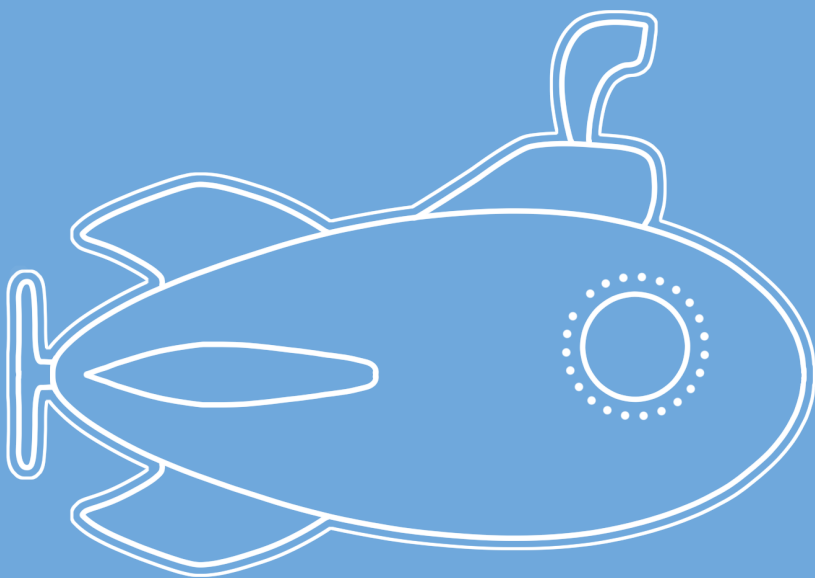


The Submarine



lite edition

In March's referendum, Ireland voted to repeal the Eighth Amendment. Pupils in Columba's debated for and against repeal in a hustings coming up to the polls. The following piece is a speech from Amy Cosgrove, Form IV, who argued Pro Choice.

When the 8th Amendment was put into our Constitution back in 1983, people believed it would prevent abortion. But of course it hasn't. It's just forced nearly 200,000 women overseas to end their pregnancies. Every week 9 Irish women and girls travel to the UK for an abortion. Some women are unable to travel due to family, legal status, finance or health. Everyday 2 or 3 Irish women import abortion pills illegally over the internet and end their pregnancies in their own homes. Termination isn't allowed for fatal foetal abnormalities, health issues or even rape. As a matter of fact, a woman who gets an abortion after rape can face a longer prison sentence than her rapist – up to 14 years in prison. I don't know about you but I'm not a big fan of any of those numbers. But let's just forget about the numbers for a second.

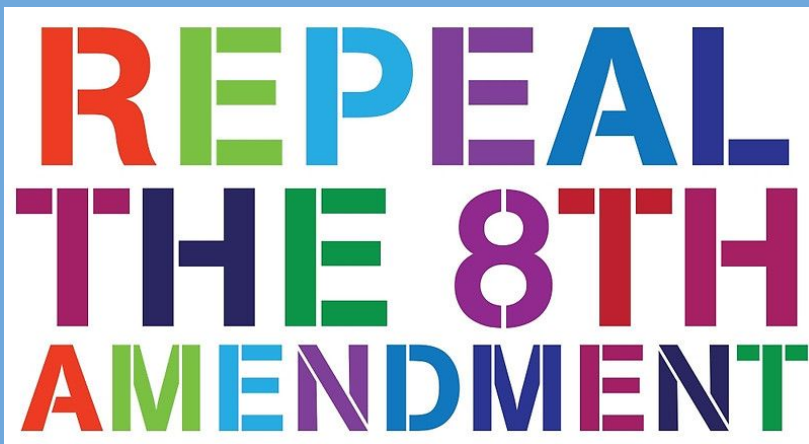
Let's say you're walking down to Lidl and you look up and see the Vote No posters. The fetuses are as big as newborn babies with minds of their own, very mature for their age. The posters tell you the fetuses kick and yawn and you're there thinking 'Wow... I feel bad.' But you're not thinking about the distraught woman in Cork. [Continued on page 3]

Wordsearch

D A K A U C D H P L I X
N B E R E S F O R D N W
N L Y L A R N K E E K T
N N L A P P N E L L T P
K S Y Y A R Y L L I L H
D B N W S G A L B G I P
T E P E G K Y R L L I T
C V H L C I A I I O R L
O E S A P D B O O K H D
R E T R D D I K N C B H
R S N E B H R Z A L N F
W Y N I G Z N Y W P N N

Houses of
St. Columba's

[Continued from page 1] They don't tell us about her because her story cannot fit on to a lamppost. It's as long as a novel. Far too long to fit on a poster. Unlike this foetus, she has a million things going on in her head. She has thought about nothing else for days and she even calls it a baby in her mind. In her heart, too. She knows how many weeks old it is and that it is much smaller than her thumb and she wishes things were different. But they're not. She feels like a criminal as she boards the plane. Like so many others, she flees the country as if she has committed a crime.



