

2000 Newberry Library
Bughouse Square Debates
Saturday, July 29, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Entertainment

12:30 P.M.

Main Stage

Folk music by Allen Schwartz

Poetry by Carlos Cortez

Poetry by Emjayzee (Menominee)

Opening Remarks

1:30 P.M.

Main Stage

Studs Terkel

Former Mayor of Bughouse Square

Soapbox Sessions - Following Opening Remarks

Soapbox sessions last approximately twenty minutes per speaker.

All three soapboxes run concurrently.

Soapbox 1

Racism and the Drug War

Jay Miller

*Liberating the Concentration Camps
of America: The Case for Prison Abolition*

Gale Ahrens

LSD for Bikers Only

Jim Redd

*Free Speech and the Media:
Do You Get What You Pay For?*

Yahale Yadede

Soapbox 2

*Local Phone Competition:
Opportunity or Insanity?*

Martin Cohen

Is Your Sweatshirt Made in a Sweatshop?

Tom Strunk

The Dot. Commies are Coming!

Michael Silverstein

Soapbox 3

*Future Global Mechanisms
for the Guarantee of Human Rights*

Glen Nuttall

Political Realism of Pacifism

Brad Lyttle

Mother Nature Says "Don't Play with Your Food"

Liane Casten

Bush & Gore Make Me Want to Ralph

The Green Party

Stick around to see who wins the Big Pickle Award for best soapbox speech!

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

Gale Ahrens a.k.a. Jane Doe

Liberating the Concentration Camps of America: The Case for Prison Abolition

Jane Doe has been an activist since 1985, when her husband disappeared in America's Gulag system on account of his politics. She writes, speaks, performs and creates art and videos around the struggle for legal revolution and considers prison abolition stage two in the struggle to end slavery and free the oppressed.

Liane Casten

Mother Nature Says "Don't Play With Your Food"

Liane Casten is an award winning journalist whose book, *Breast Cancer: Poisons, Profits and Prevention*, (Common Courage Press, 1996) is the result of a three-year journey fueled by the 6-year fight to save her husband, diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991. (He died in 1997.) That battle led her to understand the incestuous connection among polluting industries and the regulatory agencies, the cancer diagnostic industry, conventional cancer treatment and the media. A community activist and educator for thirty-five years, she served as President of Women in Communications, led the battle to declare Evanston a City of Sanctuary for undocumented Central American refugees in the 1980s and is founder and chair of Chicago Media Watch, a volunteer watchdog group that monitors the media for its bias, distortions and omissions.

Martin Cohen

Local Phone Competition: Opportunity or Insanity?

Martin R. Cohen is the Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board. CUB was founded by the Illinois General Assembly in 1983 to represent the interests of residential customers in utility matters before regulators, legislators, and the courts. CUB is an independent organization, funded largely by the voluntary contributions of its 100,000 members and devoted exclusively to advocacy on behalf of residential consumers of electricity, gas, and telecommunications services. Mr. Cohen has been a consumer advocate at CUB for more than 15 years, and has served as the organization's Executive Director for the past 8 years. He is not a lawyer, although he occasionally plays one on TV.

Brad Lyttle

Political Realism of Pacifism

Bradford Lyttle has organized and participated in numerous public rallies and demonstrations against war, equipment for war, and taxes for war. He has participated in projects to oppose the Vietnam War, the Gulf War against Iraq, and the war in Bosnia. He has traveled to these countries to support peace initiatives of these projects and peace movements in those countries. He has several times been arrested for his non-violent actions. He is a member of Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Peacemakers, United States Pacifist Party, War Resisters League (WRL), and Wider Quaker Fellowship and is a recipient of the Adin Ballou Grassroots Peace Award of the Unitarian/Universalist Association. In 1983, Bradford Lyttle founded the United States Pacifist Party. In 1984 and 1996, he was the United States Pacifist Party candidate for President and he has announced his candidacy for the 2000 election.

Jay Miller

Racism and the Drug War

Jay Miller has served as a newspaper reporter, labor union organizer, and education director, and from 1960 to 1965 as Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) for Illinois and Wisconsin. He has been with the ACLU since 1965 is currently Executive Director of the Illinois ACLU. Recently, Miller has been working on civil rights issues raised by the abortion rights battle, prayer in schools, censorship, affirmative action, the war on drugs, and legal services for the poor.

Glen Nuttall

Future Global Mechanisms for the Guarantee of Human Rights

Glen Nuttall has been involved in peace issues for twenty years. He is currently the official scribe for the Service Council of the Global People's Assembly and a member of the World Federalist Association. The World Federalist Association's vision for Global Change calls for actions to create a democratic world federation limited to achieving positive global goals that nations cannot accomplish alone.

Jim Redd

LSD for Bikers Only?

Jim Redd is a participant in Critical Mass, a worldwide movement to promote the use of bicycles as a viable means of transportation. It has arisen in response to what many call the "car-culture:" an overdependence on the private automobile. It is, more than anything else, a reclamation of space, a demonstration to show that the city belongs to people and not machines.

Michael Silverstein

The Dot.Commies Are Coming!

Michael Silverstein did his pre-collegiate training in New York City's Union Square Park, sister site to Bughouse Square, before its and his gentrification. He now does research on mind, communication, and culture and teaches at The University of Chicago in the departments of anthropology, linguistics, and psychology.

Thomas Strunk

Is Your Sweatshirt Made in a Sweatshop?

Thomas Strunk is actively involved in many issues, including the anti-sweatshop movement and the campaign to close the School of the Americas. As a graduate student in Classical studies at Loyola University, he founded Loyola Students Against Sweatshops. He also became a member of the Loyola Fair Labor Task Force, which helped convince Loyola University to join the Worker Rights Consortium - associating the school with a proactive movement to end sweatshop labor. Tom has done sleep-outs, leafleting and civil disobedience to protest sweatshops and he risked arrest by crossing into the School of the Americas. Originally from Pennsylvania, he is an active member of the School of the Americas Watch and United Students Against Sweatshops and often speaks about sweatshop labor at activist meetings and high schools in the Chicago area.

Yahale Yadede

Free Speech and the Media or Do You Get What You Pay For?

Yahale Yadede was a student member of Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees from 1996 - 1999, and served as Northeastern University Student Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee from 1999-2000. Yahale is currently the News Director for the University's radio station WZRD.

Green Party (Bob Rudner, Elizabeth Fraser, and Matt Galloway)

Bush and Gore Make Me Want to Ralph!

- **Bob Rudner** is a regular at the College of Complexes. He has been active with the Greens since the mid-1980's and worked on numerous campaigns. He was Green Senate candidate in 1996, and if Ralph Nader wins in Illinois, he'll be an elector.
- Member and webmaster of the Illinois Greens, **Elizabeth Frazer** is a renewable energy activist who has worked on anti-nuclear and feminist issues in the Chicago area for well over 100 years!
- Humble retail clerk at Transitions Bookplace and overall democracy activist, **Matt Galloway** just yesterday (7/28/00) had a letter printed in the Chicago Tribune! www.votenader.org.

3:00 P.M. MAIN DEBATE

Should Capital Punishment Be Abolished in America?

YES - Seymour Simon, former Illinois Supreme Court Justice

NO - Joseph Morris, President, Lincoln Legal Foundation

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 1840's. In 1840, the land now occupied by Washington Square Park was the neighborhood cow pasture. Residents of the area brought their own 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 short-lived, however. By 1910, the area had begun to attract a "bohemian element" and the mansions were soon converted to rooming houses. By 1915, the park became the premier forum for 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 know 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 until the 1950s, the great and the amateurs filled the park in celebration of free 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.