

— BUT STORY 'NOT FOR GAY PRESS' —

# Admitted Gay ordered certified as lawyer in Ohio

NEW YORK CITY—A longtime worker for gay legal rights, Arthur Warner, revealed Dec. 5 that an admitted homosexual has been admitted to the Ohio bar.

Warner then raised a festering issue between his organization, the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, and the gay media by demanding that the report not be printed.

He conceded that "disclosure in the press can have no effect on the Ohio case at this point because he has already been admitted to the bar," and "other public Gays will probably have no trouble being admitted to the bar. The dean of the Law School in Minnesota where Jack Baker is enrolled says Baker will have no trouble getting admitted...."

However, said Warner bitterly, "The gay press, especially the ADVOCATE, has caused my committee no end of woe. Idaho passed sodomy repeal, and the ADVOCATE ran a headline about it. Those opposed to the sodomy repeal put a copy of that issue in the hands of every legislator in Idaho, and as a result, the sodomy laws were reenacted."

Warner made the disclosure about the Ohio case in a talk at New York University Law School, where 30 men and five women were attending a meeting of the New York Gay Legal Caucus, which describes itself as "an emerging, independent association of lawyers, law students, and those otherwise involved with the legal profession seeking to coalesce a gay legal community."

In addition to Warner, speakers

said about this will be published in their reports."

The ADVOCATE reporter, Randy Wicker, agreed not to publish the information. But the paper's editors, when informed of the report, decided that Warner's demand was unwarranted.

Warner made his comments about his committee's attitude toward the gay media and then went on to say, "We are going to be applying on behalf of another candidate here in New York. He is a brilliant young man, was editor of the law review at the university he attended. The New York candidate, contacted by the ADVOCATE later, asked not to be identified by name."

"I am not a militant homosexual, nor am I a martyr, nor am I on some kind of trip," he said.

He said that he had graduated from law school, passed the bar exam, and had worked for a prestigious law firm on Park Avenue. His concern now, he said, is with the admission committee of the bar association.

"I was married, and my wife is a strange girl. She has threatened to publicize my change in sexual orientation to the committee."

"I can see two ways of being admitted to the bar. One is to be good, say nothing and hope. The second way would be to take the bull by the horns, admit I am gay, and thereby perhaps help people in the future."

Two-edged sword  
Lavery, a law school graduate who has not yet been admitted to the bar, said disclosure could be a

area, sometimes they get so excited they cry just because for the first time someone is listening," he said.

Miller said that since he became "involved in handling these cases, for the first time I've contemplated meeting gay people who have been physically abused, who have had their front teeth knocked out, their limbs broken, I'd never been before the New York Police Department's Civilian Complaint Review Board before, now I do so regularly."

"Many of the people who come to me would be excellent cause cases," he noted, "but they are unwilling to endure any publicity. They say they'll kill themselves if their cases are publicized."

"The ADVOCATE is very valuable," Miller concluded. "I clip articles pertaining to certain cases, index them, and keep them on file. By referring to these clippings, I am able to cite cases unofficially and this is of great assistance in convincing judges that the decision we are seeking is not so out of the ordinary but, in fact, is a course which has already been taken in other jurisdictions."

Lavery said efforts were under way to establish a National Gay Law Conference which would publish a *Gay Legal Reporter* and would meet semi-annually at the same time and place as the American Bar Association to facilitate attendance by gay members of the bar and to make the ABA aware of the existence of gay legal groups.

There are now seven professional law groups in this country."

nect, a law professor then with the University of New Mexico, who wrote the amicus brief for NACHO.

McCluskey, in turn, was represented by the Dallas Bar Association for his public statements in the case, and released practically no information to the gay media after that.

Deal a body blow by the U.S. Supreme Court and floundering in a welter of bitter accusations and counter-accusations, from all involved, the case collapsed and Buchanan went to prison, where he remains. Efforts to contact him through prison authorities have been unsuccessful. McCluskey will not discuss the case.

Warner, laying the principal blame for the outcome at the doorstep of the ADVOCATE, because of the publicity the paper gave the antagonizing disputes in the case, had affirmed the paper on several occasions that he will do all he can to keep any publicity out of its columns on any matter he is involved with unless he is printed. The ADVOCATE has declined to agree to this.

Barnett, who at last report was still working with Warner, is writing a book on laws affecting Gays in the United States.

three-judge federal court in Dallas, responding to constitutional issues raised in the case, declared Texas sodomy law invalid.

The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the case before all levels of appeal were exhausted at the state level.

In the meantime, Warner, then known as Austin Wade, had become involved in a bitter dispute with Dallas lawyer Henry McCluskey, Buchanan's attorney, over McCluskey's handling, not only of the case, but of the funds that had been raised. McCluskey retaliated by withdrawing his consent for NACHO's intervention in the case.

Withdraws From NACHO

Shortly after the disastrous August 1970 convention in San Francisco which led to NACHO's dissolution, Warner withdrew from the disintegrating organization and set up the National Committee for Homosexual Law Reform, the predecessor of his present organization. Joining with Warner in the endeavor was Dr. Walter Bar-

