

Falcons don't give up the ship, even as pool sinks cardboard yachts

By Adam Crozier

While some students might spend Friday nights partying or studying, Falcons would rather build cardboard boats and compete against each other for bragging rights. Go figure.

The inaugural 'Float Your Boat' competition was April 6. The PTSA and StuVo hosted the event, which attracted an energetic crowd of about 75 students, parents and teachers.

Amplifying crowd enthusiasm was a group of student government leaders — The "Hype" team.

"We kept it enthusiastic," said freshman **Lauren Franzetti**. "You could definitely tell there was spirit when we were there."

Among the competing teams were established student organizations, such as Environmental Club, the football team, Creative Writing Club, the softball team and Cyber Blue.

Another was the Falcon Expression in Student Theater (FEST) team. FEST is the annual celebration of original student talent, including writing, directing and acting. It culminates into public performances of several plays.

FEST paddled to victory with rowers **Maggie** and **Sasha Sears**. The junior sisters sped past every competitor, boasting the fastest time and winner of 'The Last Floater' award.

"Our teammate, **Michael Sears**, did an extensive amount of Googling about how to perfect the dimensions and quality of the boat," said Sasha Sears about her brother. The Sears are triplets.

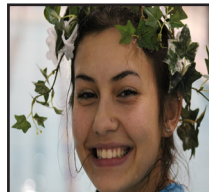
But she still was unsure of what could happen. "Nobody prepares you how to get into a cardboard boat! It was probably the most fun I've had in awhile," Sasha said. "We celebrated with Steak 'n Shake afterwards."

Other teams included Barnyard Bill's, a collection of long-time friends, and #1 Lab Table.

Second and third place awards went to the softball team and the sophomores. Trophies were also awarded to teams for creativity, spirit and "Most Epic Sinking." The sophomores' team took home the former and Barnyard Bill's the latter.

"I was driving to Kentucky and on the radio I heard something about a 'barnyard bill,' said junior **Josh Reiter**. "It's a bill in Ohio about farmland and animals. And I thought it was a country singer named Barnyard Bill because I was on a country station."

That's how Reiter, joined by fellow juniors **Lukas Sakalinskas**, **Thawng Hmung**, **Payton Ware**, **Landon Peck**, **Harrison Dunse** and **Brennan Hage-**



Junior
Kristen Pankratius

meier came to name their vessel after the imaginary warbler.

"We are the crewman to his ship," added Ware, "That's why there's an

apostrophe—it's his ship."

Adorned with a Long John Silver's pirate hat and a stick-on mustache, Hmung joined by Peck, soon looked destined for Davy Jones' Locker, an idiom for the bottom of the sea that is reserved for shipwrecks and drowned sailors. The corrugated monstrosity sank in spectacular fashion as the gaggle of Perry people cheered and chanted noises of approval, fascinated by Barnyard Bill's failure.

When the piece of work started to belly-up, instinct took control as the boys made a rescue attempt for Barnyard Bill's life and his parrot's too.

"Basically as everything began to unravel, Josh turned to me and said we need to save it, so I leaned as far off the edge of the pool as I could and got a hold of it, and Josh help me hoist it out," Ware said.

"As far as I can tell I feel our sinking was the most spectacular because our ship had so many moving parts that when it began to down, it pretty much all gloriously ripped apart akin to the wreckage of a full-on naval vessel."

As his crew members scrambled, sailor Hmung surrendered his ship in stride, his friends said.

"Thawng really rose above — despite causing the initial destruction. While he may not have been the best equipped, he looked as comfortable as ever out there," Ware said.

After becoming water logged and falling apart, the boats were banished outside into the cold night air. Janitors **George Weiber** and **Sam Ralston**, son of Perry Academy principal **John Ralston**, were tasked with cleaning up the boats. Weiber parked a huge garbage pail outside next to the sliding glass door pool entrance. Some schooners were intact, such as Environmental Club's S.S. Enviro, but a Li'l Sebastian-themed boat disintegrated. To make matters worse, the discarded dump heaps collected rainwater once it started pouring.

"Our boat would've survived one more round, definitely," insisted Environmental Club member junior Raj Dheer. "It was kind of sad to see it outside. We could have kept it as a souvenir, but we

can do 'Float Your Boat' next year, too."

Junior **Kristen Pankratius**, who co-buccaneered the S.S. Enviro with sophomore **Elizabeth Bawilung**, said she had a good time, despite losing. "I wasn't disappointed at all, not one bit. The overall experience was such an enjoyable, welcoming time."

In between heats, onlookers were treated to an inflatable floating ring toss game, synchronized swimming and a cannonball splash competition.

