Of course, there had to be zombies. Rae Jefferson talks Sing (and the undead) pp. B3

Bears bring glitz, grit, goats to Sing

RAE JEFFERSON
Copy Desk Chief

Friday, February 19, 2016
The Baylor Lariat

This act was clean, and not just because it featured mad scientists. With changing sets, highly stylized costumes and humorous choreography, it was clear that this act had been put into the act. The vocals were consistently strong and, at one point, beautifully complemented the dance routine. The act ended with hands in the air, but I can't even read about it.

On-the-Go ➢ Happenings: Visit BULariatArts to see what's going on this weekend (besides Sing). BayLorLariat.com

In the All-University Sing edition of the Lariat, read about the acts, get into the mind of a Sing chair and catch all the sights from last night.
**Kappa Omega Tau has eight-year winning streak**

**REBECCA FEDORKO**
**Reporter**

Kappa Omega Tau has placed either first or second in All-University Sing the last eight years running, a unique distinction among Baylor’s fraternities and sororities. The service-oriented fraternity was started in 1960 and is Baylor’s oldest. The Greek letters KOT stand for Kings of Tradition, and they are certainly making a tradition of taking over Sing.

The fraternity won in place-price prays with the shows “The Tenors are Back in Town” in 2010, “Queen Caill” in 2011 and “The Battle Within” in 2014. The fraternity’s performances “The Grand Hotel,” “Standing Ovation,” “The Show Must Go On,” “Starry to the Badside” and “From the Bayou to the Big Easy” earned them second place the other five years.

Skatepark, La., Senior Hunter Gorman, a current KOT Sing-buch, and his organization’s past presidents are pushing them to put even more effort this year with the title “Setting Sail.”

“Tou hear that I’m associated with an organization that has a good track record gets me excited and motivated to just work hard,” Gorman said.

While he was expressly prodded pride in KOT’s accomplishments, Gorman was hesitant to say that they deserved the victories more than any other group.

“I think everyone’s got a different opinion on it. It’s kind of like the work you’ve put in, at the standard we hold ourselves to, or not, that’s how it turned out so I think that we were rewarded for the work we put in.”

The news that they had been in the top two rankings for eight years running did not catch Gorman off guard.

“Oh, I don’t think it’s really changed,” Gorman said. “They’ve had really good choreography, and their songs are absolutely amazing. They work well together, and their singers are always really good.”

The hard work that KOT members put into Sing is apparent to other groups as well. Nashville sophomore Julian Taylor, a member of Dallas Delta Delta and a performer in the year’s Sing, said KOT members make it obvious how much effort they put into their performances.

“Whenever crowds come to watch things, you can’t look for KOT because they have a reputation for doing very different acts in a year. It really shows that their tradition is a positive thing,” Taylor said. “They are definitely competitive, along with all other 29 organizations that are participating.”

However, Taylor was unwilling to talk about the competition or who would win this year, choosing instead to draw attention to the hard work of each group and the participants’ desire to perform well and give their best.

“I don’t really look at it as we’re targeting one group and we have to compete ourselves to,” Taylor said. “It’s kind of just us showing ourselves and, as a T-300, our main thing is just being sharp and having everything perfect. One competition is with ourselves. Each year we try to get better and enjoy the power act that we’re going to share with the world this year.”

Although he said there was going to be a pretty level playing field this weekend, Gorman predicted that younger performances would get an entire Sing act together and execute it when they come out and perform as well as they do.

“It’s impressive that a group of guys can put an entire line act together and execute it very well,” Taylor said. “No one sees it coming, especially once the judges make the change over.”

Austin senior Nathan Elequin said KOT looks like KOT and Alpha Tau Omega tends to bring more energy to their performances.

“I don’t know why this is, but they in general just tend to produce much more exciting performances than their female counterparts. Maybe it’s because guys are more athletic; it has a bigger range of voice. I don’t really know,” Elequin said.

Elequin said KOT’s performances are thrilling and personal, and that it’s obvious when they are on stage that they love doing what they are doing.

