1997 Bughouse Square Debates
Saturday, July 26, 1997 Noon to 5 p.m.

Entertainment
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Main Stage
Folk music by Wayne Howard
Bughouse Square poetry by LaFreem Keith-Ramsey & Sharlin
Music by Jim "Jimmy T" Tomasello
Poetry by Ed Two Rivers
Bughouse music by Allen Schwartz

Plaque Commemoration and Pilgrimage to Tooker Place
1:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Main Stage
Commemoration of Bughouse Square and the Dill Pickle Club
Studs Terkel
Former Mayor of Bughouse Square
Cindy Mitchell
Mayor of Bughouse Square

Soapbox Sessions
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Soapbox sessions last approximately twenty-five minutes per speaker.
All four soapboxes run concurrently.

Soapbox 1
Driving a Stake Through the State
Income Tax Increase Proposal
Jim Tobin
President, National Taxpayers United of Illinois

Campaign Finance:
Whose Money Is It Anyway?
Dawn Clark Netsch
Professor of Law Emeritus,
Northwestern University School of Law

Cooperation, Coercion, and Love:
The Case for Capitalism
Joseph A. Morris
President, The Lincoln Legal Foundation

Soapbox 2
Affirmative Action or Positive Discrimination?
Jay Miller
Executive Director, ACLU of Illinois

Sex Scandals in the Armed Forces:
How to Stop Them
Christopher Check
Executive Vice President,
The Rockford Institute

Riverboat Gambling:
Will It Send Us Up the Creek?
Tom Grey
Executive Director,
National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion

Our sincere thanks to the 1997 Bughouse Square Committee: Diane Ciral, Chair, Angela Crim, Leon Despres, H. Keith Goetsch, Mary Janzen, Tom Joyce, Cindy Mitchell, Franklin and Penelope Rosemont, Leslie von Holten, and Lila Weinberg.
Soapbox Sessions continued
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
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Soapbox 3
The Doctor Business
Quentin Young
Chair, Health and Medicine Political Research Group

The Death Penalty: A Moral Dilemma
Seymour Simon
Attorney and former Justice, Illinois Supreme Court

Living Wage:
Can A Working Guy Get a Fair Shake?
Lester Schlossberg
Former Union Organizer, Chicago Typographical Union Local 16

Soapbox 4
Not in My Neighborhood:
The Battle over Housing
Elmer Gertz
Former President, Public Housing Association

Why Government Should Fund
the Arts and Humanities
Alton Miller
Consultant, Illinois Arts Alliance

Ask a Wobbly
Carlos Cortez
Poet and Artist
President, Charles H. Kerr Company

THE MAIN DEBATE begins at 3:30 p.m.
"Multiculturalism: Ebonics or Moronics?"

Michael Silverstein
Samuel N. Harper Professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago

vs.
Leon Todd
Director, Milwaukee School Board

The History of Bughouse Square
by Cindy Mitchell, Mayor of Bughouse Square

Chicago's famed Bughouse Square has a history dating back to the early 1840s. In 1840, the land now occupied by Washington Square Park was the neighborhood cow pasture. Residents of the area brought their cows here early in the morning, retrieving them in the evening and taking time to chat around the communal well. In 1842, Erasmus Bushnell bought a large tract of land, including this area, for a housing development. He donated the square to the city as its second public park. The neighborhood quickly became a desirable location, and the new park was surrounded by lovely mansions and row houses.

This era was shortlived, however. By 1910, the area began to attract a "bohemian element" and the mansions were soon converted to rooming houses. By 1915, the park became the premiere forum for the freedom of speech in Chicago. The famous, infamous, and fanatical came daily to the park to mount the soapboxes and try to convert whomever they could listen to any of a myriad of political and philosophical theories. Emma Goldman, Ben Heinegan, and Clarence Darrow were only some of the well known personalities who entertained the crowd. But the favorites were often the lesser known but equally convincing silver tongued orators, such as "One Armed Charlie" who quoted the Constitution by heart, or the "Bulgarian General," the self-proclaimed world expert on Russian military strategy. Throughout the summer evenings, up till the 1950's, the great and the amateurs filled the park in celebration of the freedom of speech. Now Bughouse Square is only a memory, celebrated yearly by the Newberry Library's annual Bughouse Square Debate. The Newberry invites Chicago notables and everyone interested in today's pressing issues for spirited debate in Washington Square Park.

With additional support from:
The Playboy Foundation
Mayor's Office of Special Events
VSA Partners, Inc.
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& Tim von Holten

Special thanks to our sponsors:
The John Nuveen Company
Buighouse Square Debates

We invite you to join us for a very special, free lecture

Get on Your Soapbox:
A History of Soapbox Oratory Around the World

Friday, July 25, 5:30 PM

The lecture will be presented by independent Australian scholar and writer Stephen Maxwell, who is currently writing a book on the history of soapbox debate around the world. Mr. Maxwell will present a lecture based on his extensive research and will then invite the audience to ask questions and share their memories. He will include the Buighouse Square Debates in his upcoming book.

This lecture is sponsored in part by The John Nuveen Company, MacLean-Fogg Company, with additional thanks to The Mayor's Office of Special Events, The Playboy Foundation, VSA Partners, Inc., Active Graphics, and Tim von Holten.

The Buighouse Square Debates
Saturday, July 26
12:00-5:00 PM
Washington Square Park
(across from the Newberry Library)
For more information call (312) 255-3510

The Newberry Library 60 West Walton Chicago, Illinois 60610