

# 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

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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

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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

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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.

Soapbox sessions last approximately twenty-five minutes per speaker.

All four soapboxes run concurrently.

### 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 would listen to any of a myriad of political and philosophical theories. Emma Goldman, Ben Heineman, and Clarence Darrow were only some of the well known personages 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 1950s, 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 Debates. The Newberry invites Chicago notables and everyone interested in today's pressing issues for spirited debate in Washington Square Park.*

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*With additional support from:*  
The Playboy Foundation  
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# Bughouse 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 Bughouse 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 Bughouse 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

