



RECORD Photo/Dusan Stojkovic

Actor Charlton Heston gives HLS audience his take on the "cultural war" engulfing America.

Gay Activist Lawyers Challenged at Same-Sex Marriage Conference

By Seth Persily

Activists Jay Brause and Gene Dugan, plaintiffs in a gay marriage suit pending in Alaska, silenced a reception of academics and litigators during last weekend's conference at HLS on gay marriage by criticizing a number of gay activist lawyers, many of whom were sitting in the room.

Their biggest struggle, said Brause and Dugan, was finding a lawyer to take their case. Citing a consensus among leading activists to avoid most gay marriage cases for fear that they will result in a string of negative precedents, Brause and Dugan called the position "cowardly."

The tense moment was an anomaly in the weekend's events but it highlighted the debate swirling around gay marriage even among its supporters who disagree on the best political strategies to pursue.

Brause and Dugan made headlines when a trial court in Alaska made a temporary ruling in their favor. The ruling frightened gay marriage opponents, who initiated a referendum to amend the state constitution of Alaska to require that only one man may enter marriage with one woman. The referendum passed by majority vote last November.

Organizers of "Freedom to Marry: Consolidating Strategies, Planning Victories" hoped the two-day conference would spur "the academic community [to] provide scholarship that would buttress the work of the litigating community in promoting the freedom to marry for all people."

Sponsored by Harvard Law School Lambda, Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review and the Harvard Law School Civil Liberties Union, the conference drew prominent legal academics and practitioners from around the country.

opening address, Dean Clark '72 noted that he was especially pleased to see so many former HLS visiting professors at the conference, such as Profs. Nan Hunter and William Eskridge.

Eskridge served as visiting professor at HLS in 1995, but was denied a tenure-track position. He was subsequently given full tenure at Yale Law School. Had Eskridge remained at Harvard, he would have been the first openly gay professor at HLS.

The bulk of the conference was scheduled around a series of panel discussions.

Prof. Chai Feldblum '85 of

Prof. Denied HLS Tenure Returns

Delivering the conference's

Please see **MARRIAGE**, p. 2



RECORD Photo/Margie McWilliams

Lambda co-chair Sharon McGowan '00 at the "Freedom to Marry" Conference last weekend in Ames.

Moses Presides Over Ames Courtroom Charlton Heston Condemns Political Correctness, Ice-T

By Suzanne Carter

The actor famous for his portrayal of Moses did not part the Red Sea in his Forum-sponsored address earlier this week, but he drew a capacity crowd nonetheless.

Utilizing a TelePrompTer at the rear of the Ames Courtroom, the National Rifle Association (NRA) President and movie star delivered a speech entitled "Winning the Cultural War."

Heston chose not to focus on his devotion to the Second Amendment's "right to bear arms" clause, instead concentrating his rhetorical arsenal on the twin scourges of political correctness and the violent lyrics of rapper Ice-T.

Heston introduced himself by quoting his son, who, when asked as a child what his father did for a living, responded, "my daddy pretends to be people."

Heston wasted no time in launching into his theme. "A cultural war is about to hijack your birthright to think and say what lives in your heart," he said.

Mentioning his election to the presidency of the NRA, Heston stated that "now I serve as a scapegoat for the media. They call me everything from duped to a senile, crazy old man."

This criticism comes not because he is a "senile, crazy old man" though, but because "certain thoughts and speech are mandated," including opposition to Heston's conservatism, he said.

Noting that he marched for civil rights with Martin Luther King, Jr., "long before Hollywood found it acceptable," Heston stated that "when I said white pride is just as valid as black pride or red pride, I was called a racist."

"When I compared singling out the innocent Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust to singling out innocent gun owners today, I was called an anti-Semite."

In what was perhaps an example of the freedom to be politically incorrect, Heston noted in gender-specific terms that "if Americans believed in political correctness, we'd still be King George's boys."

Heston proceeded to cite a long list of "politically correct" regulations recently passed around the country.

"At Last, Copulation!"

"At Antioch College in Ohio, a young man seeking admission to intimacy from a coed must get permission for three stages: kissing, petting, and finally, oh yes, at last, copulation."

"In San Francisco, city fathers protect rights of transvestites to cross-dress on the job and the rights of transsexuals to have separate toilets while undergoing the sex change procedures," Heston said, again using the masculine form.

The actor also criticized the replacement of the term "black"

Please see **HESTON**, p. 4

Changing of the Guard at Law Review

By Ben Lehrer

The Harvard Law Review has elected Mike Leiter '00 to lead the prestigious publication into the new millennium.

Leiter was selected out of seven candidates for the position of Law Review President on Monday.

"I'm excited and honored," said

Leiter. "I've really enjoyed my past six months as editor and am incredibly impressed by the Law Review as an institution and by my fellow editors."

Elections for the remaining Law Review offices are being held this week.

From Vet to Pres

While there are no set criteria for choosing among the proffered candidates, background certainly made him an appealing choice. After graduating Columbia in 1991, Leiter served six years in the United States Navy flying jets off of aircraft carriers.

He spent time in Iraq and in Bosnia enforcing United Nations sanctions against those nations.

"Bosnia was very active when I was there," said Leiter. He served there in 1994, when the former Yugoslavian province was engulfed in civil war.

Leiter says the experience inspired him to attend law school.

"In college I worked for the Department of Justice Office of Special Investigations investigating Nazi war criminals," he said. "In Bosnia I saw some similar investigations and became increasingly dissatisfied with using military power to solve these problems."

Leiter spent his 1L summer working for the International

War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague.

The Ins and Outs

Leiter replaces outgoing president Katie Christensen '99.

"It's been an incredible experience and great honor for me to hold this position," said Christensen. This year's highlights included a Supreme Court forward written by Michael Dorf '90 of Columbia Law School, a tribute to the late Justice Lewis

Please see **REVIEW**, p. 4

HLS Repubs Celebrate Reagan's 88th Birthday

By Dusan Stojkovic and Suzanne Carter

The airing of a series of Ronald Reagan's speeches inspired vociferous cheers at a celebration of the former President's 88th birthday, sponsored by the HLS Republicans this Tuesday.

"Ronaldus Magnus, Freer of Hostages, Champion of Democracy" read a slogan written in large letters on the blackboard in Austin North.

The event was timed to coincide with actor and NRA President Charlton Heston's visit to the Law School. Heston attended and spoke at the

birthday celebration.

In addition to the pizza commonplace for Law School functions, the attendees were treated to a huge birthday cake. "It's not pretty, but it's got a lot of icing," Beth Collins '00 said as she cut.

While the predominantly East Asian/white audience was not diverse ethnically, it made up for that with diversity in age.

An elderly gentleman stepped up to the front of the room and asked "Whose birthday was it?" and as he helped himself to some cake, added "Oh yeah, Reagan's."

Please see **GIPPER**, p. 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dersh Exposed 7

Jake De-Socked 8

X-Files Explained 10

Also:
Live Music Generally Sucks, Costner Tries Again, and that little whippersnapper, Fenno.