

Friday the 13th

Witches' brew of things to do

Pullout section, Page 1



Dracula

★★★½ from Roger Ebert

Page 1

Hot

Partly sunny with a high around 90. Details on Page 71.

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CHICAGO Sun-Times

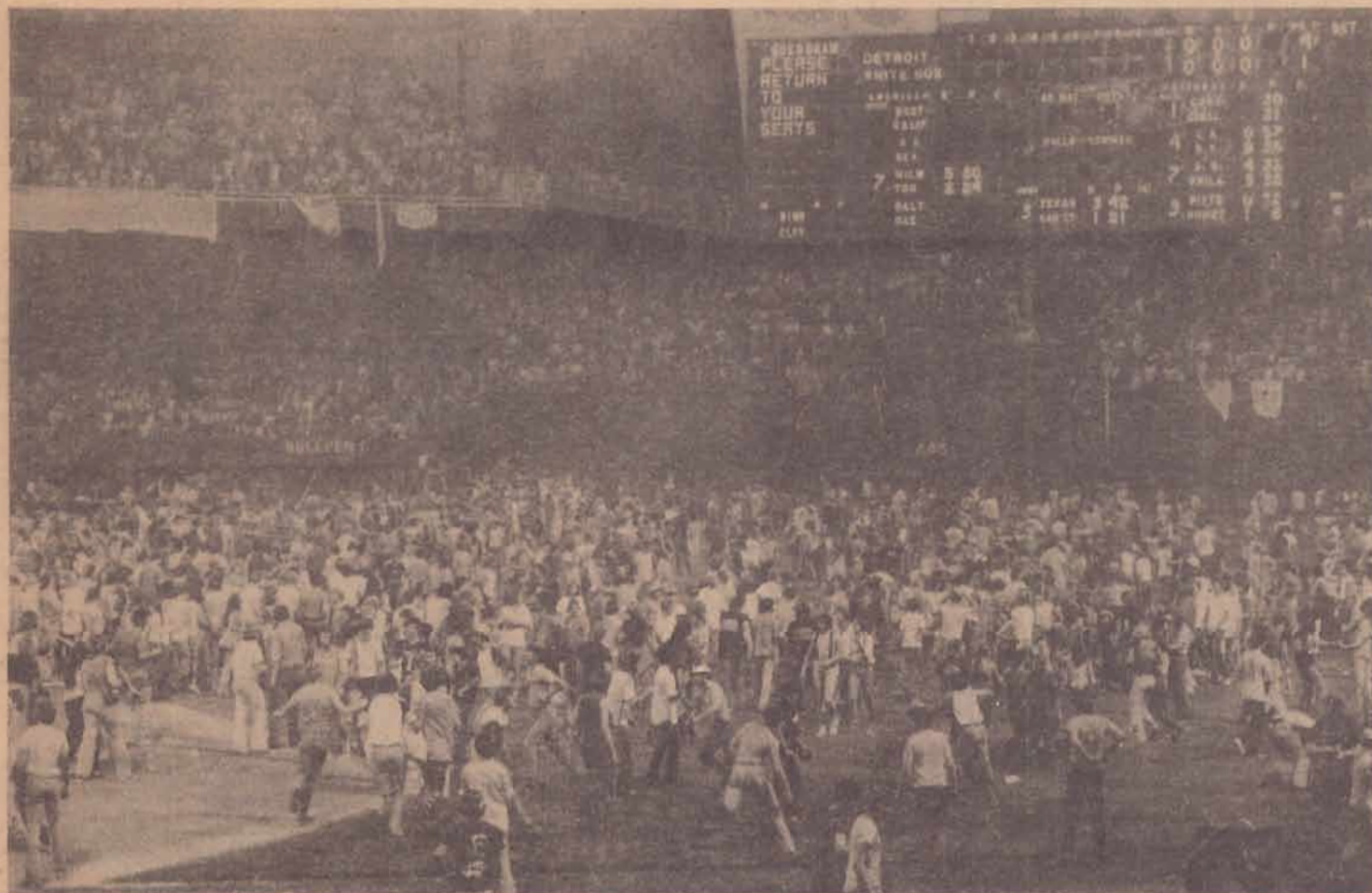
Friday, July 13, 1979

★★★★★
Turf Final

15¢ city and suburbs; 25¢ elsewhere

70c CTA fare proposed

Gasoline prices going up next week; Page 3



Thousands storm field at Sox park

Thousands of youths taking part in an anti-disco rally swarm on field at Comiskey Park, ignoring the scoreboard sign asking them to "please return

to your seats." Police arrived to control crowd that took over the field between games of a White Sox-Detroit Tigers doubleheader. They set

bonfires and damaged turf, causing second-game postponement. Stories on Page 8 and Back Page. (Sun-Times Photo by Don Bierman)

