

# ONE, INC.

The oldest surviving homosexual organization in North America began in Los Angeles as a monthly magazine in

January 1953. Although formally independent of the **Mattachine Society**, most of the early staffers were members of that recently formed organization. In 1958 the magazine won a landmark legal victory when the United States Supreme Court overturned a decision by the postmaster of Los Angeles that made the periodical unmailable. This success opened the way for the present profusion of the gay and lesbian press.

In the course of time, ONE developed other activities. Responding to a need for public education, the group held small classes beginning in 1956, supplemented by the midwinter institutes which took place in January. A research facility began to take shape in the Baker Memorial Library. Early in the history of ONE it was realized that there was need for a new comprehensive bibliography of the whole interdisciplinary field of homosexual behavior. After many delays, this goal was finally achieved in the *Annotated Bibliography of Homosexuality* (2 vols., New York, 1976), which remains the largest work of its kind.

In 1965 the organization was split by a schism, leading to the secession of a number of members, who formed the Tangents group, later known as the Homosexual Information Center (Hollywood). Under the vigorous leadership of W. Dorr Legg, the original group successfully rebuilt itself, though *ONE Magazine* itself was a casualty of the dispute, publishing its last regular issues in 1968. The magazine was replaced for a time by *ONE Institute Quarterly of Homophile Studies* (1968-73), the first scholarly journal of its kind in North America.

In 1981 the state of California granted ONE, Inc. the right to operate as an accredited graduate school. A regular program of classes and student supervision was begun with the collaboration of a number of leading scholars. In due course several students earned the degree of Ph.D. in homophile studies. In spacious new quarters ONE Institute continues to host

a variety of scholarly and community  
activities in Los Angeles.

*Ward Houser*