I think it fair to tell you at the outset that I am a fell in presence of the presentation of the John R. Galt, itselfly, Freedom of Speech Award today. The award would have been presented to Dr. Quentin Young's career has exhibited so much courage and wisdom in his life that the award would have been presented today not by one but by two of the former previous recipients. Studs Terkel and Frank Peeples who have been foremost in this city in exercising and protecting free speech for over half a century. Unfortunately, both of them have been disabled by recent falls and so I have the privilege and extreme honor of presenting this award.
For almost half a century Dr. Quentin Young has been an advocate and a champion for the First Amendment. Not only has he endorsed it and struggled to protect it, but he also has used it frequently speaking out on issues noted at the time may not have been popular. He was an early opponent of the death penalty in Illinois.

He was a leader in the Civil Rights movement and while Dr. Martin Luther King led marches through Marquette Park in 1966, he was Dr. King's physician. He spoke out almost at its inception against the war in Vietnam and speaks out regularly questioning the need for our pre-invasion of Iraq. He opposes the Patriot Act because
He is a real patriot, above all years before the disastrous 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, he organized the Medical Committee for Human Rights, which was on hand to give assistance to those who were treated and missed at the 1968 Convention. For that he was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee to answer questions regarding his role in the 1968 Convention.

It was a great show watching Dr. Young spar with the Committee members.

Above all, Dr. Quentin Young has been the leading advocate in the United States for a system of National Health care covering every American without the need for private insurers.
In young men, like this John R. Revesz, Gelpf was courageous in supporting
and because of the many unpopular
issues he has supported, many of which
with the passage of time became majority
opinions.

Quentin is often referred to as
the Patient Doctor. He is a clinical
professor of preventive health at the University
of Illinois Medical Center, during the 1970's he
served as Chairman of the Department of
Internal Medicine at Cook County Hospital
and how I will, he had been head of
the Department while I was President. We
would have had some fun working together.
He professionalized and humanized the treatment
of patients at the Cook County jail. During the time
Harold Washington was mayor of Chicago Dr. Young
Acting served as President of the Chicago Board of Health, and in addition to all that the indefatigable Dr. Young has been to medical commentators on National Public Radio. Let me not forget how many times Dr. Young has mounted a soapbox to appear in the Bughouse Square debates.

Dr. Young you are not an eagle forgotten. Show your appreciative and beholden constituency on behalf of the Newberry Library’s Bughouse Square Debate Committee and for your leadership in protecting free speech, it is my great honor to present the John Peter
Cultured freedom of speech, courage to a great American, Dr. Robert Young.

Seymour Simon
July 31, 2004
Parklake Science
Seymour Simon  
John Peter Altgeld Freedom of Speech  
Presentation to Dr. Quentin Young  
July 31, 2004

I think it fair to tell you at the outset that I am a fill in presenter of the John Peter Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award today.

Dr. Quentin Young has exhibited so much courage and wisdom in his life that the award would have been presented today not by one, but by two of the previous recipients. Studs Terkel and Leon Despres who have been foremost in this city in exercising and protecting free speech for over half a century. Unfortunately both of them have been disabled by recent falls so I have the privilege and extreme honor of presenting this award.

For over half a century Dr. Young has been a vigorous advocate and a champion for the first amendment. Not only has he endorsed it and struggled to protect it, but he also has used it frequently speaking out on issues which at the time may not have been popular.

He was an early opponent of the death penalty in Illinois. He was a leader in the civil rights movement and while Martin Luther King lead marches through the Marquette Park in 1966, he was Dr. King's physician. He spoke out almost at its inception against the war in Vietnam and speaks out regularly questioning the need for our invasion of Iraq. He opposes the Patriot Act because he is a real patriot.

Before the disastrous 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, he organized the Medical Committee for Human Rights and was on hand to give assistance to those who were beaten and maced at the convention. For that he was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee to answer questions regarding his role in the riots during the convention. It was a great show watching Dr. Young spat with the committee members. Above all, Dr. Young has been the leading advocate in the United States for a system of National Health care covering every American without the need for private insurers.

Dr. Quentin Young merits the John Peter Altgeld Award because of his courage in supporting many unpopular issues, many of which with the passage of time became majority opinions.

Dr. Young is often referred to as the patient Doctor. He is a clinical professor of preventive health at the University of Illinois Medical Center. During the 1970s he served as chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Cook County Hospital and how I wish he had been head of the department while I was president. We would have had some fun working together. He professionalized and humanized the treatment of inmates at the Cook County jail. During the time Harold Washington was mayor of Chicago, Dr. Young served as acting president of the Chicago Board of Health and, in addition to all that the indefatigable Young has been the medical commentator on National Public Radio.
Let us not forget how many times Dr. Young has mounted a soap box at this very site to appear in the Bughouse Square debates.

Quentin, you are not an eagle forgotten. From your large appreciative and beholden constituency and on behalf of the Newberry Library’s Bughouse Square Debates Committee and for you leadership in protecting free speech, it is my great honor to present the John Peter Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award to a great American patriot.