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WEDNESDAY



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ELECTION  
DEBATE  
RECAP**

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WITHIN A  
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# ASUO SLATES ADDRESS BDS, PERSONAL POLITICS IN DEBATE

BY Emily Goodykoontz, Michael Tobin and Anakin Welp

Members of the three ASUO slates running in the 2019-2020 election advocated for their policy positions and questioned those of their opponents in a frequently heated and adversarial election debate in Global Scholars Hall on Tuesday night.

A debate is held every spring before voting begins, which will be open to UO students on DuckWeb April 8 to 11. The presidential and vice presidential candidates of Ducks Empowered, UO is Yours and Oregon Alliance answered questions from the debate moderator, the Emerald's outreach director Emily Poole, and took questions from audience members. While the slates outlined and clarified their platforms and answered policy questions, they also responded to claims and challenges from opponents.

Sabina Pierre and Montse Mendez, Ducks Empowered's respective president and vice president, identified their main goals as ensuring that marginalized groups on campus received equal representation in classrooms and access to mental health treatment. They also advocated for increased stipends for ASUO officials, and fair student pay in general. Pierre is the current vice-chair of the EMU Board, while Mendez serves as senate president.

"I want students to understand they hold the knowledge and the key. I want students to be educated and be involved in the tuition process. I want students to be involved and start conversations and understand how things work so we can make this campus a better place for future generations to come," Pierre said.

Joey Alongi, Oregon Alliance's presidential candidate, and vice presidential candidate Michael Kraan explained that they had issues with the direction and leadership of the current ASUO administration,

criticizing what they perceived as wasteful spending and exclusionary practices. Alongi was formerly in the College Democrats and Kraan was a member of the College Republicans. They said their slate would focus on fiscal responsibility, increased transparency within ASUO and fair representation of different demographics on campus.

Katie Quines and Gracia Dodds, candidates for president and vice president, respectively, for UO is Yours, highlighted the importance of fighting for graduate student financial support and the GTFF, increasing support for the No Duck Hungry student food assistance program and expanding protections against sexual misconduct.

UO is Yours' platform focused heavily on the importance of including graduate students' voices in conversations.

"These folks are vital to the university and making our university function, yet they face huge under-representation in living wages, in resources on campus and that's something that we really wanted to focus on with our campaign," Dodds said.

Quines added that her mother is a K-12 educator in Oregon and that she was on the picket lines, advocating in Salem for education funding.

Quines and Dodds added that they were both on the fraternity and sorority life sexual violence prevention board and that they wanted to change systems from within.

Ducks Empowered and UO is Yours each emphasized the importance of advocating for marginalized students and inclusion.

"I decided to run for president because for so long I was so tired of having my identity tokenized as a woman of color on this campus,"

Quines said, adding that she was inspired to run this year because of the diversity in last year's slate.

Mendez made several references to Kraan's affiliation with Turning Point USA, a non-profit for conservative activists on college campuses. Mendez said that Turning Point mocked safe spaces in the past and created watchlist of what the organization viewed as liberal activist professors. Kraan responded by saying that he had distanced himself from Turning Point because of the organization's tactics.

"I do not buy into their brand of politics," Kraan.

At the end of the debate, an audience member asked Kraan about a photo that included Adolf Hitler on his Facebook page from March 2018. Kraan said that the photo was in reference to when Parkland High School student and gun control activist David Hogg raised his fist at a conference.

"Why would you raise your fist?" Kraan said in response. "I took issue with the symbolism of the raised fist that he presented at the conference. I've never had that as my cover photo – ever."

A post on Kraan's Facebook page in March 2018 makes a reference to Hogg's salute:

"It is beyond concerning that the face of this anti-gun movement, David Hogg, uses a salute that has been used by brutal totalitarian regimes true American patriots fought and died to destroy. His toxic ideology must be stopped," Kraan wrote in the post.