“They are referred to as the Kings of Sing for a reason,” Elequin said.

Elequin has seen KOT rise in performance and watch several of their older performances on video in a Camp Ausa. KOT said Elequin epitomizes what is an expected performance of a Sing performance.

“They always lead the way,” Elequin said. “I’m talking choreography, not just physical tricks, but also, a couple of center pieces and stunts, they create a few memorable moments that stand out based on the song’s content that they’ve had. That’s a good recipe for a Sing performance, and I’m not surprised to see this because of it.”

German described this year’s act, “Setting Sail,” as an amalgamation of KOT’s old information with a new twist.

“This year we wanted to switch it up a little bit,” German said. “We wanted to pull some of the traditions from our past performances as far as moves and settings. We wanted to really put an entire line act together and get out of the box, but at the same time not lose the fun and excitement that we’ve come to expect with a KOT act. It just invites audiences young and old to just sit back and enjoy the power act that we are going to share with the world this year.”

Although German is among the first to go to a pretty level playing field this weekend, German predicted that younger performances would who win Sing this year. Instead, he said KOT brothers are focusing on working hard and doing what God has given them the ability to do.

**Kappa Omega Tau is Eight-year winning streak**

**Friday, February 19, 2016**

**The Baylor Laotian**

Theatre. $16 for students, $18 for the public.

— Guerrilla Troupe at Mabee Theatre. $3.

10:30 p.m — Guerrilla Troupe at Mabee Theatre. $3.

9 a.m. — Downtown Farmers Market.

2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. — Sing at Waco Hall. Sold out.

6:30 p.m. — Waco Civic Theatre presents “The Sound of Music” at the Waco Hippodrome. $5 for students, $10 for the public.

7:30 p.m. — A Song for Coretta” at the Jubilee Theatre. $16 for students, $18 for the public.

10:30 p.m. — Sing at Mabee Theatre. $3.

7:30 p.m. — Sing at Waco Hall. $20, $15, and $10.

6:30 p.m. — Waco Civic Theatre presents “The Sound of Music” at the Waco Hippodrome. $5 for students, $10 for the public.

>> Saturday

9 a.m. — Downtown Farmers Market.

2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. — Sing at Waco Hall. Sold out.

6:30 p.m. — Sing at Mabee Theatre. $3.

7:30 p.m. — Vocal Major Chorus at First Baptist Church of Waco. $20, $15, and $10.

>> Sunday

2:30 p.m. — A Song for Coretta” at the Jubilee Theatre. $16 for students, $18 for the public.

What did Megan McDonald hear? "But the years before they were really, truly good, the best there. They did this Jekyll and Hyde thing that was absolutely amazing. I went twice. “I don’t really look at it as we’re targeting one group, but the years before they were truly, really good, the best there. They did this Jekyll and Hyde thing that was absolutely amazing. I went twice.”

“Tou hear that I’m associated with an organization that has a good track record gets me excited and motivated to just work hard,” Gorman said.

Showtime: 11 a.m.

11 a.m. — Sing at Waco Hall. Sold out.

6:30 p.m. — Waco Civic Theatre presents “The Sound of Music” at the Waco Hippodrome. $5 for students, $10 for the public.

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I’ve enjoyed it, but it definitely means work. That’s efficiently done would be.

What’s new and different about your act than in years past?

Marion: This year, we’ve definitely gone for a different kind of act. Not necessarily compared to every other Chi O act but we’ve done, but definitely compared to last year. If feels very different, so it’s been very fun to do. That’s contrasting ideas from last year to this year.

Allen: I think that the keys being raised on group singing and vocal quality. If you want to have a competitive act and one that’s going to be enjoyable, we need to have some really solid group-sing parts. Make it in the past that wasn’t active, but I think that’s something we’re trying to incorporate, to make group singing an interesting aspect of the show. I think that’s something that’s evolved from years past.

How have you felt in the days leading up to the performance?