Fans rampage at Sox park; 2d game put off

By Leon Pitt
and Phillip J. O'Connor

Thousands of young people swarmed onto Comiskey Park's playing field Wednesday night between games of a White Sox-Detroit Tigers twinight doubleheader and refused to leave, forcing postponement of the second game.

The disturbance occurred during an anti-disco music promotion organized by disk jockey Steve Dahl of radio station WLUP-FM, with White Sox co-operation. About 50,000 fans, the largest crowd of the season, had packed the park and 13,000 to 15,000 were milling about outside at the time.

At least six people suffered minor injuries. More than 50 were arrested and placed in police squadrons near the park at 35th St. and Shields, but were released after about an hour. Thirty-nine others were taken in squadrons to police headquarters at 11th and State, where they were expected to be charged with disorderly conduct.

MAYOR BYRNE STOPPED by the park while the disturbance was in progress, leading to reports that her car had been surrounded.

However, her press secretary, William Griffin, said, "The mayor stopped by the

park for a few minutes, basically to see what was going on. Some people came over to her car to talk to her. She talked to them for a while and then left. There was no problem."

Fans had been admitted to the park's general-admission section for 98 cents and a disco record. Dahl had worked with Michael Veeck, a member of the White Sox promotion department and son of White Sox president Bill Veeck, on the special promotion.

Records were thrown onto the playing field as early as the fifth inning of the first game. Police closed off the 31st and 35th St. exits on the Dan Ryan Expressway at one point in an attempt to keep even more persons from arriving at the ball park.

IN THE BREAK between games, Dahl gathered thousands of the disco records and packed them in a large wooden box in center field. After denouncing the popular dance music, Dahl detonated an explosive that sent pieces of the records flying across the field.

Shortly after that, a handful of youths in the center-field stands jumped onto the playing field. They were followed by hundreds, then thousands of others.

The demonstrators set small bonfires from piles of record pieces, threw firecrackers and

engaged in occasional fistfights.

Maurice Garner, 20, of 2450 W. Monroe, a fan who was in the grandstand section, said, "They were going to let the fans get on the field and dance. That was part of the anti-disco program. However when the fans got on the field, they refused to leave."

"SOME PEOPLE TRIED to bust into both dugouts. I believe some equipment was stolen. Then they set fire to some records in center field. A lot of these people did not appear to be baseball fans. Some of them looked like they just came to the park to start trouble."

Cindy Stettner, 18, of 4017 N. Springfield, said: "We've been waiting here since 5 o'clock. There were thousands of people waiting; the lines were four blocks long. People in the crowd threw Frisbees and records. I'm surprised someone wasn't hurt."

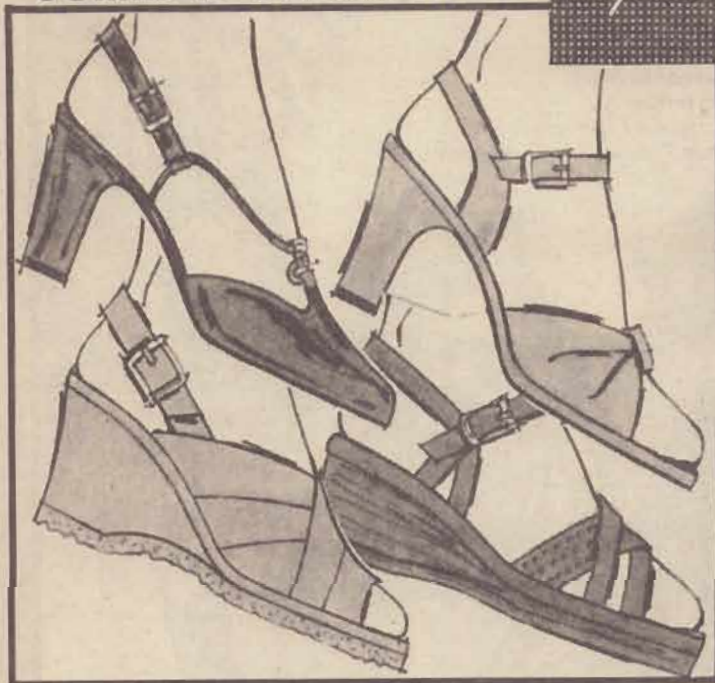
Cynthia Lonergan, 26, who said she lives on the South Side, added, "They should never have let that many people in. It was really dangerous. I was afraid of being crushed. The whole field was filled with people. There was standing room only in the stands. He [Dahl] wanted to become popular. He wants people to come out and have a good time. But I'm sure if he knew this was going to happen, he wouldn't have played here tonight."