Kraan said that he would talk to the audience member if they wanted further clarification on his politics.

The slates also discussed their opinions on a bill in the Oregon state legislature that would disarm the University of Oregon and Portland

State University's police departments, university sexual misconduct treatment policies, the transparency and accessibility of ASUO's current administration and the Boycott, Divest and Sanction resolution.

BDS was one of the more divisive topics of the night, with the discussion over the resolution eliciting tension from candidates and the audience. Oregon Alliance opposed BDS, arguing that it was responsible for fostering anti-Semitism on campus.

Pierre and Mendez justified the resolution by noting that it was about advocating for human rights as a "peaceful boycott," with Mendez noting that although the resolution was passed by the Senate, it was struck down by the ASUO Constitution Court in February. "It's essentially a human rights movement that's holding the Israeli government accountable," Pierre said. "The emphasis here is human rights."

UO is Yours carried a similar sentiment, explaining that it was important to fairly represent both sides of the issue.

Both Ducks Empowered and UO is Yours said they each supported the disarm bill because it would make students of color feel safer on campus. Mendez said the bill would still allow police to use guns if needed, but ideally they should not carry lethal weapons on patrol.

"But for the most part, they should be patrolling with tasers and pepper spray at all times to ensure that students of color actually feel safe on the campus," Mendez said.

"Let's not mince words, cops are fucking racist," Quines said.

Despite their different policy positions on hotly debated topics, all slates agreed that students should have more of a voice in tuition and ASUO processes.



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## ON THE COVER

The Oregon Unified Basketball team will play in the upcoming NIRSA National Basketball Championship in Wichita, Kansas.

Photograph courtesy of Samantha Wallace



Director Jordan Peele (left) recently produced films such as “Get Out,” which deals with themes of police brutality, and “Us,” which tackles themes income inequality. (Creative Commons)

# RECENT HORROR MOVIE SUCCESS REFLECTS THE TRUMP ERA

BY ILANA SLAVIT

Donald Trump was elected in 2016. His presidency has been met with controversy, from his offensive rhetoric to his racially charged immigration and economic policies that have negatively affected underprivileged communities. A slew of critically acclaimed horror films have been released in the years since, such as “Get Out” (2017), “Hereditary” (2018), “Mandy” (2018), “Climax” (2019) and “Us” (2019). Not only are these films delightfully terrifying and visually innovative, but socially relevant. Coincidence? I think not.

Cinema reflects the time period in which it is created, both intentionally and by accident. Horror films literalize society’s greatest fears by using supernatural creatures or events often symbolizing realistic themes such as addiction and heartbreak. The erotic thriller, one of the most popular horror genres of the 1980s, is a prime example. During a time when feminism experienced social backlash, erotic thrillers depicted liberated women as unhinged murderers. Trump-era horror films continue this trend with

race, income inequality, feminism and rape/sexual assault being the highest on the list of topics tackled. Trump has come under fire for all of these topics. While the #metoo and #timesup movements resulted in the indictments and firings of many sexual assault perpetrators in Hollywood, Trump has been largely unaffected. Trump has been accused of sexual harassment and assault by multiple women. His language has been openly sexist, from a comment that Megyn Kelly’s tough interview questions were caused by her period to his infamous “grab them



by the pussy.” This type of behavior, or even less, would have resulted in an immediate firing in Hollywood. Trump appears untouchable.

Today’s horror auteurs strike back. Jordan Peele is on a roll with his brilliant social commentary-laced horror, with themes of police brutality and race in “Get Out” to income inequality in “Us.” “Mandy,” “Split” (2016) and “Climax” all address male privilege and consent. Fresh off the success of “Hereditary,” Director Ari Aster is coming out with a new horror flick this summer, “Midsommar” (2019).

