

TAKE IT TO THE PARK!

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

in Partnership with the McCormick Tribune
Freedom Museum and the Poetry Foundation

Saturday, July 28, 2007

Noon—4 pm

Pat Butler, Reporter for Pioneer Press

Master of Ceremonies



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

The Mayor's Office of Special Events*

*Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Tribune,
NBC5.com, and WBBM Newsradio 780 sponsor
Chicago Neighborhood Festivals 2007

ENTERTAINMENT

Noon

Black Bear Combo Marching Band

Walt Whitman "I Sing the Body Electric" performed by three outstanding Chicago area participants in "Poetry Out Loud," The Poetry Foundation's National Poetry Recitation Contest for High School Students.

OPENING REMARKS

12:45 pm

Cindy Mitchell, *Mayor of Bughouse Square*

JOHN PETER ALTGELD AWARD PRESENTATION TO JORGE MÚJICA, IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ACTIVIST

1:00 pm

Presented by David Spadafora, *The Newberry Library*

SOAPBOX SESSIONS

1:30 pm

Each Soap box orator gets about fifteen minutes. All three soapboxes run simultaneously.

SOAP BOX 1

Speaker 1 – Erwin Lutzer, *Jesus in the Spin Zone: Why the Early Church Got It Right*

Speaker 2 – Gale Ahrens, *In the Spirit of Surrealism, Overthrow Everything!*

Speaker 3 – Keith Bolin, *How Far from Farm to Fork? Local Food Systems and Your Health*

Speaker 4 – Open Mic

SOAP BOX 2

Speaker 1 – Bob Matter, *Car-sicko: A Prescription for Socialized Transportation*

Speaker 2 – kittenINFINITE, *Don't Legalize Prostitution. Decriminalize It.*

Speaker 3 – Edwin Yohnka, *Why Defend the Offensive? The Importance of Free Speech*

Speaker 4 – Ian Wright, *Globetrekking Across America*

SOAP BOX 3

Speaker 1 – Michael Silverstein, *Electoral Justice for The Supremes!*

Speaker 2 – Steve Dale, *Do Dogs Belong in Café Society?*

Speaker 3 – Rebecca Steinmetz, *Why Your Neighborhood Needs a Sex Shop*

Speaker 4 – Open Mic

SOAPBOX SPEAKER DIL PICKLE AWARD PRESENTATION

2:45 pm

Judges: David Anderson, *McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum*
Rena Pulido and Manuel Pulido, *Bughouse neighbors*

MAIN DEBATE: VOTER SLAM

3:00 pm

Immigration Reform: Build a wall, offer amnesty, or do nothing?

Staged by the Bread and Butter Forum and Second City

Co-hosted by BBF founder Marj Halperin and Second City regular Jordan Klepper

The Voter Slam format invites people to answer the question in 90 seconds. Speakers are invited to consider immigration reform in the context of economic security for working Americans.

The Bread and Butter Forum is an organization of civic activists who seek to advance a principled and pragmatic progressive political agenda by generating civic dialogue on such "bread and butter" issues as jobs, health care, retirement, the costs of housing, education, and energy. The Forum aims to help define a new language of practical progressivism that lays the groundwork for political success at the local, state, and federal levels. Voter Slams, BBF's signature public event, are normally held at Second City. To participate in or attend future Voter Slams, e-mail voterslam@aol.com. For more information on BBF, visit www.breadandbutterforum.org.

JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

The Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award is named for the former Illinois Governor (1892–96) who sacrificed his political career by pardoning Haymarket anarchists who had been condemned in 1887 for their words rather than their deeds. Each year the award goes to a courageous defender of free speech and ideas. This year, the Newberry Library's Bughouse Square Committee's Altgeld Award recipient is **Jorge Mújica** in recognition of his role in the struggle for the human and civil rights of non-citizens and for fair and just immigration reform.

Jorge Mújica embodies the historic values of Bughouse Square and of Governor Altgeld. Like John Peter Altgeld, Mújica was an immigrant to the United States. By honoring him, this year's Altgeld Award honors hundreds of thousands of immigrants, their families, friends, and supporters, who participated in immigrant rights marches that electrified the nation in 2006. Mújica was one of the lead organizers of Chicago's March 10 demonstration, the first of these huge marches. He believes that "everyone in the United States not only has the right to free speech, but the right to exercise it. That's what the marches are all about."

PERFORMERS

Black Bear Combo

Black Bear Combo plays their own compositions and a few covers. The Combo was formed in

2001 by Doug, who plays clarinet, and is ably accompanied by Dersu on drums and a rotating cast of fine musicians. The current lineup includes Rob on tuba and Gerald on trumpet. In 2005 the band marched in Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans, and since then has played weddings, funerals, parties, festivals, and rock clubs in Chicago, New York, Boston and points between. They have self-released six CDs with more on the way.