It doesn't matter about the circumstances, it is a Yes or No vote. There's no third option. It's black and white. No change can happen without a Yes vote to remove the 8th Amendment and if you want to help extreme cases it has to be repealed first. Pro Choice is what it says on the label. Irish women don't even have the option for an abortion and we

just want them to have a choice. But the thing is, abortion happens in Ireland either way – we've just made it extremely unsafe and difficult. It doesn't matter whether or not you agree or disagree with abortion. Other people need it. Why should it matter to you or our government what a woman chooses to do with HER body that just carries the foetus that actually cannot survive without her? You tell me about human rights but at the end of the day, a right is simply just to not have someone else's will imposed upon you. Do pregnant women not have these rights? It's a scary time to be a woman in Ireland; A 24 year old and 14 year old murdered, a cervical cancer smear scandal and the rights to our own bodies on the line. It's time for a change. Ireland has a bad habit of keeping the front door painted. We need to stop sweeping women's health issues under the carpet and do something. Do it for the sake of our own Irish women. The first step to this change is to vote Yes.



Flora MacRae, Form I

Void

Iona Chavasse, Form II

Imagine you are in a void,
Floating around in the pure bliss called silence.
Imagine looking around feeling nothing,
Seeing nothing,
Hearing nothing,
Being nothing.
I could imagine other people drowning frantically
in this darkness,
I just let the silence engulf me.
Dragging me deeper and deeper,
Until I was also the silence,
And I would then engulf the people like the
silence did to me
Never
Letting
Go.

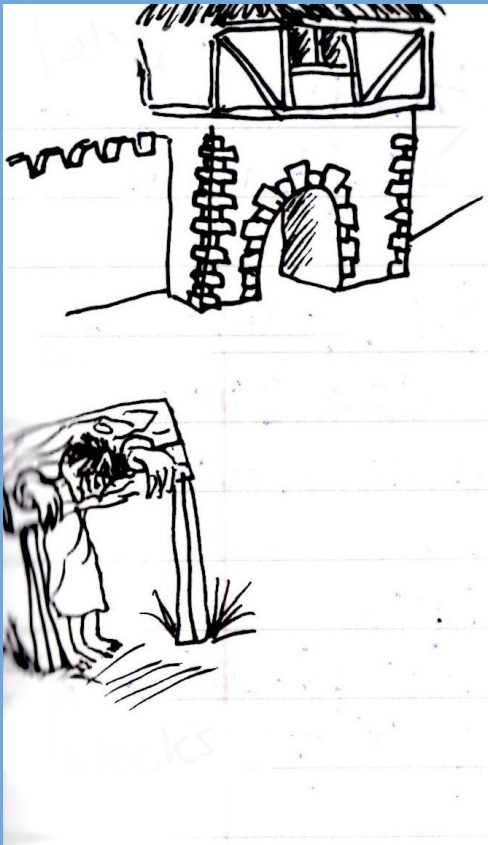
Tania Stokes



Also in the hustings, Harry Oke gave his speech from the Pro Life perspective.

Good afternoon everyone. I am Harry Oke-osanyintolu and I am here to support the Pro Life campaign. Firstly, I respect all opinions, especially the ones contrary to mine but I have one thing to ask of you: To be open-minded. To not let your beliefs be skewed by any preconceptions but to place your faith and defend the most sacred of all rights, the right to life, liberty and security of person. Many argue that a foetus is not a living being but merely a ball of cells. I respectfully disagree with this statement. The proposed abortion law permits abortion up until 12 weeks but by 12 weeks, this hypothetical ball of cells

- Has a beating heart
- Can swallow and yawn
- Can kick, stretch & jump
- Has arms, legs, fingers & toes
- Has all her vital organs
- Has vocal chords
- Responds to touch and has a fully formed face and a developing central nervous system
- Scientifically speaking we cannot dictate the exact point this foetus is conscious or considered living but the true characteristics I have listed definitely suggests the presence of a living being that has the right to live.



