

ONE Institute printed pamphlet, 1997.

ONE Institute Center for Advanced Studies

A Think Tank for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community.

In the past, and continuing into the present, numerous campaigns throughout the world have tried to hide, obscure or destroy the lives, history, and contributions of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people. Since the 1950s, ONE Institute has been at the forefront of the effort to challenge this homophobic bias through research and education.

In contrast to the Right Wing, which has funded several prominent "Think Tank" research centers to provide the intellectual bases for their agenda, the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Bisexual community has lacked a strong Think Tank of our own.

ONE Institute's Center for Advanced Studies aims to help fill this void by offering support and encouragement for researchers, thinkers and activists who are working to reduce heterosexism, and to benefit future generations of same-sex oriented people around the world.

The opportunity now exists to build such a Think Tank in southern California. This is an appropriate location, since Los Angeles was the birthplace of homophile activism in the early 1950s, with the formation of the Mattachine Society and ONE, Inc. ONE published America's first major periodical advocating a pro-homosexual stance, as well as the first academic journal reporting research of interest to Gays and Lesbians. Jim Kepner, who taught the first Gay History classes at ONE in the 1950s, dedicated his life to collecting every book, article,

newspaper clipping, document, photograph, visual art, and audio recording on homosexuality he could find. This collection eventually grew to become the International Gay and Lesbian Archives. In 1994 an historic event occurred as the Archives and ONE libraries merged to form ONE Institute. This merged collection is the largest library and archives of Gay and Lesbian materials anywhere in the world.

The Institute for the Study of Human Resources (ISHR) was founded in 1964 to raise funds in support of ONE's academic research. Over the years ISHR has funded the publication of numerous bibliographical guides, journals, books, and papers that have been extremely valuable in laying the intellectual basis for the progress of the Lesbian and Gay movement. Now ISHR is undertaking a major campaign to expand this research into a full-fledged Think Tank benefiting the community.

Due to the efforts of ISHR Board Member Professor Walter Williams, the University of Southern California has offered a large two-story building to house the ONE Institute collections. USC has also established a Center for Scholars in Residence in a nearby 14-unit apartment complex, where researchers doing work on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies may apply for rent-free housing. These buildings represent an unparalleled commitment by one of the world's leading research universities in support of scholarship in this area.

USC provided an apartment for Jim Kepner, venerable founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, who published a book, *Rough News, Daring Views*, based on his path-breaking essays in the homophile press in the 1950s. He was also writing his memoirs, of his life as a pioneering gay activist from the 1950s, until his death in 1997.

Dr. Hal Call, longtime president of the Mattachine Society in San Francisco, generously donated \$50,000 to establish the Hal Call Mattachine Scholar Awards. This fund offers scholarships to support research that will help to reduce heterosexism, and that will advance the interests of the Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual and Gay communities. Dr. Call also funded the fifth annual International Graduate Conference in Lesbian-Gay Studies, held at USC in 1995.

Special areas of focus for the Hal Call Awards include research to learn the most effective strategies and techniques to reduce hate crimes, deal with the mass media, change homophobic attitudes, reduce anti-gay discrimination in the workplace, increase acceptance of same-sex families, enact favorable public policies, and promote economic development in the community. Topics of special concern include studies of progress in other nations, among diverse ethnic groups, and with Lesbian-Gay youth and the elderly.

Hal Call Awards have been made to many scholars working at USC and in association with ONE Institute, including Dr. Sylvia Rhue, an affiliated scholar at the USC Center for Feminist Research, who produced a documentary film *All God's Children*, designed to reduce heterosexism in the African-American community, and Dr. Chuck Stewart (USC School of Education), who designed an educational program to reduce homophobia among recruits to the Los Angeles Police Academy and other law enforcement agencies. Dr. Yolanda Retter (University of New Mexico) wrote her Ph.D. dissertation on the history of the feminist lesbian community in Los Angeles. Dr. James Green (UCLA) wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the history of gay activism in Brazil.

International scholars who have been supported include Canadian Professor Holly Devor of the University of Victoria, who published a book on female-to-male transsexuals, Professor

Igor Kon of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who wrote the first book to be published on homosexuality in Russia, and Dr. Wan Yan Hai, who led the effort for AIDS prevention in China.

CENTER DIRECTOR

The founding director of the ONE Institute Center for Advanced Studies is Walter L. Williams, Besides teaching courses at USC on "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies," and on "Overcoming Prejudice," he has also been Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia, and a visiting professor at UCLA. Professor Williams is editor of the *International Gay & Lesbian Review*, and serves on the board of editors of the *Journal of Homosexuality* and other publications. He began his research in these collections, when he investigated the social acceptance of same-sex love among many American Indian tribes. His book *The Spirit and the Flesh* won several awards, including the Gay Book of the Year by the American Library Association, and has had a big impact on reducing homophobia in many Indian reservation communities. His research at ONE, on the social acceptability of same-sex marriages in numerous Native American, African and Asia/Pacific traditional cultures, was used by attorneys in the Hawaii Supreme Court case to argue for the legalization of same-sex marriage in that State. Williams' reports have also had an impact on Buddhist religious groups, which have begun holding same-sex wedding ceremonies in their temples. Dr. Williams is well positioned to assist scholars and researchers from throughout the world in doing their research at the Center for Advanced Studies.

This brochure lists just a few examples of the valuable research that is being done. More money needs to be raised to fund many additional topics. Building on the huge research base of ONE Institute International Gay and Lesbian Archives, ISHR is in prime position to provide financial support where it will be of most value. We are asking you to become a Partner of ISHR, and join in this noble effort for the long-term benefit of our community by providing the intellectual base from which future progress can be made. Donations are tax deductible, and can be listed either in your own name, or in honor of another person alive or deceased. Donations are welcomed in the form of cash, bequests by will or trust, stocks, investment funds, collectibles, real estate, automobiles, and endowments.

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