The Poetry Foundation presents a recitation by three outstanding student participants in the National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest.

Rachel McCartney, New Trier Poetry Club, is a senior at New Trier High School interested in poetry, fiction, politics, and math. She lives in Wilmette with her dad and three younger siblings.

Stephanie Perez, Chicago Poetry Out Loud star in 2006, is a proud Puerto Rican who has lived in Chicago all her life. She graduated from Agassiz Elementary and is a junior at Walter Payton College Prep. She has participated in the Louder than a Bomb slam and the Recitation Contest for the past two years.

Mark Schmidt, Poetry Out Loud Chicago Regional Winner 2007, an incoming senior at Wheaton-Warrenville South High School, enjoys discovering the many applications of the English language. He is a state champion in IHSA Speech and the state runner-up in the Poetry Out Loud recitation contest. He is also active in Youth and Government and National Honor Society.

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

Gale Ahrens, *In the Spirit of Surrealism, Overthrow Everything!*

Gale Ahrens has been active in the Chicago Surrealist Movement for more than seven years. She learned about surrealism right here in Bughouse Square, and joined the movement to seek a world worth living in by subverting misery with art and poetry. A prison and punishment abolitionist, she lives in Chicago and speaks frequently here and in other cities and has appeared on radio and television.

Keith Bolin, *How Far from Farm to Fork? Local Food Systems and Your Health*

Keith Bolin and his family raise hogs, cows, corn, oats, and alfalfa on the family farm near Manilus, Illinois, where he grew up. As President of the American Corn Growers Association, he is a leader in the fight to save the family farm from a predatory marketplace and to promote public health by the development of local food systems.

Steve Dale, *Do Dogs Belong in Café Society?*

Steve Dale, a certified dog and cat behavior consultant, reaches more pet owners than any other pet journalist in America. He writes a twice weekly syndicated newspaper column (Tribune MediaServices), he's a contributing editor at *USA Weekend*, special correspondent for *Cat Fancy*, and host of two syndicated radio shows, "Steve Dale's Pet World" and "The Pet Minute with Steve Dale," as well as "Pet Central" on WGN Radio, Chicago.

kittenINFINITE, *Don't Legalize Prostitution. Decriminalize It.*

A sex worker activist for five years, KittenINFINITE advocates human rights by promoting an end to violence, stigma, discrimination, and criminalization of sex workers. Currently, she is organizing on a national and local level with Sex Workers Outreach Project, and developing workshops around harm reduction and legal resources for the sex work community. When she is not conference-calling or traveling to political events, she slings coffee in Uptown at 5:00 am.

Erwin Lutzer, *Jesus in the No Spin Zone*

Senior Pastor of the Moody Church since 1980, Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer is the author of more than 20 books, a celebrated international conference speaker, and a featured speaker on three radio programs. He was born and reared near Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Bob Matter, *Car-Sicko: A Prescription for Socialized Transportation*

Bob Matter of the Campaign for a Free and Clear Lakefront has a cure for the "sicko" US transportation system. He is a cycling, walking, and public transit activist. He is founder of the Chicagoland Folding Bike Society, former chair of Chicago Bike Winter, and member of the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, Break the Gridlock, and Calumet Citizens for Connecting Communities.

Michael Silverstein, *Electoral Justice for The Supremes!*

Michael Silverstein received his pre-collegiate training in soapbox oratory in New York City's Union Square Park – a sister free speech corner to Bughouse Square – before his and its gentrification. He is Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor in Anthropology, Linguistics, and Psychology at the University of Chicago, where he has taught for more than 25 years. He has been recognized for his excellence in teaching and honored with MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships.

Rebecca Steinmetz, *Why Your Neighborhood Needs a Sex Shop*

A graduate from DePaul's Women & Gender Studies program and currently a masters candidate at the University of Chicago's School of Social Work, Rebecca has enthusiastically worked as a sex educator for Early to Bed since 2003. Some of her interests include: teaching nerds flirting skills, anti-racist feminist activism, blurring gender lines, and volunteering as a rape crisis counselor for Rape Victim Advocates.

Ian Wright, *Globetrekking Across America*

"Living cheap and getting dirty." Suffolk-born Ian Wright has traveled all around the world presenting "Globe Trekker." Bughouse Square will star in the Chicago episode of his brand new series, "Wright Across America."

Edwin Yohnka, *Why Defend the Offensive? The Importance of Free Speech*

Edwin C. Yohnka has been Director of Communications and Public Policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois since 1999. He is the primary spokesperson for the most prominent civil rights and civil liberties' advocacy organization in the State of Illinois, an organization with more than 23,000 members.