The elder Veeck later announced that the second game would be played Sunday, as part of a doubleheader and that tickets from Thursday night would be honored as rain checks.

Officers from the Chicago police special operations group, wearing blue helmets with face visors and carrying riot batons, and plain-clothes tactical teams eventually cleared the field.

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Tigers want Sox to forfeit

Continued from Back Page

happy by playing the second game. Assistant supervisor Nestor Chylak disagreed and began arguing loudly with Vecek.

Undaunted, Vecek got on the phone with MacPhail and told him he wanted to play the game. MacPhail said no. Vecek demanded to have it in writing.

Vecek walked out to the field, took the microphone and told the fans the second

game would be made up as part of a Sunday doubleheader.

"RAIN CHECKS and ticket stubs will be honored Saturday and Sunday," said Sox business manager Rudie Schaffer.

But Anderson refused to accept the decision. "I don't care who he (Phillips) got approval from," said Anderson, whose Tigers are not scheduled to return to Chicago this year after Sunday. "There will be no second game Sunday. We won't make it up."

Horror at Comiskey Park

Continued from Back Page

In a scheduled two-night doubleheader.

I told my wife to go to the press room and stay there.

All the signals of imminent riot had been flashed during the first game. Hundreds of phonograph records were sailed onto the playing field. Some were aimed at Detroit players. Some were aimed at White Sox players. Fireworks were tossed onto the field. Some were thrown toward Detroit players.

The field was littered with trash. Members of the grounds crew and batboys ran into the outfield to clear the rubble. Their efforts were rewarded with more showers of trash.

It was "Teen Night," an event that was meant to be joyous and memorable. Sox management and WLUP-FM radio added a special touch. It also would be "Disco Demolition Night," a promotion that came out of the fertile mind of WLUP disk jockey Steve Dahl.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF the Chicago area were invited to demolish disco records. Those who brought a record for the purpose were admitted to the park for 98 cents.

Dahl must wish he had thought of something else. For thousands in the crowd demolishing a record was not enough.

The highlight of the between-games ceremony was to have been the blowing up of all the disco records that had been tossed into a huge box in deep center field.

Large fireworks were touched off in a row in front of the box. Then a fireworks "bomb" within the box was detonated. That was supposed to be the end of it.

Instead it was the beginning of the horror. When the disco records exploded, young men and young women left their places in the lower deck.

Dozens ran into the field. Hundreds. Then thousands.

THE WHITE SOX SECURITY force—the men in the yellow jackets—were helpless against what had become a mob. "We had about 30 men here," a member of the security force said. (David Schaffer, director of operations for the Sox, said later, however, that security had been beefed up to 45 men in anticipation of a large crowd.)

Down the right-field line, George Schwartz, a chief of the Frain security guards, virtually was under siege.

Schwartz, whose post is at the visitors' bullpen, tried to stem the surge of hoodlums but was grabbed and pummeled. A Frain usher ran toward short center field, trying to summon aid for Schwartz. The yellow-jacketed security men could not help. They had hundreds of youths swirling around them.

