Tour the Nathan Manilow Park this Summer

"Large Planar Hybrid" (1974)
Loaned to GSU by Richard Hunt, and purchased in 1983.
By Steve Schering
Phoenix staff reporter

GSU will be showcasing its Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park by offering free tours on the first and third Sunday of every month beginning June 17 and ending October 21.

The tours will begin at 2 p.m. and start in the open area near the lake behind the Hall of Governors.

The tours will take place rain or shine, but tours will be cancelled in the event of a thunderstorm.

"The goal is to introduce people to the park and show off the new sculptures we've acquired in the last few years," said Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator of the park.

Bates will be guiding the tours and will be providing guests with history of the 26 artworks in the park. There will also be history on the artists and an overview of the park.

"You get to experience the artwork on a one-on-one basis," Bates said.

"You can't really understand an artwork unless you see it. Our park is unique in that you get the sun and wind in your face while you are experiencing the art."

Comfortable footwear is recommended as the tours will last between one-and-a-half to two hours. Families are welcome and activity sheets will be passed out to children to complete during the tour.

Among the artists whose work is featured in the park include: Mark di Suvero, Mary Miss, Bruce Nauman, Martin Puryear, Joel Shapiro and Richard Hunt.

Another goal of the tours is to allow people to experience contemporary art.

"I hope to de-mystify contemporary art," said Bates. "Some people are intimidated by it and I want to break down those barriers."

More information about the tours or the park is available by calling the park's staff at (708) 534-4846, leaving an e-mail at sculpture@govst.edu, or visiting the park's website at www.govst.edu/sculpture.

GSU 1st Alumni Homecoming featuring Jazz in the Park for Charity Support Area Non-Profits

By Anthony Sanchez,
Design editor

With growing popularity GSU is proud to host its first ever Alumni Homecoming featuring the 3rd Annual Jazz in the Park starting Saturday, July 28, at 5:30pm continuing Sunday, July 29 following the Jazz in the Park for Charity starting at 3pm and include a fun filled festive celebration that won't disappoint.

There will be plenty of food, beverages, DJ, dancing, karaoke, caricature drawing, a cash bar with wine and beer (reservations required), and of course plenty of jazz for the entire community on the beautifully serene grounds of the GSU lakefront of the main campus.

Hosted in 2004 as a ground breaking spectacular by the GSU Foundation board members, the Jazz in the Park for Charity Support Area Non-Profits was created in recognition for their clients for a Sunday charity auction to raise money for local area non-profit organizations to participate by selling tickets.

Rosemary Hulet, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations, and Professor Ronald Bean, Director of the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center both co-chairs of The Jazz In The Park reported that although it was a success when it started out, it was a logistical burden in 2005 and in light of this GSU agree to host this event on campus in 2006.

Initially there were 13 non-for-profit charities that collaborated invitations last year there was an overwhelming response with over 1200 people in attendance. Local vendors and jazz musicians donated food, talents, and their time in making it a spectacular event with the 2nd celebration being held here at GSU.

This year's entertainment will feature Prairie State College Extreme Big Band headed by Valerie Nickerson, Associate Professor, Dee Alexander, Joan Collazo, and highlight jazz legend Ramsey Lewis.

The GSU Foundation and the University is the host site while the event itself is being sponsored collaboratively in association with the GSU Foundation and participating local non for profit charities.

There will also be a silent auction and proceeds (particularly all from the auction) will be donated to the charities hosting the event including each participating school (College of Arts and Sciences, Business and Public Administration, Education, Health Professions, and School of Interdisciplinary Learning) respectively.

Hulet and Bean indicated that because the event was being repeated this year, they wanted to invite alumni to participate, since it's on campus, which helped create the Alumni Homecoming.

Traditionally homecomings are reserved for institutions with athletic teams. GSU has never hosted a homecoming being a commuter institution so there was uncertainty in making both events transition in lieu of attending an athletic event presenting a unique opportunity for returning alumni.

A portion of the cost for hosting the event is being covered through a special grant from the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau that enables alumni from across the country to be invited by their colleges and the alumni association. Organizing the events was made during the Foundation Phoneathon earlier this year with each college sending out invitations to their alums.

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Page 3
Concept albums rarely successful

By Timothy Loc
Daily Trojan

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — The concept album stands at a precarious place in popular music. For every Pink Floyd epic or Ziggy Stardust yarn, there are two more Styx albums. And no matter how you spin it, turning new wave into "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" just isn’t a hot idea.