Medieval town sketches by Flora

Abortion was legalised in England in 1968. There were 20,000 abortions that year. Within 5 years, that number skyrocketed to 110,000. And the figures kept rising. Today, almost 200,000 babies are aborted in Britain every year. In Britain, 90% of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome in the womb are aborted. In Denmark and Iceland, that figure is closer to 100%.

And in fact, Ireland is one of the safest countries in the world for pregnant women. The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists welcomed the latest figures from the Maternal Death Enquiry (MDE) which shows that Ireland has an exceptionally low rate of maternal mortality – lower than both Britain and the USA, which both have abortion on demand. Ireland's abortion laws were clarified in 2013. It is legal to terminate a pregnancy in Ireland to protect a mother's life.

Availability of contraception also reduces the chances of fertilisation. The condom has a 98% success rate and we all know that that isn't the only form of contraception. Sadly, a major point of clash is rape. Rape is a tragedy. But abortion is not the automatic response to pregnancy from rape. In Ireland, 76% of those who become pregnant following rape opt not to have an abortion.

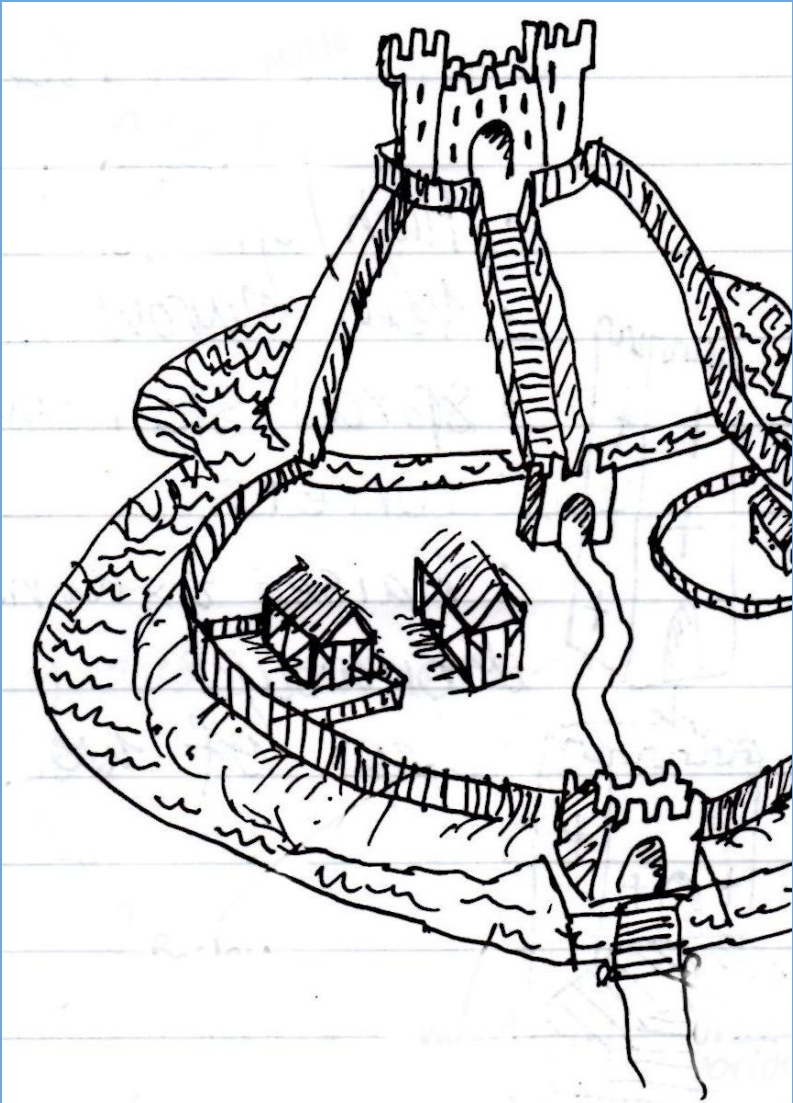
Victims of rape who have opted for abortion have shared how the trauma of the abortion has been harder to overcome than the rape. Most notable is Miss C, who became pregnant after being raped when she was 13. She was granted an abortion under the X case ruling. Today she is a mother of two and says 'you never forget your missing baby, it plays

on your mind every day'. In countries with legalised abortion, it is estimated that less than 1% of abortions are due to rape.

This is not a referendum about abortion in limited circumstances – the decision facing voters is whether we want abortion on demand in Ireland or not. Studies have found over 70% of children conceived with anencephaly have live births, with roughly a third of these babies living for at least two days. Kathleen Harkin from Co. Down was born with Patau Syndrome (Trisomy 13). Doctors at the time told her parents she was unlikely to reach her first birthday. Today she is eleven years old, attends school, and is cherished by her family.