Calendar

FRIDAY
BASEBALL—WHITE SOX vs. Detroit, Comiskey Park, 7:30 and 8:15 p.m.
HARNESS RACING—Sportswagon's Park, 33rd and Laramie, 8:15 p.m.
MORSE RACING—Arlington Park, Arlington Heights, 2 p.m. Belmont Park, Cretz, 7 p.m.
SPORTS ON RADIO, TV
BASEBALL—CUBS vs. Cincinnati, WGN-TV (Channel 9), 7:30 p.m.; New York vs. California, WLS-TV (Channel 7), 7 p.m.
WHITE SOX vs. Detroit, WGN-TV (Channel 43), WGN-TV (650), in Spanish, WJZ-TV-FM (103.7), 7:30 p.m.
MORSE RACING—Tad's Racing, WCST-TV (Channel 35), 4:45 p.m.; Arlington Heights, WGN-TV-FM (103.7), 4 p.m.; WJZ-TV-FM, 4:30 p.m.; WYEN-FM (107), 4:30 p.m.; Racing Radio, WYEN-FM (107), 12:30 a.m.
SPAN AMERICAN GAMES—Highlights of the day's events, WYEN-TV (Channel 3), 10:30 p.m.; reports on WYEN (780), 11:30 p.m. a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

It can be said that the majority in the mob were exhibitionists. They came not to watch baseball but to be seen. They slid into the bases. They sat in the infield.

But hundreds of them were out there to do what they do best—destroy.

THEY TORE TURF FROM in front of the pitchers' mound. They ripped grass from the fringe of the infield in front of shortstop. They smashed out large sections of the wire fence in the picnic area and Bullpen II, dining rooms under the left-field stands.

A moron grabbed a hose that is used to dampen the field, turned it on and directed the spray into the right-field area. At 9:08 men of the police department's tactical force ran onto the field. The cops heard something rare in their rough business. They were cheered. A tremendous echoing cheer went up from the fans who had remained in the stands.

Within five minutes the police had the situation in control, with the exception of a few stragglers.

Most of the rioters ran for the stands as soon as they saw the police, equipped with riot helmets and flourishing night sticks.

THE COPS DEALT QUICKLY with all but those few who resisted. One policeman put his night stick against the neck of a man who chose to be combative. Other cops used judo holds to convince the riotous.

Very little more than a show of police force was necessary.

The police, about 80 men, were under the command of Deputy Chief Charles Pepp of the Special Operations Group and Lt. Robert Reilly of the ball park detail.

Men of eight district tactical units had been alerted early in the evening to be in riot uniform. Most arrived outside the park, to reinforce the ball park detail, at about 7:30 p.m.

The alert had been sounded by Capt. Joseph Mullen of the Ninth District (Deering station, a few blocks from the park.) "I was driving in the district at 6 o'clock and could see what was developing."

QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED why the tactical units and the district police did not enter the park earlier. It is a department regulation that even the men of the detail assigned to the park do not go in until requested.

The call was sounded by Rudie Schaffer, business manager of the ball club. We must keep in mind that most of those who rioted were not "kids." Most were young adults.

When they finally grow up, if they ever grow up, they may feel a sense of shame. They brought horror to baseball in Chicago.



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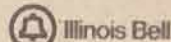


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White Sox fans demolish doubleheader

Continued from Back Page

flying objects—that a fiasco was in the making, one that would render insignificant the Sox' eventual 4-1 loss.

Things became so bad that the White Sox were locked in their clubhouse between games—for their own protection.

"It reminded me a little bit of 10-cent beer night," said Sox right fielder Rusty Torres, who spent most of the first game dodging disco records, pocket lighters, rum bottles and fire crackers. "Except there were a lot of streakers and moon-shooters. That's what I was waiting to see next."

"But it's the debris that's bad," said Torres. "You didn't know what the hell's behind you or what was going to hit you. And there was fighting all over the place. They weren't paying any attention to the game."

VEECK SAID FOUR TIMES as many security people as normal were used, but they were no match for the fans.

A tactical unit of about 25-30 persons did arrive to clear the field and attempt to restore order. (Disturbances, although not on the scale of Thursday night's, occurred at shopping centers when Dahl had similar anti-disco demonstrations.)

Veck estimated the crowd at 50,000-55,000, the largest

Jazz told to stay put—for now

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The National Basketball Assn. Jazz has been forbidden to sell season tickets, hold training camps or do anything else aimed at moving the team from New Orleans to Salt Lake City, the mayor's office announced Thursday.

The prohibition was in the form of a temporary restraining order issued Thursday by Judge Thomas A. Early Jr. The order is in force until July 25, when a hearing is scheduled on a request to require the Jazz to return to New Orleans.

Early had granted the restraining order and rescinded it immediately when the company that runs the Louisiana Superdome couldn't post a \$7-million bond.

At the time, he scheduled a hearing for Friday on a request for a permanent injunction against the Jazz moving.

since he took over the team in 1976. He said another 10,000-15,000 fans were turned away, but many remained outside the stadium. So did mounted police.

