

Get Out

The week's pocket picks

By SAMANTHA SAULT

Cherry Blossoms Blossom Kite Festival & Cherry Blast

It's finally starting to feel like spring, so we recommend that you visit the Tidal Basin and see the first signs of the cherry blossoms, which Japan gave to Washington, D.C., 102 years ago.



Though the peak blooms are still a couple of weeks away, the National Cherry Blossom Festival is in full swing with two special events this weekend. On Saturday, the Washington Monument grounds will host the fourth annual Blossom Kite Festival, where you can enjoy competitions and tricks by skilled fliers from around the world, or make and fly your own. In the evening, head to an old church in Southwest Washington that has been transformed into a dynamic arts venue for Cherry Blast, an interactive arts party. Enjoy live music and DJ sets, as well as multisensory visual and performance arts exhibits inspired by the blossoms. **The exhibits will be on display through April 20. Blossom Kite Festival on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Washington Monument, Constitution Avenue and 17th St. NW. Cherry Blast on Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight at Blind Whino, 734 1st St. SW. 877-44-BLOOM. Web: nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.**

Exhibit

Red Bull Stratos: Mission to the Edge of Space

On Oct. 14, 2012, 8 million people watched in awe as Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner flew 128,100 feet to the stratosphere in a balloon gondola for an 11-minute free fall back to Earth at Roswell, N.M. Sponsored by energy drink Red Bull, the daredevil broke numerous records, including the first human to break the sound barrier without engine power, the highest manned balloon flight, the



highest altitude jump and the most concurrent viewers of a live stream. On Wednesday, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum will debut an exhibit about the mission, featuring Mr. Baumgartner's gondola and a pressure

suit he wore on a test flight. On opening night, Mr. Baumgartner will discuss the mission, along with his mentor, Air Force Col. Joe Kittinger, who directed the jump and still holds the record for the longest skydive. After the lecture, head to the W for a party with specialty Red Bull cocktails and DJ sets. **Lecture on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and exhibit through May 26 at the Smithsonian Air**

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA

DANCE: the movement of the body in a rhythmic way, usually to music and within a given space, for the purpose of expressing an idea, emotion, releasing energy, or simply taking delight in movement itself.



JOAN MARC



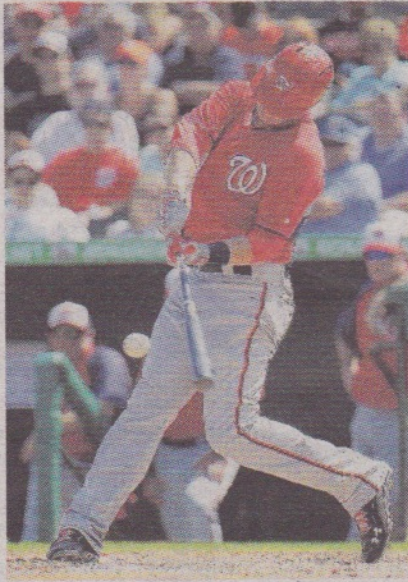
Pick of the pack

Theater Arguendo

The newest theatrical presentation at the Woolly Mammoth tells the story of the 1991 First Amendment case *Barnes v. Glen Theatre Inc.* — a timely production, opening just a few days after the Supreme Court heard arguments in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores Inc.* “Arguendo” is the brainchild of the Elevator Repair Service, an acclaimed New York experimental theater company that combines physical comedy with the actual text of literature and other historical events. In the show, the actors perform verbatim the transcript of the oral arguments of the case, in which exotic dancers from the Kitty Kat Lounge in South Bend, Ind., challenged the state’s ban on public nudity. Naturally, hearing staid Supreme Court Justices discourse on pasties and g-strings is undoubtedly funny. **The show opens Tuesday, and every performance will conclude with a discussion with noted Washington law**

Baseball Nationals Home Opener

Though the weather remains uncertain, we should be in the clear — as far as snow and ice go. And even if the sun is barely peeking through the clouds, baseball fans will want to make plans to play hooky next Friday, April 4, for the Washington Nationals home opener against the Atlanta Braves, which starts at 1:05 p.m. rain or shine. Favorites like Ryan Zimmermann, Stephen Strasburg, and Bryce Harper are returning for the new season, which fans hope is a



successful one following the team's second-place finish in the National League East last year. The first 30,000 fans to arrive at Nationals Park — which features a new selection of local beers and farm-to-table food options this year — will receive a limited edition Opening Day cap. The Nationals will play the Braves through Sunday, then the Florida Marlins April 8-10 before heading to Atlanta. **Next Friday, April 4 at 1:05 p.m. at Nationals Park, 1500 S. Capitol St. SE. 202/675-NATS. Web: nationals.com.**

Concert The Psychedelic Furs

You may not know the British New Wave band the Psychedelic Furs by name, but if you were ever an angsty teenager, you surely know their 1981 hit, "Pretty in Pink," featured in the John Hughes film of the same name starring Molly Ringwald. The band



was popular in the post-punk music scene of the late 1970s and early 1980s, but, for better or for worse, found mainstream fame when the movie was released in 1986. Though the band officially split up in the 1990s, they are now rocking together again almost 40 years after their debut studio album, "The Psychedelic Furs." Their tour stops Thursday at the State Theatre in Falls Church, where you can expect to hear "Pretty in Pink," along with "Heaven," "The Ghost in You," "Heartbreak Beat," and other danceable songs. **Thursday at the State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church, Va. 703/237-0300.**

JOAN MARCUS