Marion: I’ve felt a mix of relief and stress. That’s the biggest thing I’ve been carried by. It seemed like everything would be put in place by now. You have the whole thing choreographed and with all your props and backdrops done, but definitely compared to last year. It feels very different, so it’s been very fun to do. Compared to every other Chi O act that we’ve done, but definitely compared to last year.

How do you feel about the process that you’ve had since last year?

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Bears face Longhorns in Austin

HUNTER HEWELL

After an overtime victory over the Iowa State Cyclones, the No. 25 Bears’ basketball team is looking towards a matchup against the No. 24 Texas Longhorns on Saturday.

In their last meeting, the Bears found themselves at the Longhorns in a 67-59 defeat at home in Waco.

This time the Bears will hope to return the favor in Austin at the Frank Erwin Center.

The Bears will look to ride their momentum from their recent victory over Iowa State in which they scored 101 points and shot 54 percent from the field.

The Longhorns are also coming off a big home win against West Virginia and are 3-0 at home against AP top 25 teams.

Both teams are similar, and should provide an interesting matchup on Saturday.

The Bears are 18-7 on the season, while the Longhorns are 17-9, with each team holding a conference record of 8-5.

On offense, Baylor has four players averaging double-digit scoring while the Longhorns have three.

Baylor rides 13-game win streak with title in sight

MEGHAN MITCHELL

Sports Writer

The No. 4 Lady Bears look to continue in their winning ways at the Ferrell Center on a 2 p.m. Saturday against the Iowa State Cyclones.

The day will also serve as their annual “Soen for the Cure” game, during which breast cancer survivors will be recognized on the court during halftime.

The Bears (26-1, 13-1) are on a roll after winning their last 15 games while remaining undefeated at home.

With senior guard Niya Johnson and junior guard Alexis Prince in action against No. 17 Oklahoma State on Wednesday night, the Lady Bears seemed to be healthy and ready to compete.

“I just think (it is good) having our entire team healthy. You can’t just go to battle with some of your players not playing,” said head coach Kim Mulkey.

“Niya had 11 assists and she averaged around seven points per game. Alexis [Prince] held [Baskets] Martin to zero points when she was guarding her,” Mulkey said. “You don’t say that we lost [another season in Stillwater] because we were missing two players, that’s sports. We gave them credit in Stillwater and won back-to-back.”

With Mulkey proud of the way her team held off a late effort by the Cyclones the first time, the Lady Bears were able to cruise past the Cyclones on the road 77-61.

“If you force those shots, you can come in and win a ball game. If you can hit them, you’re going to be a long night,” Mulkey said.

The Lady Bears will need to make shots consistently if they want to put past the Cyclones this time around.

The Cyclones (13-12, 5-9) are coming of a 77-48 win against Texas Tech and although their record may not appear the best, they continue to put a battle.

The Lady Bears had the Big 12 in head goal percentages, shooting at 45.1 while the Cyclones are third from the field, shooting at 37.7.

The Lady Bears also leading the Big 12 with an average of 44.9 rebounds per game, the Cyclones are going in to battle with the Lady Bears’ dramatic presence in the paint.

The Lady Bears will need to continue working together if they want to take home the Big 12 title, junior guard Alexis Jones said.

“I think I am a lot more comfortable and we are getting to know each other a lot more. We are getting better and better. It is good to know that the team is improving every game,” Jones said.

With the Lady Bears dominating on the court, many of them are doing the same off the court in the classrooms.

Three Lady Bears were named first team Academic All-Big 12 Thursday by league officials.

The honored Lady Bears included senior forward Chelsea Fuges, freshman forward Kristina Hignite and sophomore guard Kacy Walker.

At the end of the day, the goal is to win a Big 12 title and a national championship, but it is important to take it one day at a time, Mulkey said.

“The most talented teams don’t always win,” Mulkey said. “We’re kind of a testament to that. In 2005 we were not the most talented team and we won the national championship.

“It was because we were healthy and we were on a roll.” Mulkey said.

“If these things happen at the end of the year I know that whoever bears us is going to have a game on their hands.”

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The Bears are 18-7 on the season, while the Longhorns are 17-9, with each team holding a conference record of 8-5.