Dozens of anti-disco banners hung from both the upper and lower balconies throughout the first game. Groups of fans also chanted obscenities as the game progressed.

"It's just an extremely rough crowd," said manager Don Kessinger between games. "The vulgarity of signs and chants . . . it disappoints me."

As Dahl began to demolish records, security broke down and thousands of people poured onto the field. Sox pitcher Ken Krayev, who was warming up on the pitcher's mound rather than the sidelines, sprinted for the dugout.

ONE GROUP DRAGGED out the batting cage and de-

stroyed it. Another group started a fire in center field. Somebody else set fire to the base of the left-field foul pole. It was quickly extinguished.

Gradually the crowd on the field diminished as security forces reorganized. But as late as 45 minutes after the first game ended at least 2,000 fans remained on the field. The fire in center field was getting bigger.

"I don't want to make any comment," said Sox second baseman Alan Bannister. "You couldn't print it anyway."

Veck eventually descended from his perch in the press box and went down to the playing field where he took control of the field microphone and begged the stragglers to take their seats.

Veck also started a counter-chant: "Go to your seats. Go to your seats. Go to your seats."

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Chronology of a riot



1 Sun-Times Photo by Jack Lenzhan
Fans climbed the walls when some 10,000 of them couldn't get into Comiskey Park because ushers closed the gates.

2 Sun-Times Photo by Dan Blarman
Meanwhile among the 50,000 fans inside, an estimated 7,000 swarmed over the walls and onto the playing field between games of the doubleheader.



3 A bonfire burns in center field as the crowd throws debris onto it.

Sun-Times Photo by Jack Lenzhan



4 Police started arresting some fans on the field, ordering others back to their seats.

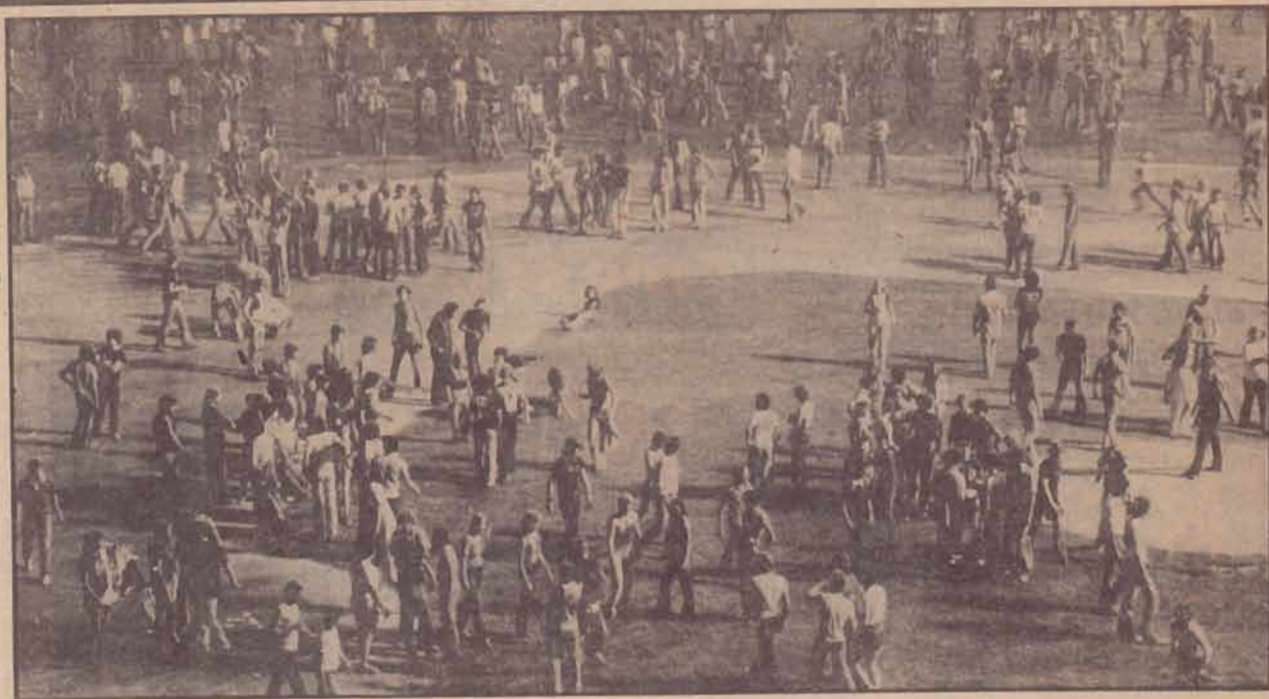
Sun-Times Photo by Charles Kirman



5

Police sweep the field in an effort to put out a fire.