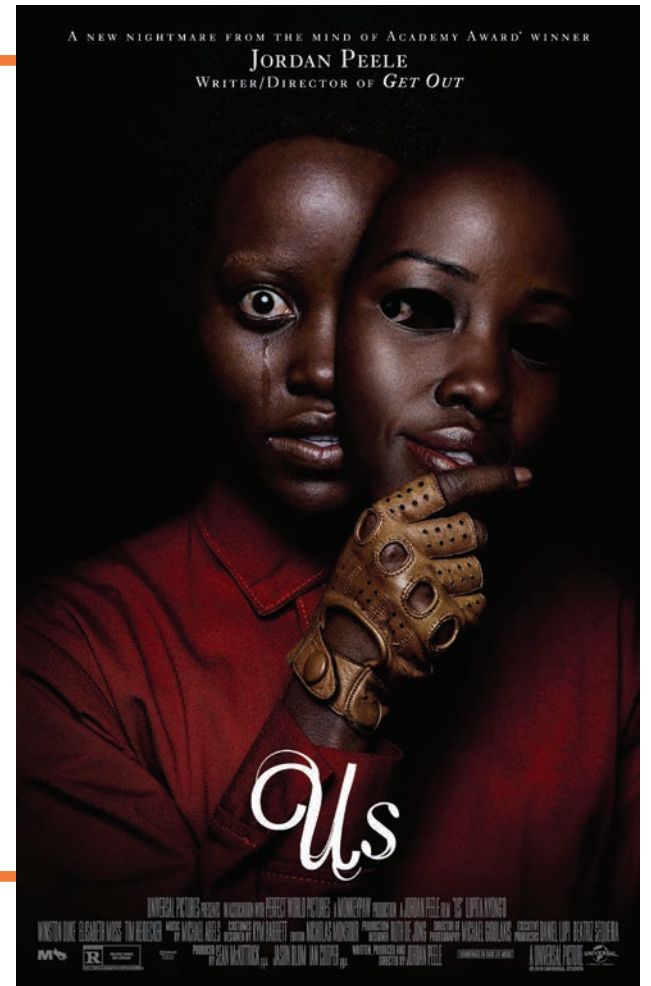
In such a chaotic political landscape, many viewers need an escape from reality. Producer Jason Blum weighs in, telling the New York Times that “I think when people are scared, they like to see movies where the scares are not real ... The current administration’s been terrific for the scary-movie business.”

Blumhouse Productions (“Get Out”) has had a terrific few years. Blumhouse produced this year’s “Halloween,” which dominated the box office and became “the second-best October opening ever.” Blumhouse also produced “Happy Death Day” (2017), which made it to No. 1 at the box office and returned with a sequel “Happy Death

Day 2U” (2019). Director of “Happy Death Day,” Christopher Landon, noted the same sentiments as Blum, saying that President Trump “has stirred up all these dark places and dark corners and old shadows of our culture, and horror is so well suited to address these things.”

All of the previously mentioned films were directed by men. Blumhouse Productions has never produced a female-directed feature, with Blum putting his foot in his mouth with the offhand comment “there are not a lot of female directors period, and even less who are inclined to do horror.” In 2017, independent female filmmakers Jovanka Vuckovic, Annie Clark, Roxanne Benjamin and Karyn Kusama created the horror anthology “XX,” consisting of four short films. Two of the most highly regarded modern horror classics, “American Psycho” (2000) and “Jennifer’s Body” (2009) were both written and directed by women, Mary Harron and Karyn Kusama, respectively.

While today’s horror films have been successful in content and aesthetic aspects, representation and opportunity continues to be an issue. The same could be said for President Trump’s treatment of marginalized groups.



