

TAKE IT TO THE PARK!

BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

Saturday, July 26, 2008

Noon—4 pm

Pat Butler, Reporter for Pioneer Press

Master of Ceremonies



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

The Newberry Library, the McCormick Freedom Museum and the Poetry Foundation. This event is also supported in part by the Mayor's Office of Special Events*

* *Chicago Tribune*, NBC5 Chicago, and WBBM Newsradio 780 AM sponsor Chicago Neighborhood Festivals 2008.



BUGHOUSE SQUARE DEBATES

ABOUT BUGHOUSE SQUARE

Bughouse Square (from "bughouse" slang for mental health facility), the popular name for Washington Square Park, was the city's most popular, boisterous, and radical free-speech space from the 1910s through the 1930s. Orators mounted soapboxes and spoke to responsive, vocal crowds. Bohemians, poets, atheists, and religionists of all persuasions entertained bystanders. The Square's core contributors, however, came from the ranks of the Wobblies, men and women of the Industrial Workers of the World, whose radical views, wit, and humor made them champion soapboxers and perennial crowd favorites. World War II and a post-war crackdown against socialists and communists led to Bughouse Square's decline and by the mid 1960s it had all but ceased to exist. The Newberry Library revived the Park's free speech legacy with the Bughouse Square Debates in 1986.

PROGRAM

12:00 pm **OPENING REMARKS** by PAT BUTLER, Master of Ceremonies

MUSIC by ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT marching band

12:15 pm **PRESENTATION** of the JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

Recipient Dawn Sherman is a sophomore at Buffalo Grove High School who contested the Illinois mandatory Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act. David Spadafora, President and Librarian of the Newberry Library, will present the Altgeld Award.

12:30 pm **MUSIC** by ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT marching band

12:35 pm **MAIN DEBATE: THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD CHOOSE THE PRESIDENT BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**

Representative John A. Fritchey (affirmative)
Joseph A. Morris (negative)

1:10 pm **THE MAIN DEBATE IN CONTEXT: McCAIN and OBAMA**
Campaign speakers

Pat Brady, *National Committeeman of the RNC for Illinois* and
Scott Speegle, *Operations Director of Illinois Obama Campaign*

1:30 pm **MUSIC** by ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT marching band

1:45 pm **SOAPBOX SPEECHES** (see listing below)

3:15 pm **POETRY READING: LET AMERICA BE AMERICA AGAIN**
by Langston Hughes

Readers: Heidi Alvarado and Iyeokan Ativie

3:30 pm **AWARDS: SOAPBOX and HECKLING Champions announced; DIL PICKLE awarded**

Thanks to judges Julie Shapiro, Third Coast Audio Festival; and Gretchen Kalwinski, TimeOut Chicago and Literago.org

3:40-4:00 pm **OPEN MIC** at SOAPBOX 2

ABOUT THE DIL PICKLE AWARD

The Dil Pickle Award is presented to honor the best soapbox orator. The Dil Pickle Club was founded by labor activist and Bughouse soapboxer Jack Jones in 1914 to provide an indoor forum for free expression. By 1917 the Dil Pickle had located just around the corner from Bughouse Square and the Newberry, at 22 Tooker Place. Picklers attended lectures, plays, dances, concerts, and of course, had plenty of talk. Carl Sandburg, Clarence Darrow, Maxwell Bodenheim, Lucy Parsons, Ben Hecht, Charles MacArthur, Sherwood Anderson, and Ben Reitman were just a few of the literary, political, and social luminaries who regularly attended. The Club closed in 1933.

ABOUT THE JOHN PETER ALTGELD FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

The Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award is one of the most important events of the annual Bughouse Square Debates. Dedicated to the memory of the former Illinois Governor who pardoned the surviving Haymarket anarchists, the award is presented each year to a person the Committee feels has distinguished him or herself as a defender of free speech and ideas.

SOAPBOXES

Soapbox speeches run no longer than fifteen minutes; all three soapboxes run simultaneously.

