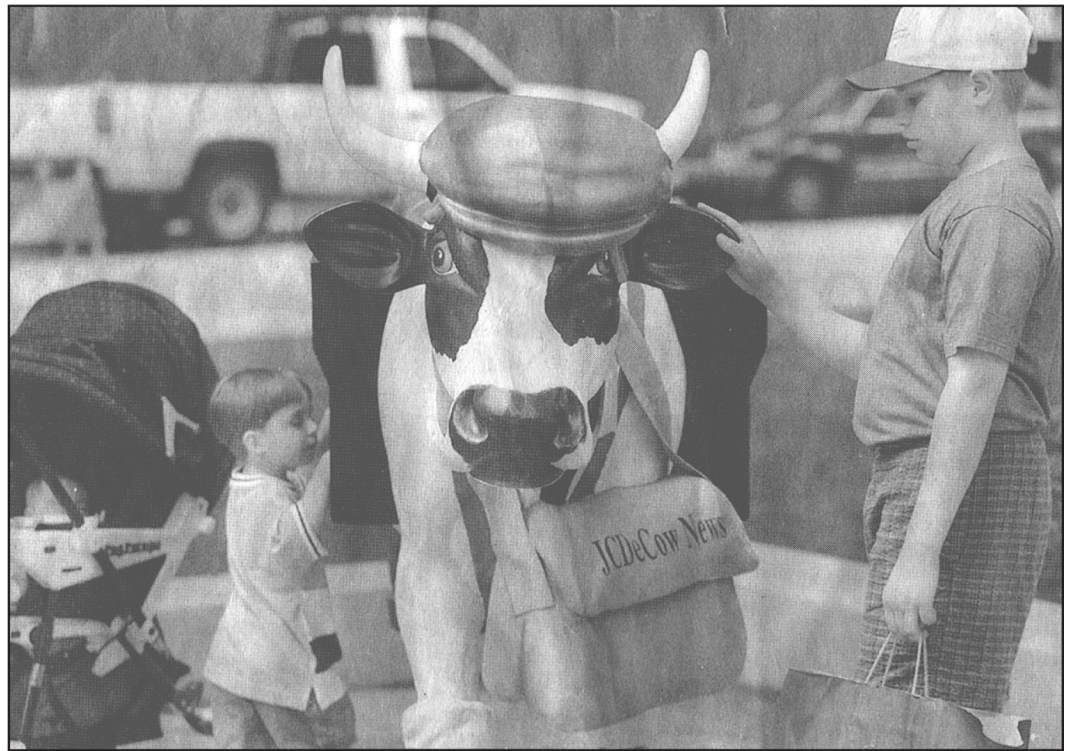


# Close en nters

It could be those sympathetic eyes or it could be the mock newsboxes in its belly, but one thing's for certain: People can't resist touching the J.C. DeCow News Cow in Water Tower Park.

Daily Herald Photo/Paul Beaty



## COWS: Reach out and touch—a cow!

BY AMY CARR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Those fiberglass cows are fabulously funny. They're unwaveringly whimsical. They're great conversation pieces.

And, let's face it, they are making us all act absolutely ridiculous.

Unless you've had your head in a milking machine, you've no doubt heard Chicago's been taken over by cows. More than 300 painted, jeweled, bronzed, plastered, stamped and bedazzled life-size cows are grazing on city

streets (and buildings) courtesy of the Department of Cultural Affairs' summer public art exhibition.

Watching the cows is entertaining, but for some - ourselves included - watching people watch the cows is even better.

...Young or old. Black or white. Rich or poor. It doesn't seem to matter who you are, everyone seems intrigued by these silly cows.

...Striking up a conversation with a fiberglass cow may seem extreme, but spend any amount

of time watching the cow sculptures and you'll find that touching them isn't unusual at all. In fact, it seems almost mandatory.

...For some, touching the cows is merely a matter of dutifully following directions. Take, for example, the J.C. DeCow News Cow in Water Tower Park.

The cow's hat, paperboy satchel and colorful shoes are cute by themselves. But the real attention-grabber here are newsboxes in the cow's belly. Two clear, plastic doors marked

"pull" rest on either side of the cow.

The doors are no different than those found on any standard newsstand, and a look inside the hollow cow clearly reveals that there's nothing to be gained by pulling the door open. Then again, it never hurts to check ... and check and check and check...

Visitors check the contents of those boxes a whopping 35 times over the course of 30-minute period. They do it out of curiosity. They do it for fun.