Several critically acclaimed and socially relevant horror films have been released in recent years, including “Us.” (Courtesy of Universal)

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(Illustration by  
Maisie Plew)

# SEXPLORATION: BISEXUAL WOMAN SEEKING ADVENTURE

BY DANA SPARKS · TWITTER @DANAMSPARKS

*Asking for a Friend is a weekly Sex and Relationships column hosted by Arts and Culture writer Dana Sparks and fueled by your curiosities. Click [here](#) to anonymously submit questions regarding sex, relationships and sex education.*

**Question:** "I'm a bisexual cis-woman in a loving, straight-presenting relationship with a cis-heterosexual man. How can I explore my bisexuality while still being faithful to my partner and our relationship?" - Sexplorer

**Answer:**

Dear Sexplorer,

As left impressed upon me by your question, I'm assuming when you look at your experience as a bisexual cis-woman being in a relationship with a cis-het man, you are left missing queer experiences or connections.

I want to say that's okay. In fact, I would like to scream it off mountain tops. Your efforts to explore your sexuality faithfully within a relationship tells me that you respect the feelings of who you're with and you are also listening to whatever feelings you might be having internally.

I am also a queer woman who has experienced many straight-presenting relationships and I always felt guilty for my fear of missing out (on queer life), especially when actively experiencing a good relationship with a cis-het man that I wanted to maintain.

Luckily for us, there are a lot of ways that you can explore your bisexuality while in a straight-presenting relationship – and I've already done some trial-and-error trying to figure this out. First, you should ask yourself what exploring your bisexuality looks like; what is your bisexuality when you separate it from the complications of real life and what-ifs?

Use your imagination here:

Give yourself the mental and emotional space to create scenes without all the strings and what-ifs first. Imagine relationships and sexual experiences that you are craving. Thinking about all the possible

ways that your sexuality can manifest in your life is the beginning of exploring it.

Allow yourself to simplify the situation you're currently in so that you might be able to gain some clarity.

From there, I would ask, "What is it that you think you're missing? Is it sexual? Is it emotional?"

The answers to those questions might indicate you are craving a connection to another non-heterosexual person or perhaps an expansion of the type of sex that you are experiencing with your current partner – or both.

Personally, it's become very important to me that I have queer friends, partner(s) and aspects of my community that I can relate to, celebrate with and be educated by. Do you have that? In this example, I'm offering the idea that sexuality is yet another aspect of our identities that yearns for representation. Similarly, our experiences of race, religion and ability as other aspects of ourselves would flourish through understanding and feelings of community.

The emotional fulfillment offered by strictly platonic relationships and intimacy is often easily forgotten under the splendor of romance. The concept of relating, celebrating and educating will hopefully serve you in simply making queer friendships if you and your partner are not interested in being in an open or polyamorous relationship. "Open" meaning having more than just each other as sexual partners and "polyamorous" meaning having more than one romantic relationship.

Once you understand your desires and feel that that you can explain what you want to your boyfriend, you should talk to him about how he can support the explorations of your sexuality. I would also keep in mind that you might have to help him understand – you said he's straight, so he likely does not have the personal experience of yearning for a queer relationship or feeling as if he is choosing between one thing or another.

This is not meant to scare you, but you should also recognize the fact that he may not ever understand or he may not want to be a part of your sex-plorations. Should this come up, you should take some time separately to think about your connection with him and how you will further articulate understanding for one another if possible.

If you are seeking romance or sexual experiences that feel affirming as a bisexual woman, know that you are pushing the bounds of your straight-presenting relationship and perhaps your boyfriend's sexuality too. It's going to take time and deep care of the relationship that you are already in if you want to keep it.

Radical changes to the relationship probably shouldn't come quickly – especially if you choose to open your relationship, something that, if done right with the right person, can be absolutely rewarding.

To slow it down, learn about your options and how to communicate with one another, I'm recommending you do some reading: "The Ethical Slut" by Dossie Easton and Janet Hardy for an open relationship or "More Than Two" by Eve Rickert and Franklin Veaux on polyamorous and non-monogamous relationships. At certain points, these books may seem awkwardly written or redundant, but they are both collections of many personal experiences and research that directly benefited my experience as a queer woman in your situation.