Junior **Luke Moriarty**, who won ring toss by landing just one ring, said, "I thought they did a good job mixing up the events and keeping the audience engaged."

Chemistry teacher **Sue Frantsi**, along with biology teachers **Kim Stafford** and **James Doninger**, who does a similar competition each year for his AP Environmental Science class, judged the night's rivalry.

"It looked like the kids had fun," **Doninger** said.

So did the organizers, who plan to make the scrap annual.

"Everybody had a blast," said PTSA member Angela Opsahl.

Added PTSA president Susan Sears, mother to the trio of winners: "It was a perfect blend of parents, students and staff that made this event successful."



Juniors **Sasha** and **Maggie Sears** use hand-held squares of duct-taped cardboard, amid a flurry of hits into the water, to glide over human-made waves. The boat's name is a reference to Shakespeare, as '2 Sea or not 2 Sea', inspired by "Hamlet" (Photos by Adam Crozier).



Sophomore
Duncan Soughan



Junior
Thawng Hmung



Junior **Arionna Winters** and sophomore **Lilly Egan** row their arts and crafts canoe with fierce, two-handed strokes via duct-taped cardboard oars. One wrong move and the dinghy could be taken by, along with so many into the depths of the chlorinated pool water. The girls endured, winning that heat of the race.

Lacrosse wins first 7-4

By Luis Zepeda

With more than 201,250 high school athletes that play lacrosse at the high school level, lacrosse (acronym LAX) is the nation's fastest growing sport, according to Neal Goldman, brand manager for men's lacrosse at Brine Corp, a sporting goods company.

"Lacrosse is becoming so popular because it's such a good sport to play in the spring and teaches team bonding so well," said sophomore **Evan Ferguson**, a member of Perry's new club lacrosse team.

According to Thomas Vennum Jr., author of American Indian Lacrosse: Little Brother of War, lacrosse began as a game known as stickball played by Native Americans, which is a game where two teams of 10 players try to score by throwing a ball about the size of a tennis ball into a goal using a stick called a crosse. The sport contains elements of basketball, hockey and soccer.

The teams are split up into three distinct groups: four defensive players, three defensive players, and three players that are in a "flex" position, who have the ability to move around defensively or offensively on the field. Players wield long crosse sticks which are used in order to pick up and throw the ball. A player may not use his hands or feet to pick up or manipulate the ball.

Considered to be "America's first sport," it has been developed and changed over many decades since its introduction as a sport. As something that has been introduced by Native Americans, improved by the French, and adopted by the Canadians, lacrosse breathes cultural diversity.

Unlike most contact sports, size or strength are less valued in lacrosse,

Instead other skills such as hand-eye coordination and agility are highly sought after, said sophomore **Ridge Cavallero**.

"Cradling the ball when running through opponents is for sure the hardest thing to get down," added Cavallero, who wears the jersey number 17.

He is a first-year lacrosse player while Ferguson has been playing four years.

For Ferguson, lacrosse stands out in the large crowd of sports He also noted how proud he feels to finally be playing on a Perry Meridian team.

"I usually have to go across town to play lacrosse, but it's awesome for me to finally be able to play for my own school."

Another factor that drives students like Cavallero and Ferguson to join is the camaradery.

"I was a little intimidated at first but everyone was so supportive and all the old guys are eager to teach all the new guys," said Cavallero.

Lacrosse helps bring the newcomers and the veterans together in a way that helps both types of players succeed in the competitive sport. The eagerness of the new players to learn in combination with the patience of the veterans, form an environment for growth.

"I'm excited to go out there and compete and get some dubs," said Cavallero with a laugh (a 'dub' is slang for a win). The Perry LAX team competed April 7 at Falcon Stadium. Perry Falcons beat Plainfield Quakers 7-4.

The next match is away, today at 6 p.m. against Center Grove.



Senior J.D. McCall, #77, and sophomore Zachary Bunnell, #18, along with Plainfield Quakers, scramble for a dropped lacrosse ball. The lacrosse team is made up of a majority of underclassmen. Seniors, although small in number, makeup for it because of their play presence (Photos by Adam Crozier).

Right:

Sophomores Chas Stoner, #36, and Kye McKee, #26, tail sophomore Zachary Bunnell, #18, as he tries to snake through two Quakers. Cradling the lacrosse ball, he makes speedy and deliberate steps toward the opposite goal.

Left:

Chaos erupts at the goal. Sophomore Kyle McKee, #26, checks a Quaker with his stick as sophomore goalie Noah June, #15, and freshman defender Jeffrey McClure, #38, ready themselves to protect the score. McKee would suffer some bad battle scrapes and return to school on Monday in crutches.