There’s a sort of taboo associated with the "concept." Paradoxically, while it’s meant to facilitate creativity, it’s also an exercise in self-discipline and pre-mediation, both of which are decidedly un-rock ‘n’ roll. Not to mention the number of lofty ideas gone awry, or ideas that were simply absurd to begin with.

Take for example The Flaming Lips’ "Zaireeka," a four-disc release that required listeners to play all discs simultaneously on separate CD players. Or take any Styx "rock opera," which were invariably about keysturists battling neo-facists from distant planets.

The indifference toward concept albums seems understandable, but it’s also a bit counterintuitive. With other artistic outlets, experts and laymen are in a constant search for an underlying purpose. How many times have we heard a friend complain that a movie went "nowhere"? And how often have art historians pointed to the works of Warhol as being a reaction to American consumerism? Purpose is the sustenance of art.

With a rock album, however, people are content with a handful of songs that have few things in common. When critics do hound about a lack cohesion or focus, they’re usually fussing over the acoustic attributes but rarely about themes or narrative.

Kevin Anderson, part-time producer and owner of Jungle Room Recording Studio in Glendale, Calif., points to a singles-minded environment as being the main antagonist to the idea of a fully cohesive album. "A record label wants 10 hits from a concept album," he said with a laugh, noting that it’s a near impossible thing to do. “The conceptual album will never be a big player.”

But surprisingly enough, it’s nudging its way back into the rock ‘n’ roll psyche, and the creative ceiling is being raised to strange, new places.

If we were to trace the roots of this still-burgeoning fad, the starting line would probably lay somewhere in 2004, when Green Day released “American Idiot.” The album eventually went platinum five times in the U.S., a figure that would have been triple in pre-MP3 times. It was also the first mega-hit to be a concentrated (and relentlessly scalping) criticism on the condition of post-9/11 America.

Single “Wake Me Up When September Ends” served as both a love letter and an anti-war protest. “Jesus of Suburbia” and “Boulevard of Broken Dreams,” both of which feature the messiah-like character Jimmy, touched upon the subtle tyranny of suburban life. And the title track mocked the current gatekeeping of information, which lends more to self-reassurance than actual knowledge.

By picking the thorniest of subjects and risking a modern day “bigger than Jesus” fiasco, the band

See ‘Concept Album’
On Saturday afternoon there will be five college receptions simultaneously where newly appointed homecoming welcome address visiting each colleges' reception shortly followed by the Alumni Homecoming party where each college have color coded name tags to identify their alums.

Sunday's programming scheduled includes a marked out alumni run/walk pathway around the campus, breakfast at the University Park Golf Course, reserved tee times at the Deer Creek Golf Course, and a guided tour of the renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park led by Director/ Curator Geoffrey Bates.

Although there has never been a stated theme this is an opportunity to showcase the university in a very special way. One of the underlying issues the foundation is always confronting is sponsorship and the efforts of the community to raise money for scholarships.

“The university is not well known or understood outside the local area and it's also an opportunity for the foundation to collaborate with other non-for-profits in terms of a fundraising initiative for all of the participating host organizations to raise their visibility in the community,” said Hulett.

This would be an ongoing theme for not only the foundation but also the organizations hosting the events.

Prior success of community presence has developed a tremendous outpouring of support and recognition receiving resolutions of support from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers (which are marketing the event), the Convention Bureau (anticipated), the House of Representatives initiated by Representative Al Riley (who is also an adjunct faculty member at GSU).


There will be a list featuring different categories available for both staff and students alike to participate in the event by making their contribution performing community service for a very noteworthy cause.

Alumni interested in purchasing tickets for both events should contact the Alumni Relations Office at 708.534.4128. All non-alumni should contact the GSU Foundation at 708.534.4105.

Advanced ticket purchase is $50 and $60 at the event. Reservation deadline is July 13, 2007 and the hotel reservation deadline for special alumni rates is June 27, 2007.

The GSU Foundation and Alumni Relations is pleased in sharing the event with an exciting lineup of the celebration that will undoubtedly be an exuberate experience teaming a new tradition for future generations to come. We look forward to seeing you at the park!
Images from Connected
An exhibition of artwork by
Barbara M. Newman
Displayed at GSU April 9-13, 2007
20 Questions with...