In Ireland today, there are parents who have returned home from Britain after aborting their baby with a life-limiting condition only to learn for the first time about the existence of perinatal hospice care as a positive alternative to abortion. Instead of pressuring parents to go down the road of abortion, health care professionals should be given additional resources to provide high-quality palliative care to facilitate families in sharing those precious moments with their baby for whatever length of time he or she lives.

To end, even a minute spent with your baby knowing you gave him or her the best chance at life is worth more than anything. Abortion offers a better life for the woman, not aborting a child offers a possible happier future for both mother and child.



Medieval fort by Flora

Lord of the Flies wordsearch

I N V K P G K P S D O B H W E
C W O F C L L Q I G C P S S C
I X I M U A T A Z G A K T Z Q
P R J H I S J S N L G O U M J
E V A C A S S E M B L Y Z R K
L M S N U E L T T I L V X D B
L M H O A S R A P M V B E E Z
E H E C N E A O N X R B Q P S
V X L G E S L B P D H S Q E W
D B T S Y M P V Q L C T A R E
D B E A S T H Z T H A Z S M V
M N R O K N F E O M E N W X G
B V S P U N W O R G B W E Z L
I T K F Z Z L H A Q L D B Y G
O K N B U Z Z G R H M S O B J

AEROPLANE

BEAST

FIRE

ISLAND

PALMTREES

RALPH

SHELTERS

ASSEMBLY

CAVE

GLASSES

JACK

PIGGY

SCHOOL

SIMON

BEACH

CONCH

GROWNUPS

LITTLEUNS

PILOTS

SEA

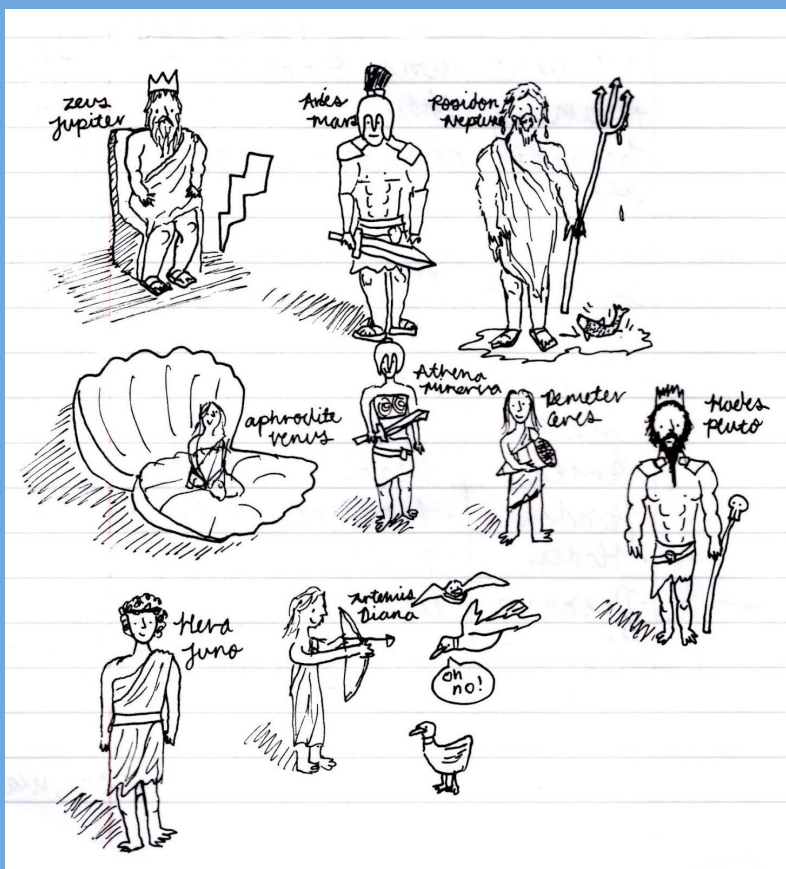
Iona Chavasse



Tania Stokes

Editor's Note

Well hello there. I hope you've enjoyed your lite reading. Many of you will have had your exams, some very important, others maybe not so. Regardless, the Submarine team congratulates you, especially those few who were enough to contribute even with the added pressure. Your kindness is immortalised here in this highly, tremendously prestigious publication. Forever 👍



Gods and Goddesses by Flora