SOAPBOX 1

Kelly Underman, *Your Life Doesn't Wait: Why Abstinence Only is Failing This Generation*

Nick Kreitman, *From Protest to Power: Fitting Student Organizing Into the Bigger Picture*

Paige Listerud, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Michael Mackaplow, *It's Not All About You, Your Family, and Your Group(s): Are Your Actions Fair to Others?*

Mike Ervin, *Disability Pride and Equality*

SOAPBOX 2

Jing Luo, *Quality, Affordable Healthcare for Everyone: A Future Doctor for Health Care Reform*

Keith Bolin, *Long Live Food Producers: Food Sovereignty and the Importance of Local Food*

Rob Sherman, *Why the Proposed Million Dollar State Grant to Pilgrim Baptist Church is Unconstitutional*

Erwin Lutzer, *Why God Is Not More Tolerant Than He Used To Be*

Michael James, *Toward a Politics of Affirmation!*

SOAPBOX 3

Allison Carter, *No Torture. No Exceptions.*

Joseph Paschen, *Smoke 'em If Ya Got 'em: Don't Ban the Right to Light 'em!*

Don Transue, *Gun Rights as Constitutional and Civil Rights*

Enrique Perez, *The Arrogance of Power: Why the Local Stuff is Also Important*

Herb Caplan, *Who Is Stealing Our Parks?*

The Newberry Library thanks the Bughouse Square Debates Committee who created this event: Rachel Bohlmann, Diane Ciral, Michelle Guittar, Shawn Healy, KittenINFINITE, Kelli Landes, Heather Malec, Irene Patner, Fred Sasaki, Elizabeth Stigler, and Lila Weinberg.

MAIN DEBATERS

John A. Fritchey (D) has represented the 11th District in the Illinois General Assembly since 1996. A lawyer, in 2006 Rep. Fritchey was a chief co-sponsor on a bill in favor of reforming the Electoral College.

Joseph A. Morris is a partner in the law firm of Morris & De La Rosa. He is a member of the Bars of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of Illinois. He was the 1994 nominee of the Republican Party for president of the Cook County Board.

POETRY READERS

Heidy Alvarado will be a senior at Howard Taft High School in Chicago. She was Illinois runner-up in the 2008 National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest.

Iyeokan Ativie is a 2008 graduate of Rogers C. Sullivan High School in Chicago. She competed in the Chicago Regionals in the 2008 National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest.

SOAPBOX SPEAKERS

Keith Bolin is a grain and hog farmer and President of the American Corn Growers Association. He and his family live on his family's farm near Manlius, IL.

Herb Caplan was a long-time trial attorney for the City of Chicago. He is volunteer counsel for Protect Our Parks (www.protectourparks.org).

Allie Carter is Senior Field Manager for the ACLU of Illinois. She blogs for the ACLU Insider at www.actu-il.org/blog/.

Michael James was a long-time community organizer, and a national officer of Students for a Democratic Society. He established the Heartland Café in 1976.

Nick Kreitman is a graduate student at the University of Chicago and an organizer for Chicago Students for a Democratic Society; see his blog at www.nextleftchicago.com.

Paige Listerud is a writer, actor, and activist in Rogers Park.

Jing Luo is a medical student at UIC College of Medicine and serves as a member of the American Medical Students Association's National Grassroots Coordinator on the Committee on Global Health.

Senior pastor at Moody Church since 1980, **Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer** is author of more than twenty books, an international conference speaker, and the featured speaker on three radio programs.

Michael Mackaplow, a chemical engineer, grew up in Fremont, CA, one of the most racially diverse cities in the United States. He has backpacked through 17 countries.

Joe Paschen is a veteran freelance broadcast journalist who has tended bar since he was a kid growing up in Chicago. He is writing a documentary on the history of Chicago's Rush Street district.

Enrique Perez is an active member of his neighborhood, South Loop. In addition to publishing the weekly "Enrique's Community Updates," he is on the board of the Dearborn Park Advisory Council.

Rob Sherman is an active atheist. He had crosses removed from city seals in three Illinois towns; he led the battle against the state's "Moment of Silence" in public schools; and he has blocked Governor Blagojevich from donating one million tax dollars to Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Don Transue has compiled gun use and crime statistics to argue for the ineffectiveness of gun control. His web site, www.gunmap.org, illustrates handgun carrying and ownership laws in the United States.

Mike Ervin is a writer and disability rights activist living in Chicago.

A product of abstinence-only education, **Kelly Underman** is a former safer sex health educator and has worked in public health clinics. She is an activist and graduate student in sociology.

MUSICIANS

Environmental Encroachment is a Chicago performance art group that uses circus theatrics, live music, and costumes to create unique entertainment environments. Visit their web site, www.encroach.net.