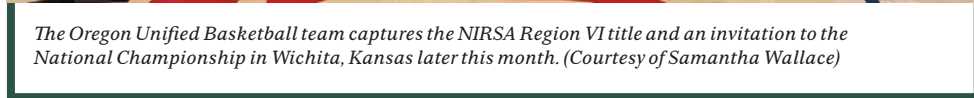
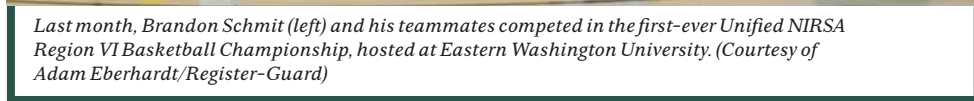
On top of reading, I would recommend talking to others who might be in the mentioned relationship styles.

Exploring your sexuality is an exploration of the self and the way that you connect to the people around you. It should be exciting – it will be scary – but most importantly, it's an adventure.

Outfit yourself to the best of your knowledge, take it easy and have fun.

Yours truly,  
Dana





BY EMILY MATLOCK • **TWITTER** @EMILYD\_MATLOCK

UO Unified basketball began with four teams and about 40 participants, including a mix of Special Olympics athletes and UO





UO Unified basketball began with four teams and about 40 participants, including a mix of Special Olympics athletes and UO students, and grew in one year to have six teams with about 60 participants. (Courtesy of Samantha Wallace)

students and grew in one year to have six teams with about 60 participants. The Rec Center also offers Unified indoor and outdoor soccer and plans to include more Unified Sports in the future.

The Special Olympics of Oregon, a nonprofit that organizes athletic events and oversees local programs, has been facing financial instability over the past few years, The Oregonian reported. The organization decided to cancel all events and trainings last September, according to a letter from SOOR Board Chair Ed Ray.

Though the statewide organization had to pull back on programming, volunteers keep local chapters of Special Olympics active in their communities. With limited funding, the partnership with UO is the only way Special Olympics athletes in Eugene and Springfield are able to play basketball on a team.

“At this time, we just feel thankful that we’re able to provide that resource and support [the Special Olympics] and their athletes,” Deml said.

**“More than a game”**

For Schmit, the UO Unified basketball team is more than just an opportunity to play a sport he loves.

“Playing with the university students, it’s nice because it gives me more of a circle of friends and gets me out and about and

meeting new people,” Schmit said. “During the Eastern Washington tournament, I grew pretty close with the people that were up there.”

The newly assembled team spent eight hours in the car together on the way to the regional tournament and 72 hours together over the course of the weekend. Though some of the team members knew each other prior to the tournament, the weekend gave them the opportunity to get closer and build lasting relationships.

“Outside of Special Olympics people, I don’t have very many friends,” said Schmit, adding that Unified Sports “changed everything” for him. “I’m very excited to see those friendships continue to grow.”

Olsen, the UO senior who plays on the team, said that while the competition of the sport is exciting, the relationships and lessons learned are much more important.

He said one of his favorite memories was losing the first game of the tournament. “I specifically remember it because I’ve never lost a game smiling before until now. It was like, ‘Wow, this is more than a game. This is about emotions, about pure joy that we’re bringing to ourselves and people that don’t get to always have the same feelings,’” said Olsen.

Sean Graninger, coordinator of intramural sports and youth camps

with the Rec Center, helped coach the team and traveled with them to Washington. “One of the best parts,” he said, “was just getting to know the other teams because of how Unified is structured. The point of the league is that there is a natural camaraderie between the other teams and other schools that you might not get in maybe the women’s competitive or the men’s competitive leagues.”

**Looking ahead**

Now, with the national tournament just around the corner, the UO Unified basketball team is working to raise funds to travel to Wichita, Kansas. For the regional tournament, the team was awarded a grant provided by the Diversity Action Plan through the Division of Equity and Inclusivity to fund their travel expenses.