What's your name? Marilyn Turner.
What do you do at GSU? I'm a Graduate Communications student.
What's your favorite food? Fish.
What is your favorite color? Fuchsia.
Which do you prefer, beer or wine? Wine.
Where were you on New Year's Eve this year? I think I was with friends, but I don't remember what we did.
What kind of car do you drive? A Mercedes Benz 320 (laughing).
What's your favorite pastime? Cooking.
What's the last play you saw? The Color Purple.
What's your favorite precious metal? Gold.
What is your favorite precious gemstone? Diamonds.

Marilyn Turner
GSU Graduate Student

Which is better, Subway or Quiznos? Quiznos.
Who is your favorite President? You know the man... Bill Clinton.
What's your favorite food? Pizza, Chicago style deep dish!
What is the name of your first pet? I never had one.
Do you prefer long or short hair? Medium.
Who is your favorite James Bond? The first one, Sean Connery.
Where were you when the first man landed on the moon? I was standing at the end of my street playing, all I knew was everyone was all excited.
Who is your favorite superhero? Superman.
Who is your favorite Supervillain? I don't know.
'Concept Album'  
Cont'd from page 2

showed that a concept album could be bulletproof as long as the songs are of quality. It did not take long until others caught the concept bug. Perhaps the boldest example since "American Idiot" is Nine Inch Nails' "Year Zero," an album that's supposedly written in 2032 but somehow found its way to the present (perhaps through the CD player of someone's DeLorean). It comes with 16 tracks describing a futuristic dystopian world and a CD that goes from black to white (literally) after exposure to heat.

Even R&B crooner R. Kelly, a student of extra-marital affairs rather than international affairs, gave it a shot with his "Trapped In a Closet" series. It was a tiresome practice in self-indulgence but interesting nonetheless (as far as songs about closets go, anyway).

The Strokes, My Chemical Romance, The Red Hot Chili Peppers and other bands warding off the middle-of-the-road tag also tried their hands at pairing a sustained narrative with music. These efforts, with much more lukewarm aspirations compared to those of "American Idiot" and "Year Zero," produced varied results but refrained from being total disasters.

Despite the growing fixation, one can not ignore how much of an anomaly the concept album seems. How can a fully realized narrative find its place in an age of quick-click MP3s and peppy iPod commercials?

"During the late '90s, labels became so fixated with hits," Anderson said. He notes a sort of sea change that is occurring now with artists. "They're saying, 'Hey, our lives are static, let's focus on one minute.'"

The second half of the '90s was a drought for concept albums, and it doesn't come as a surprise because pretty much nothing was happening then. The '70s were still feeling the aftereffects of the freewheeling and oft-tumultuous '60s. And the '80s brought greed and excess back in vogue.

By comparison, the '90s were mostly a tepid and faceless experience. Nirvana sparked a fire early on, but the grunge crowd, which prided itself on going against preconceived structures, would have found the concept album awkward.

The two biggest stories of the late '90s were the popularization of the Internet and the president receiving fellatio from a White House intern. Although they're both interesting in their own ways, neither was exactly album material.

The onset of the 21st century, however, was a jarring change in course. George W. Bush. The Religious Right. The War on Terror. The Patriot Act. Katrina.

For headstrong, progressive-minded (and pretty mopey) guys like Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong and Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor, the past few years were like a giant pinata spewing out causes for inspiration.

The wealth of material has made it a much easier affair to focus an entire album on one subject. "I think the artists of today feel a connection with the artists of the '60s. They're trying to pick up the mantle in the artist/activist way," Anderson said.

And it all feels right. Popular music has always been a reflection of and reaction to the times, even when it's done subconsciously rather than consciously. And with the end to these raucous times nowhere in sight, it seems like the seeds are sowed for future albums with even more ambitious ideas.

But how far can artists stretch this concept thing?

Will it get to the point where albums sound like audiobooks?

Will Reznor turn George Orwell's "1984" into twenty tracks of industrial music?

Perhaps for now, it's wisest for bands to just build from the ground up, beginning with a song.

Because, you know, one day you want to write an album about keytarists battling space-fascists. And before you know it, you begin writing a song based on your hairdresser ("Dr. Roboto"), and it all just goes to hell from there.
GSU Spring Commencement

By John Conrad
Associate Editor

At 11 a.m. on June 2, over 500 Governors State University students were joined by their friends and families, as they reached the culmination of their GSU experience.