Sun-Times Photo
by Jack Lanan



6

The crowd starts dispersing from in the infield.



7

Sox owner Bill Veeck takes a microphone and urges the crowd to leave the field and return to their seats.

Sun-Times Photo
by Jack Lanan



8

Tiger manager Sparky Anderson warns umpire-in-chief Dave Phillips that he will play the second game under protest. Bill Veeck and another umpire stand by. The umpires decided to call off the game.

Sun-Times Photo
by Kevin Moran

Sox fans demolish doubleheader



ABOUT 7,000 Sox fans swarm over the field between games at Comiskey Park (Sun-Times Photo by Don Bierman)

By Brian Hewitt

The gimmick turned grotesque. Thousands of young fans, lured to Comiskey Park for "Disco Demolition Night," stormed the field between games of a scheduled two-night doubleheader Thursday night and forced the cancellation of the second game.

"It's the most sickening thing I've ever seen in my life," said Sox pitcher Ross Baumgarten. "I didn't know people could

Pictures, Pages 106, 107

have such little regard for other people's safety."

After the 7,000 or so fans were herded back to their seats, after order was restored, the umpires declared the playing conditions unplayable. The game was rescheduled for Sunday, but Tigers manager Sparky Anderson said his team would only play one game that day, not a doubleheader. The matter was back in the league office Friday.

THE PROMOTION THAT backfired Thursday night was the brainchild of Sox promotions executive Mike Veeck, son of president Bill Veeck. In conjunction with WLUP-FM radio, Veeck and disc jockey Steve Dahl dreamed up the anti-disco night. The gimmick called for 98-cent admission to anybody carrying a disco record. Dahl, wearing an Army surplus helmet and something that resembled fatigues, promised to blow up the records between games.

But it became apparent as early as the fifth inning—when records were being tossed down to the field along with other

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The horror at Comiskey

Baseball, during Bill Veeck's two administrations at Comiskey Park, has been many things.

Thursday night it was a horror. Not a horror show but an unmitigated horror.

It was the most disgraceful night in the long history of major league baseball in Chicago.

It became frightening long before thousands of young people maniacally ran into the playing field at about 8:40 p.m.



**Bill
Gleason**

My wife and I were watching the middle innings of the first game from seats behind the screen and above the

aisle that divides upper and lower boxes. Across the aisle were seven young men who were getting themselves "up" for the evening. They passed around a bottle of peppermint schnapps. They washed that down with a bottle of brandy. Some of them ordered ice cream from a vendor.

And they shouted their anti-disco obscenity.

THEY WERE VULGARIANS who came to Comiskey Park to be ruffians.

They were not there to watch the White Sox play Detroit

Turn to Page 94



SOX owner Bill Veeck pleads with umpire Dave Phillips to play the second game. (Sun-Times Photo by Kevin Horan)

Tigers want Sox to forfeit.

By Brian Hewitt

Packed into the tiny umpires' room deep beneath a Comiskey Park under siege were four umpires, an assistant American League umpire supervisor, an owner, a manager and an announcer.

The subject of their heated discussion was whether to cancel the second game of a Thursday two-night doubleheader that had been delayed by an anti-disco riot.

They had no idea the decision they reached—which was to postpone the game—would be unacceptable to the Tigers manager Sparky Anderson, sitting on the other side of a torn-up field strewn with bottles, exploded cherry bombs and broken disco records. Anderson wanted the Sox to swallow a forfeit for the fiasco, which included fires burning in the field.

FIRST, UMPIRING crew chief Dave Phillips phoned American League president Lee MacPhail and recommended MacPhail postpone the second game.

"Our situation is that we are concerned with the field and whether it's safe to play," said Phillips. "We had a lot of things to be concerned about. Both teams were intimidated by bombs and bottles. It was a riotous situation to begin with."

Sox owner Bill Veeck didn't find it so outlandish. "It was a happy crowd, not a mean crowd," he said, and he wanted to keep it

Turn to Page 94