For the national tournament, the team is raising funds through DuckFunder, UO’s crowdsourcing platform. Donations would cover the cost of flights, hotel stays and meals for the weekend.

The team has already raised over \$7,700 dollars of their \$11,000 goal.

“We’ve just been blown away by the support in our community,” said Deml. “It’s been really fantastic to see not only the financial donations, which are significant, but also the words of encouragement and people rallying around a good cause.”

As for the players, Schmit said he is excited to have another opportunity to compete alongside their teammates and newfound friends.

“A couple things that I’m looking forward to is trying to get better with my team and do what we did in Washington and face those challenges together and grow closer with my teammates,” Schmit said. “I’ve never been to the Midwest, so it’s going to be a whole new experience, and I’m excited for that.”

Though the season is almost over for Olsen, he said he hopes to continue playing Unified basketball after he graduates and eventually would like to coach a team. He said he will also play Unified soccer during spring term.

“It transitioned into something that was special enough to me that I want it to be more impactful for the rest of my life,” he said. “I’m very excited to look into the Milwaukie area, where I’m headed back to, to try to get involved for the long term.”

*A link to donate to the team is at the bottom of this article on Dailyemerald.com*





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*The current voting system in the United States does not accurately represent the will of the people. (Sarah Northrop)*



## NEWLY PROPOSED VOTING SYSTEMS MORE ACCURATELY REPRESENT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

BY DANIEL MILLER · TWITTER @DANIELMILLER549

If you ask the average American citizen if they support democracy, they will usually respond that they do. If you were to ask that same person their opinion on improving the current voting system, they would most likely respond with answers pertaining to the elimination of the Electoral College, automatic voter registration or making Election Day a national holiday. While none of these answers are wrong and should be considered seriously, they may not be big enough changes on their own. That's where alternative voting methods, which would better represent the will of the people, come in.

The current winner-take-all voting system allows for a candidate receiving a plurality of votes (less than 50 percent) to be declared the winner. This obviously misrepresents the will of the people, and the overall majority could walk away knowing that their vote, in fact, did not matter.

The STAR voting system displays candidates' names next to the numbers zero through five, and voters give each candidate a rating based on those numbers. Zero

means no support, and five means full support. The scores for each candidate are then tallied up and the two with the highest totals advance to the automatic-runoff round, meaning that a person's full vote is automatically assigned to whichever of the top two candidates they rated highest.

The next alternative voting system is the approval voting system. Approval voting lets each voter select any number of candidates they desire, and the votes are then counted and the candidate with the most overall marks is the winner. This method was recently used in one of my political science classes when trying to figure out the best time to have a review session for the final. Students raised their hand for every time slot that worked for them, and the time slot with the most overall votes was when the review session took place. One drawback to this method, although highly unlikely, is that it could cause the defeat of a candidate who was popular with the majority because of strategic voting.

A third alternative voting system is ranked-choice voting, which is

also known as instant runoff voting. This method allows people to select their preferred candidate through a hierarchical system, allowing them to choose their favorite, second favorite and so on. If no candidate receives a majority (51 percent), then the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated and the remaining votes are redistributed accordingly.

The current voting system in this country doesn't accurately depict what the American people want. Political scientists Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page concluded from empirical evidence collected between 1981 and 2002 that the notion of the United States as a pure majoritarian electoral democracy "can be decisively rejected" due to special interest groups and wealthy individuals. It later states that "[n]ot only do ordinary citizens not have uniquely substantial power over policy decisions; they have little or no independent influence on policy at all."

The results of this cynical study make it difficult to think that anything could be done to rectify our current voting system, but thankfully

these methods are beginning to permeate political discourse.

Change begins with awareness and acknowledgment that there is even a problem to begin with. People will naturally defend familiar, flawed ideas and will outright reject any proposal put forth to ameliorate the situation if they don't know what the proposal entails. And while more people are paying attention to politics now than ever before, election integrity is a topic that doesn't often get mentioned in mainstream political discourse.

