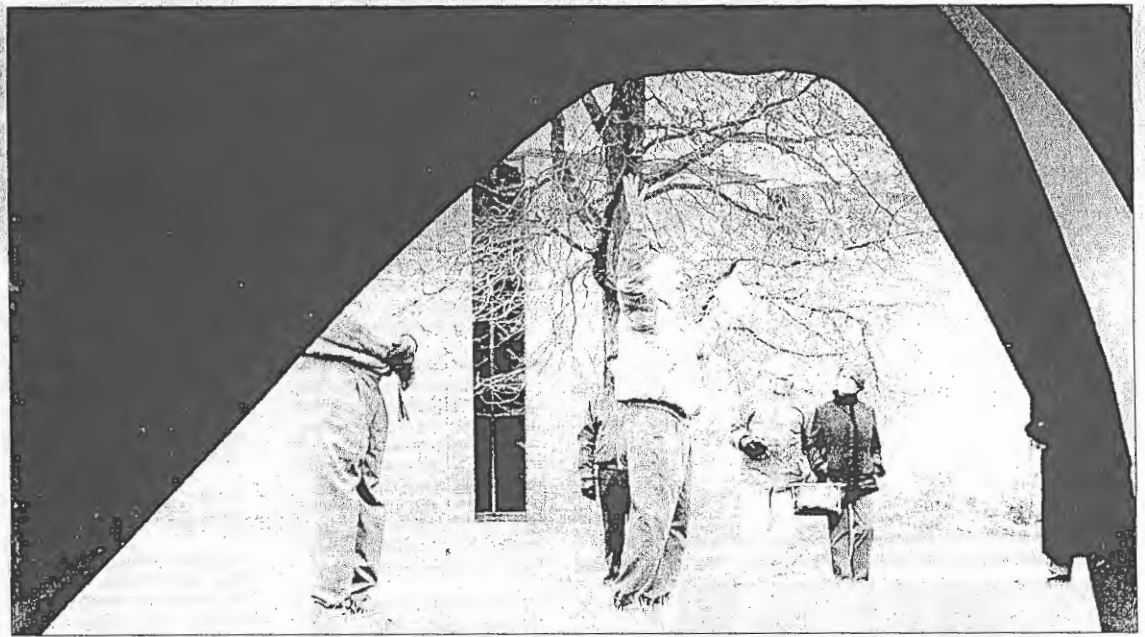


OUT ABOUT IN THE SOUTHLAND



Staff photos by Mary Compton/Daily Southtown

A tour group checks out of the many sculptures at Governors State University in University Park on Sunday during the celebration of the debut of three new sculptures and the restoration of other works at the university's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

New sculptures unveiled at GSU



ELOISE MARIE VALADEZ
On The Town

Southland art lovers gathered Sunday to celebrate the debut of three new sculptures and the restoration of other works at Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

More than 100 people attended the afternoon event, which included guided and self tours of the park as well as a program and reception.

"The park is an innovative treasure for the south suburbs. It's also become a cultural hub for the region," park director Ora Simcha-Fagan said.

The sculptures that made their official debuts were "Paul," a towering work depicting Paul Bunyan, done by Tony Tasset; site-specific "Frame" by Richard Reza; and the modern "Working on a Failed Utopia," by Christine Tarkowski.

"The park is one of the things that make the university so distinctive," GSU president Stuart Fagan said.

People from across the country and world have visited the campus and are captured with "the beauty of the park," he said, as well as how nicely the works enhance its natural setting. Plus, "we have the Who's Who of American sculptors here."

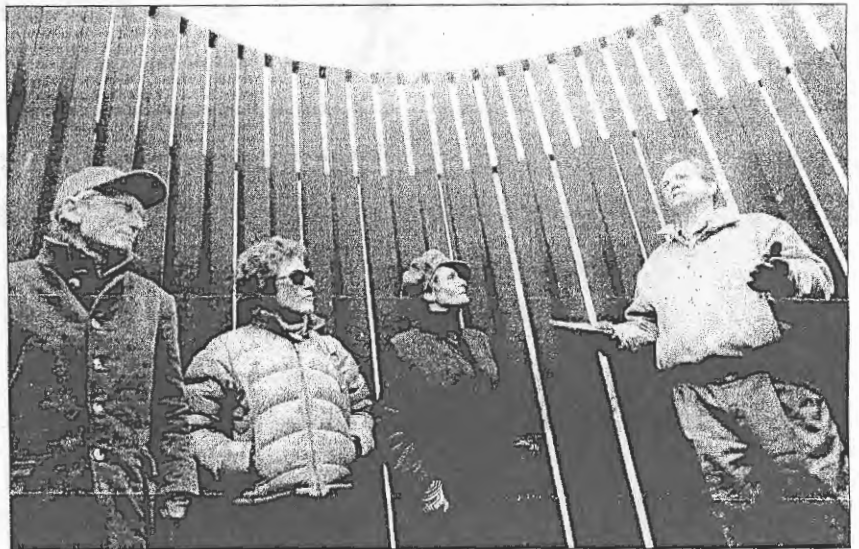
The park now has 26 sculptures, some of which date to the 1960s.

For park developer Lewis Manilow, Sunday was a milestone day.

"I'm enthusiastic about the three wonderful pieces we've added. We're celebrating those new pieces as well as the maintenance (and restoration) of the older works," he said.

Manilow named the sculpture park after for his late father, Nathan, a Chicago-area home builder who was instrumental in developing the towns of University Park and Park Forest.

He said it was encouraging to see community members sup-



Jerry Peart (right) provides information about one of the sculptures at GSU while standing inside the artwork to (from left) Lewis Manilow, Susan Manilow and Deborah Lovely.

port regional art. His father, he said, would have loved the excitement surrounding the expansion.

"This was a project that I started 40 years ago and I've been waiting for this day to come," Manilow said.

Tasset said he was happy to have a sculpture included.

"I don't create works for myself. Paul Bunyan is somewhat of a populist piece," Tasset said. The subject is one that's easily understandable and enjoyable, he said.

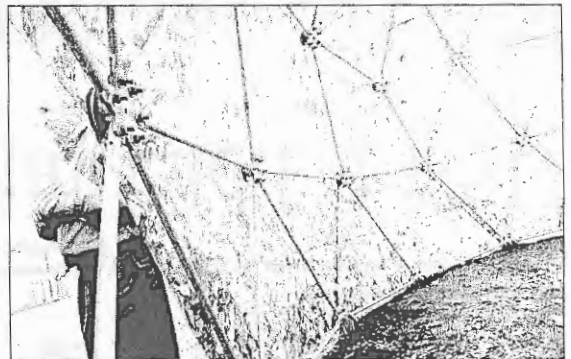
Fellow artist Tarkowski said it was an honor to have a work in the park.

"It's a very prestigious place and to be placed in the company with the other sculptors is great," Tarkowski said.

Chicagoan William Lieberman, owner of Zolla/Lieberman Gallery in Chicago, and Dyer, Ind., resident Ruth Crnkovich, executive director of Tallgrass Arts Association, were among those in attendance.

"I'm an alumnus of Governors State University and I've always loved the sculpture park," Crnkovich said.

"I know what a treasure it is. It's nice to see so many others embracing it," she said.



Nathan Harpaz, curator at Oakton College, stands by one of the new sculptures at GSU titled "Working on the Failed Utopia" during a tour on Sunday.