



A counter-celebration was conducted across the street from the Governor's Ball this weekend by a group of merry-hearted souls who claimed to be celebrating the Richard Guindon Carp Festival. Guindon is a cartoonist for the Detroit Free Press.

Carp festival? Bit of funnin' across the street

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Directly across the street from the Farmington Historical Museum where a \$100-per-person benefit banquet was being staged, there was an alternative party.

Dubbed the "Richard Guindon Carp Festival" — named after the Free Press' absurdist/cartoonist who draws plenty of cartoons starring the scavenger fish — the alternative event drew about a dozen persons celebrating with beers and pitchers of sangria. Some wore T-shirts bearing pictures of carp on the front.

Widespread community opposition to the high pricetag for last weekend's 1870 Governor's Ball may have been the reason only 76 persons paid \$100 each to attend the function designed for the renovation of the Warner Mansion into the home of the

New Farmington Historical Museum. The Carp Festival goes on much of the evening poking fun at the formal festivities happening across the street from them.

"They're eating oysters and caviar while we're eating carp," joked Ellen Harper of Farmington Hills, on the steps of the home owned by Gary and Debby Connors.

Actually there was no caviar or oysters at the banquet, but there was roast beef, turkey, ham, a sauerkraut-with-apple salad, egg noodles, gouda cheese, boiled potatoes with vegetables, corn, Michigan champagne and — of course — apple pie.

"WE'RE OVER HERE without paying \$100 and having infinitely more fun," said Harper in a mischievous tone bordering on meanness. "We paid \$15 for dinner, and that includes inside plumbing."

The was referring to the elaborately decorated portable joints located behind the Warner Mansion for use by the guests. Many guests ignored the portajohns and used the tiny bathroom off the kitchen, often tripping over an extension cord and cutting off the power in the banquet tent on the lawn.

Two members of the Farmington Historical Commission who publicly opposed the price of tickets to the ball and banquet — Nancy Leonard and Don Munter — showed up prior to the banquet to serve as tour guides for paying guests viewing the museum on its opening day.

Some members of the historical commission thought it inappropriate for Leonard and Munter to attend the function after making disparaging remarks about the price being charged.

Neither Leonard nor Munter stayed for the banquet or the ball but their presence was the topic of conversation

by some. Munter said on Monday that he thought "The dinner was quite elegant" but remains convinced that the donation was too high and excluded the majority of Farmington citizens.

"The ball itself was a very generous thing done by the Lions Club," Munter said.

Leonard remains convinced \$100 was too much to ask persons to spend on a benefit. She said too much has been said already about the controversy and anything that brings money into the museum trust fund should be commended.

Margaret Walker, chairman of the Farmington Historical Commission, said "I really can't say" whether the controversy cast a pall over the evening's festivities.

"I think it was beautiful," Walker said. "A rare evening in every way. A beautiful evening."

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2x6 12x25	4.24	5.29	7.63	7.64	8.88	9.98	12.37
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2x12 12x25	7.74	10.26	12.84	13.78	17.60	20.62	23.80
4x4 10	4.56	6.83	8.61	9.51	11.63	13.68	15.97
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