Voter suppression has been a major problem since this country's inception. Gerrymandering, the Electoral College, voter ID laws, shutting down voting locations and the purging of voter rolls are just a few examples out of many that have preserved hegemony of the status quo. The United States is fundamentally a representative democracy and constitutional republic, and the implementation of a more pragmatic voting system is a major step in overturning this nominal democracy and awarding power to the people.





Oregon women's basketball is headed to their first Final Four appearance. "It's a new experience for us but this team has been under the microscope and had a lot of pressure on them and a lot of eyes and attention all year long," says Head Coach Kelly Graves. (Devin Roux)

# DUCKS, BEARS SAY THEY WON'T CHANGE PLAY STYLE AHEAD OF FINAL FOUR

BY SHAWN MEDOW · [TWITTER @SHAWNMEDOW](#)

Oregon women's basketball has set out for Tampa Bay, where the second-seeded Ducks will take on top-seed Baylor in the Final Four.

It's the first time that Oregon will be in a women's Final Four, and the team wasted no time after its Elite Eight win against Mississippi State, scouting both Iowa and Baylor on the team's bus ride back to Eugene from Portland.

"I'm excited. It's funny, I'm kind of reminded of the old Sesame Street 'One of these things is not like the other,'" Oregon head coach Kelly Graves said. "You look at coach Mulkey — she's won two national championships, Muffet McGraw's won two and Geno's won maybe more than I have fingers. This is our first time. It's a new experience for us but this team has been under the microscope and had a lot of pressure on them and a lot of eyes and attention all year long. It's a bigger stage but I think we'll be used to it."

Oregon is going up against the top team in the nation as the Bears hold a 27-game win streak going to Tampa. The Bears dispatched Iowa 85-53 in the Elite Eight on Monday night and, according to FiveThirtyEight, have an 85 percent chance of winning the national semifinal against the Ducks.

The Ducks will have another tough matchup in

the paint with Kalani Brown and Lauren Cox.

"They're so big," Graves said. "The good thing is we just got done playing Teaira McCowan so we've at least had a little bit experience trying to defend a powerful post player. But Kalani Brown brings something different than Teaira. She's more mobile around the basket, can hit that midrange shot. She's a lot more skilled."

"And then you have Lauren Cox who can do the same thing, they kind of play volleyball. They throw it up and rebound over people."

The Ducks stifled McCowan in December but the 6-foot-7 center had Oregon's number after the first half in the Elite Eight but in the second half, Ruthy Hebard made clutch plays against McCowan to help swing things Oregon's way.

Reversely, Baylor will have to find ways to also stop Hebard from scoring, but Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey says her team has been prepared for it with the way her bigs play.

"If you watch us play you'll go 'Wow their bigs run the floor from foul line to foul line, they never stop,'" Mulkey said via teleconference on Tuesday. "Then we bring in two athletic freshmen that do the same. So it won't be because of what we need to do against Oregon, that's who we are. We're

going to push the ball in transition and those bigs get up and down the floor."

Even if Baylor has an answer for Hebard, Oregon has prolific 3-point shooters it can rely on.

"We've seen teams change their approach when they play us that they do shoot more 3s than they normally would," Mulkey said. "So it's not going to be uncommon or uncomfortable to expect that or see that. Certainly, we will defend like we always do with the understanding that we've got to defend the 3-ball. We know what we face and how good they are from the 3 and how hard it is to defend them out there."

Though the Ducks are heavy underdogs in this Final Four, they are sticking to what has got them to this point.

"We're not going to change. We are who we are," Graves said. "I told everyone that if I ever make the Final Four, have the chance at a National Championship and I change, you can slap me upside the head because I don't want to be any different than I normally am."

"We're going to go in with a happy go lucky attitude like we've had and when the lights go on we're going to be ready to play."



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