On offense, Baylor has four players averaging double-digit scoring while the Longhorns have three.

Baylor is averaging 54 percent from the field.

The Bears are 19-7 on the season, while the Longhorns are 17-9, with each team holding a conference record of 8-5.

On defense, Baylor has four players averaging double-digit scoring while the Longhorns have three.

Baylor is averaging 47.4 points per game.

The Bears are 19-7 on the season, while the Longhorns are 17-9, with each team holding a conference record of 8-5.
Acrobatics & Tumbling: Bears Host Oregon in Home Opener

JEFFREY SWINDOLL
Sports Editor

After claiming its first national title last season, the No. 1-ranked Baylor acrobatics and tumbling team will meet for the first time in 2016. The Bears (1-0) host No. 2 Oregon at 1 p.m. on Sunday at the Ferrell Center.

Head coach Felicia Mulkey, formerly the head coach of Oregon’s Acrobatics & Tumbling team, leads the defending NCATA champion Bears.

The Bears opened their season on the road against Quinnipiac University Connecticut to open the 2016 season.

Baylor won that meeting by a decisive 286.960-278.775 score, in Hamden, Conn., on Sunday.

“The team performed okay, but we are not satisfied, “ Mulkey said in a press release after the meet. “We have some room for improvement. We will work this week to clean some things and increase our start values before next Sunday. “

Baylor has high hopes for the season. The Bears will host the NCATA National Championships later this season at the Ferrell Center.

The Ducks (2-0) enter their matchup with the Bears coming off a tight 267.555-265.665 win over Hawaii Pacific.

Oregon went 7-4 last season, only falling to Baylor and Hawaii Pacific. Three of those losses came at the hands of Baylor.

The Bears overcame the Ducks both away and at home last season. The third win came in the national championship on April 25, giving Baylor a clean sweep against Oregon.

On Sunday, the Ducks will look to hand the Bears their first home loss in over a year. Baylor last fell on April 12, 2014 to Azusa Pacific.

The meet will be aired on the Pac-12 Network.

Men’s Golf travels to Houston

The Baylor men’s golf team is head- ed to the All-American Intercollegiate, which runs Friday through Sunday at Golf Club of Houston in Humble, Texas, and is hosted by Rice and Houston.

The three-day, 54-hole event will be played on the par-72, 7,096-yard tour- nament course, most noted as the Shell Houston Open stop on the PGA tour.

No. 34 Baylor is one of 16 teams in the field.

The Bears are returning to action following a tournament title in their spring opener at the UTSA Oak Hills Invita- tional, where they shot 11-over par to win the tournament in back-to-back fashion.

All-Big 12 competitors in Baylor’s lineup finished in the top 20 individually.

After the victory in San Antonio, BU moved up 10 spots and is ranked No. 34 nationally in the latest GolfStat rankings. Baylor returns with the same lineup for the second week in a row, though in a different order this time around.

The Bears are led by seniors Andreas Gjesteby and Frederik Andersen, follow- ed by freshman Braden Bailey, sopho- more Matthew Petrie and sophomore Nick Thornton. Junior Hunter Humes will play as an individual.

Baylor will be playing in the All-American Intercollegiate for a ninth time and the first time since 2012. The Bears’ first participated in the event in 1990, and Baylor’s best result in the tour- nament came with a second-place finish in 1994.

Baylor has previously played the All-American in 1998 (7th), 1999 (7th), 1995 (16th), 1994 (24th), 1995 (16th), 1996 (13th), 2008 (6th) and 2012 (5th).

Friday’s first round begins at 9 a.m. CT with players teeing off from both the first and 10th holes. Baylor players will begin on the 10th tee, with three up at 9 a.m. Holes will be followed in rotation with players from SMU and Rice.

This story was an original release from the official Baylor Athletics website, www.baylorbears.com.
Jordan Spieth never saw this coming — his worst start on the PGA Tour on one of his favorite courses.

