sexuality is represented by a group of exceptional graduate students affiliated with The Kinsey Institute. They work with Kinsey staff and faculty, they conduct their own research using Institute resources, and a number have received Friends graduate awards.



Lori Carnes is the Institute's first doctoral student. As an undergraduate, Lori was an honors intern with Stephanie Sanders. When she stayed at IU to pursue a doctorate in psychology, she applied for the Kinsey's graduate assistantship. Currently Lori analyzes data from thousands of responses to questionnaires on high-risk sexual behavior, working closely with Director John Bancroft and Associate Scientist Erick Janssen. She also worked with

researchers on the Institute's recent analysis of the links between mood and sexuality. Director of Graduate Training Cynthia Graham says, "It's a great benefit for her and for us, to be on-site with the support of the researchers, her primary mentors." For Lori, whose own research focuses on the relationship between mood and sexuality, "The Kinsey Institute is an amazing place. I get to work with some of the most brilliant people in the world, and I get hands-on experience with research. If I'm going to do research in human sexuality, there's no other place to be."



Emily Nagoski wanted to combine her interest in counseling with sex therapy and education, so she enrolled in the Institute's Sex Therapy Practicum. To round out her experience, she joined The Kinsey Institute Sexuality Information Service for Students (KISISS) team,

and has been helping students with sexual issues for the past two years at www.indiana.edu/~kisiss. Jennifer Bass, Head of Information Services, values Emily's contributions: "Emily is passionate about educating students about sexuality, relationships, and health, and combines great conversational style with research-based information. She's helped KISISS open up to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender student population with a special feature of our site, the '10 percent space,' and developed informational pages on anatomy and health." Emily graduates this summer with an MS in Counseling. "Working with KISISS has been instrumental in defining my professional interests and skills," she says. "The combination of the practicum and KISISS has been my most valuable educational experience here at Indiana University."



Front row: Jeni Loftus; Robin Milhausen Back row: Nicole Merritt; Brian Mustanski; Emily Nagoski; Deanna Carpenter

THESE STUDENTS are also conducting graduate research at The Kinsey Institute:

Deanna Carpenter (Psychology)

 The Dual Control Model: Gender and Sexual Problems

Brian M. Dodge (Applied Health Science)

- Condom use problems among male university students in the U.S. and the Netherlands
- · Men's public sex behaviors on college campuses
- Sexual compulsivity among college students

Jeni Loftus (Sociology)

Sexual well-being of women in heterosexual relationships

Nicole Merritt (Psychology)

- The effects of alcohol on sexual arousal and sexual risk taking
- The desire construct and asexuality

Robin Milhausen (Applied Health Science)

- Women's sexual inhibition and excitation
- · Adolescent sexuality and sexual risk behaviors
- The sexual double standard

Brian Mustanski (Psychology)

- Genetic and environmental influences on sexual inhibition and sexual excitation
- Sex and the internet

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