



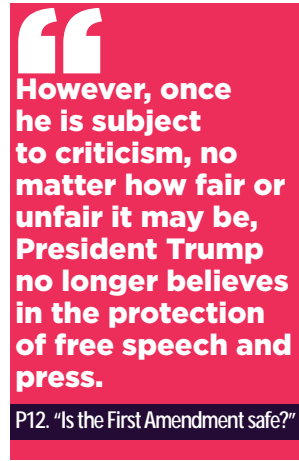
P2. Walking in the Women's March



P5. REVIEW: "Into the Woods"



P9. Sneakerhead culture



P12. "Is the First Amendment safe?"



P20. "Felicia Falcon" returns



P22. Spring Sports Preview

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News	2
Arts & Culture	5
Features	9
Forum	16
Entertainment	19
Sports	21

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Many shops, like this brothel are fronts for sex trafficking businesses, a form of human trafficking. Photo by Callie Rosenthal.

Falcons run on girl power

Girls basketball and swimming win SPC

BY FARAZ VIRANI

The 2016-2017 girls basketball and swimming teams, lead by dominant senior classes, won their winter SPC tournaments in early February. Adding to their banners in Melcher Gym, for two teams to come home with a championship is a special feat.

The girls basketball team defeated St. John's and Greenhill by more than twenty points, coming into the championship game on a roll, ready to face the Houston Christian Lady Mustangs to win it all.

For the girls swimming team, they went into SPC confident after a first place finish in the St. John's Invitational.

For this season's winter sports champions, the story isn't the come-from-behind, underdog, victory; these two teams have been at the top of their respective sports all season long. Girls swimming did not finish below third place, and girls basketball crushed teams from across the city and established Kinkaid as an elite program in the state. But with their victories came both pressure and expectations heading into the "make it or break it" SPC championship weekend. With tireless hours on the court or in the pool, that pressure turned into diamonds.

Houston's human trafficking problem

"Modern day slavery" is hidden in plain sight

BY EMMA GILLIAM, SARAH KATE PADON & ASHLEY PAKZABAN

The Houston human trafficking industry is an unsuspectingly vast, yet silent business that haunts our city behind closed doors. Nail salons, massage parlors, and cantinas are notorious business fronts for illegal human exploitation and sex trade. In

fact, Westheimer, only a block away from Kinkaid, holds some of the busiest brothels in Houston.

Human trafficking is a lucrative criminal enterprise where people are treated as commodities—forced to provide labor or perform other services, including having their bodies sold for sex—to make a profit for traffickers. It is considered by many as "modern day slavery" and a human rights violation. Not all human trafficking involves sex; however, the City of Houston's Anti-Human Trafficking Council shares that

sex trafficking is the most commonly reported form.

"Women are being moved on a circuit throughout several states, and Houston is part of that circuit. One of the reasons [human trafficking is] so prevalent in Houston is our extraordinary number of illegal sexually oriented businesses. We have more of these in Houston than we do Starbucks," says Jamey Caruthers, a staff attorney at Children at Risk.

Children at Risk, a Houston-based nonprofit, is focused on improving the quality of life for children through its

research and advocacy programs; human trafficking is one of the areas they prioritize. According to the organization, with about 600 sex trades per-night, the annual revenue generated by the human trafficking industry is an estimated nine billion dollars. These brothels are populated with girls enslaved by the human trafficking industry that are forced into exploitation and sex for little to no pay. Any money that is earned will directly profit the girls' "pimp," or boss.

Continued on Page 12-13

Wells Fellow program invites noted political commentator

BY ELLA MORGAN

The first speaker in the 2017 Wells Fellow series, Mr. James Carville, spoke in a

special assembly on Monday, Feb. 27. Mr. Carville, fittingly known as the "Rajin' Cajun," is an American political commentator and media figure best known for his leading role in Bill Clinton's successful 1992 presidential campaign against George H. W. Bush. In addition to working on numerous political campaigns, Mr. Carville has also been a regular fixture on shows like CNN's Crossfire and The Situation Room; he is currently a professor of

political science at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he lives with his wife, Mary Matalin, who has famously worked for many Republican campaigns.

The assembly began with a casual conversation moderated by the Chair of the Upper School History Department, Dr. Ed Harris, before transitioning to an open-floor Q&A with the students.

Continued on Page 4



Debate Update

Top 16

Seniors Sabrina Bajwa and Sam Richey placed in the top 16 at Emory University

Top 8

Now qualified for TFA State Tournament, Shreya Mehta (9) placed in the top eight at Montgomery High School