Speth dropped six shots over the last seven holes Thursday at Riviera, capping it off with a three-putt double-bogey from 6 feet for an 8-over 79 in the Northern Trust Open. It was his worst score since an 80 in the third round of the 2014 Tour Championship.

“It was a day to forget,” Spieth said. “It was one of those days when you try and think it would be like today. In the course of a career, I imagine it’s going to happen. Just unfortunate when it actually does.”

Speth was coming off a tie for 20th at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, when the tournament got away from him with a 74 in the third round at Pebble Beach. It was the first time since September he finished out of the top 10.

“I attributed that to not managing expectations,” said Spieth, who was nowhere near Spieth’s through line, though he remained upbeat, and he was bantering with longtime friend Thomas to the very end.

Thomas tapped in par on the 18th and looked over to Fred Couples to make sure he didn’t step in the hole. He was nowhere near Spieth’s through line, though Spieth couldn’t resist saying, “Justin, you didn’t ask me.”

Said Spieth: “I have to give credit to a good McNeese State team. Every inning they were threatening to score. If we punched them, they punched back,” said head coach Glenn Moore.

“They didn’t just play good, they are a good team. We are a good team that did not play well this weekend.”

“I am not happy with a lot of what I saw this weekend, but at the same time, I know what kind of team we are capable of being. We came out here with a series win, so I feel fortunate that, because honestly, we could have been 0-3 with the way we played.”

The Lady Bears knocled off play in their tournament draw against Northwestern State at 3 p.m. today at Getterman Stadium.

“ar ready to turn it around this weekend,” said senior pitcher Heather Stearns.

“The losers of the two Saturday pool play matchups will face off at 9:30 a.m., but with hopes of winning the tournament, the Lady Bears have their eyes set on the championship game at noon Sunday.”

“We are ready to turn it around this weekend,” said senior pitcher Heather Stearns.

“I love playing at home, but I know my game here is limited as a senior, but I’m excited for this tournament. I have always enjoyed it.”

Softball hosts home tourney

MEGHAN MITCHELL
Sports Writer

After winning their series opener against McNeese State in shaky fashion, No. 21 Baylor softball looks to get back on track at home, where it will be hosting the 15th annual Getterman Classic at Getterman Stadium.

“We are ready to turn it around this weekend,” said senior pitcher Heather Stearns.

“We are ready to turn it around this weekend,” said senior pitcher Heather Stearns.

Round robin play will end for the Lady Bears 12:30 p.m. Sunday against North Texas, and the team will play later that afternoon at 3 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. depending on their seed thus far through the tournament.

“If you look back at last weekend, kind of every aspect of our game was off — that being said, we have taken an approach of relaxing. I think we’ve just been so tense, kind off too excited to play, so just relaxing and playing our game,” Stearns said.

The losers of the two Saturday pool play matchups will face off at 9:30 a.m., but with hopes of winning the tournament, the Lady Bears have their eyes set on the championship game at noon Sunday.

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Baseball opens 2016 with new head coach

Benjamin Everett - Sports Writer

Baylor baseball kicks off the season on the right foot this weekend as the Bears host University of Washington for a three-game series.

The season officially begins at 6:35 p.m. today when junior pitcher Daniel Castano takes the mound against Washington’s Noah Bremer. For the Bears, including new head coach Steve Rodriguez, the forecast has felt like a lifetime.

“I think everybody’s excited. We’ve done an amazing job of instilling confidence and hard work in us. We’ve noticed three-straight losing seasons.”

Multiple veteran players, such as Telson, started to notice changes during the offseason. Rodriguez hopes to mix young and veteran players. Multiple veteran players, such as Telson, started to notice changes during the offseason. Rodriguez hopes to mix young and veteran players.

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“We’re going to have to compete offensively and make sure we can play defense to give us a chance on the mound.”

After the season opener Friday night, the Bears and the Huskies face off at 3:05 p.m. Saturday and 1:05 p.m. Sunday.

On Saturday, Telson faces freshman Joe Dichters followed by a matchup between junior pitcher Daniel Castano and Washington’s Will Ballowe. Saturday and 1:05 p.m. Sunday.

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