Bachelor’s and master’s degrees were earned from 47 different programs in the university’s five colleges.

The recipient of the Honorary Degree was Arthur Velasquez, who is the founder of Azteca Foods.

Pamela Thompson of Homewood delivered the commencement speech. Thompson earned her bachelor’s degree from GSU in 2004, and just earned her master’s in Health Administration. She is the epitome of a GSU student, as she is working two jobs, maintaining a family, and has worked hard over the years to concurrently earn her degrees from GSU. Thompson stated that the quality educational opportunities at GSU have made her achievements possible.

“We are proud of our graduates. They have excelled in school, many balancing work and family, to earn their degrees,” Dr. Stuart Fagan, president of GSU, commented at the commencement.

“Now they will excel as graduates, armed with the knowledge and skills they need for the future.”

The staff of the Phoenix would like to warmly congratulate the graduates, and wish luck to those returning to GSU to once again further their education.

GSU to hold free computer workshops

By Steve Schering
Phoenix staff reporter

There is no better way to prepare for a full semester full of papers, projects and presentations than by attending a free computer workshop offered by the GSU library.

Beginning June 22 the library will begin offering free courses designed to teach the latest technologies. Courses cover the Microsoft Office products as well as search engines and APA style.

“We will teach basic PowerPoint,” said Diane Nadler, Library Operations Associate.

“Those attending will follow along with putting together a slide and everybody will start and finish a presentation.”

Another course titled “Is there searching outside of Google?” will explore other search engines and compare their results to Google.

“We have a course that will explain and provide examples of blogs and RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds,” Nadler said.

With the preferred style for term papers being APA style the library will offer two separate courses on APA style.

One course will be centered on the paper’s body, while the other course will focus on how to cite sources in APA style.

“We will teach formatting, how to set up margins, headers, footers, everything,” Nadler said. “They will be separate workshops and last about an hour or longer.”

A course to be added in August will be centered on MySpace, Facebook and YouTube.

That course will discuss what they are and how they are used. The library will also have a 17-year-old with accounts on each site attend to answer questions on how to use them.

“We will also cover some unusual search engines,” Nadler said.

“One you can create a robot and give it a question and the robot will search for you. It is not really for education but more for fun.”

The course list is available on the GSU library webpage under the ‘Library Workshops’ link.

Those interested can sign up in the library at the reference desk, online or walk-in.

More information is available by calling the library at 708-235-7514.
If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call Business Manager, Sylvia Mcghee at 708-534-3068, or e-mail at phoenixad@govst.edu.

Library hours at GSU

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Recreation / Fitness Center hours

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.
Closed Sundays during the Spring/Summer trimester.

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FREE CONSULTATIONS

The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials. Letters can be submitted to phoenix@govst.edu. Letters may be edited for space or content and must include your name and a contact number or email address by which you can be reached.

National Museum of Mexican Art
Art Program Assistant Professor Javier Chavira will showcase his work at the National Museum of Mexican Art, March 15 - July 8, 2007.
The museum is located at 1852 West 19th Street, Chicago, Illinois.
For additional information visit www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org or contact Javier Chavira at 708-534-4017.

SIDL Portfolio Workshop
Learn how developing a Prior Learning Portfolio can help you earn credits toward your B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. The two-hour sessions include an explanation of the process and what you are expected to submit to earn credit. The next workshop will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 30. For information, call the SIDL office at 708.534.4092 or e-mail SIDL@govst.edu.

Graduate Business Programs Open House
The College of Business and Public Administration is holding a Graduate Business Programs Open House on Saturday, July 14, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Prospective students can meet with faculty, advisors, administrators, and current students to learn how a master's degree can enhance their careers and incomes. Graduate Programs are available in Accounting, Business Administration (MBA), Management Information Systems, and Public Administration. Call 708.534.4934 or email BPAINFO@govst.edu for more information.

Master of Occupational Therapy Information Session
Join faculty and staff from the College of Health Professions to learn about the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. The information session will be held on Thursday, July 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the G-127. Call 708.534.7293 for information.

Fit 4-U

Lincoln Mall & Clear Channel have partnered with the GSU Recreation and Fitness Center to bring new opportunities to South-Suburban residents.

Shop at Lincoln Mall in Matteson.

Get in shape at the Fitness Center at Governors State University.
www.govst.edu/recfit