

HEAR ME OUT



Summer 2020

It is an absolute privilege to be a part of the Head Student Team this year and we are looking forward to being able to implement some really positive changes within the school. Since January, so many of the students have been getting involved with helping to make PHSG and their community a more environmentally friendly place. They have begun to complete the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free School's Award, look into making ecobrick bins and designing a notice board to make people more aware of how they can help the environment.

*I hope that in the next year we can all come together to help the world around us and get even more involved and continue the amazing work of the previous Head Girl Team. This year is very important for many of us and I hope that many of you will be able to join us in helping to make the school and your own environment more eco friendly, one step at a time. - **Maddie***

This year has been an unusual one to say the least. Taking on the responsibility of the magazine was always what I wanted to do as part of the Head Student Team. I wanted to be able to push the voices of students, and create something that honestly represented the thoughts and opinions of those at Plymouth High. Though this issue is a somewhat reduced one under the influence of lockdown and home-schooling, hopefully it can be seen from the content included, how the students of Plymouth High are intelligent, aware and they have something to say.

*There's no way of knowing what's to come in the next school year - whether we'll almost be back to normal or whether everyone will still be waking up to Google Classroom announcements. Either way, I'm so grateful to those who contributed to this issue of the magazine. I hope everyone has a happy summer holiday - it's well-deserved. - **Ymma***

Hello from the Head Students

When I was selected to be on the Head Student Team, it felt like a dream come true. I feel so proud to be able to give something back to Plymouth High as the school has supported me so much as a student for the past five years.

*I am delighted to be running Student Council this year. I was very impressed by all the applications I received; our 2020 Student Councillors make a very good team and are excellent at representing you all. Student Council has been very successful so far; meeting with Mrs Banks to discuss the government's period product scheme and preparing for the Mayflower 400 project which I hope we can continue in the future. If any of you have any suggestions relating to the Student Council, then please drop me an email. - **Zoe***

I'm thrilled to be Plymouth High's Head Student for this year and the Head Student Team and myself intend to carry out your wishes to the best of our abilities. As the charity coordinator, my main task will be fundraising for the charities that you have chosen namely Period Poverty UK and the Devon Air Ambulance Trust. The newly elected charity ambassadors and I have many fun ideas in mind which we look forward to arranging next term.

*Unfortunately, due to some personal health issues earlier this year, my attendance and therefore, my ability to carry out my duties, has been slightly disrupted. However, I have had amazing support from the team who have stepped up to help whilst also working on their own projects for which I am truly grateful. I am hoping, as we all are, that the new term will begin a return journey back to normality and, as pupils of PHSG, our aim will be to support each other at this challenging time. - **Georgia***

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FRONT COVER by Grace Dobbie
BACKCOVER AND ILLUSTRATION
ON PREVIOUS PAGE by Serenity
Bushell-Townsend

The (Wo) Men of Music

When thinking of famous composers, the same names always spring to mind: Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, etc. Notice something? They are all male. Women such as Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn, while accomplished and talented, are more often known through their male counterparts. However, this isn't just about recognition; women often found it difficult to reach the same level of lasting fame enjoyed by male composers, mainly due to poor attitudes in the past. Despite this, some women did experience success throughout history, but not without difficulty.

One of these women was Clara Schumann (née Wieck). She was one of the most distinguished pianists of her age, a child prodigy and wrote a Piano Concerto at just 14. She had been performing for over a decade before marrying Robert Schumann, who

is now regarded as one of the great composers of the Romantic Era. While ladies were typically taught music and composition (in this case by her musician father), it was another story publishing compositions into the public domain and on more than one occasion, Clara premiered her works in public through her husband and her friend Brahms. Her works while respected were rarely played by others during her lifetime. In her mid 30s, Clara was the breadwinner in the household due to frequent performing as well as looking after eight children. By then she had pretty much resigned from the idea of composing, saying 'I once believed that I possessed creative talent, but I have given up this idea; a woman must not desire to compose – there has never yet been one able to do it. Should I expect to be the one?'. Clara's legacy as a composer was minimal

until long after her death, however she was recognised as a virtuoso pianist and tirelessly worked throughout her life to promote her husband's works.

Another female composer who encountered difficulties on her road to success was Fanny Mendelssohn. In contrast to Schumann, her father did not encourage her musical endeavours, and even said that for her brother Felix 'music will become his profession' whereas for Fanny 'it must only be an ornament'. Her brother Felix Mendelssohn was supportive of Fanny behind closed doors, and insisted publishing many of her works under his own name, citing 'distractions from the home'. Fanny, however did not stop composing, producing over 460 works during her lifetime and becoming an accomplished pianist- praised by Carl Zelter in a letter saying 'She plays like a man', this being considered

high praise for a woman of the time. Felix, himself, can be described as one of the greatest composers of his era and so his name often overshadows Fanny's even to this day.

But even today, why are female composers still overlooked? A 2018 Donne-Women in Music report highlighted that across Europe, 97.6% of pieces performed were written by men and 95% of concerts had only male-penned programmes. After these figures were released, numerous musical organisations pledged they would promote 50/50 programmes. One of the most accessible platforms of classical music, BBC Proms pledged a 50/50 programme

by 2022 but in the 2019 season, only 6 hours of female-penned music was commissioned and only half of that was performed inside the Royal Albert Hall, compared to around 75 concerts by male composers that are hours long each. The commissioning of 30 female composers was a great increase, although it is evident that more needs to be done.

So perhaps the next time you delve into classical music, try listening to a female composer or support performances of these works and you will be respecting the hard work that female composers have endured to create incredible music.



ARTICLE BY SARAH
DARWICH

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
GRACE DOBBIE



Power
of

Progression
in

Plymouth

As our city, Plymouth, continues to develop and innovate; new technology arises and old buildings are lost as easily as new ones are thought through. So, does the development of the environment around us change our opinion on our city? Or does our landscape purely stay as a canvas to our thoughts and feelings that we can choose to paint or leave blank? Does it ever cross our minds that perhaps our changing city and news could influence our everyday actions and thoughts?

Research shows that our environment does actually affect the way we think. Exposure to different weather, people, environments shapes the way we act, think and view different scenarios. A desire to work and create like those around you. could be called “infectious” to our own thoughts and actions and our physical environment.

Sights, smells, interactions, weather, relationships, and the words we hear or speak form this unique physical environment, and could be seen to form our public persona to those around them-from our subconscious actions and choices that people judge us according to. So are there parts of Plymouth that adapt our physical environment? Does the creation of buildings, like Beckley Point create a new and fresh canvas that allows us to form a more modern and clean perspective? Or does it simply wash away the more outdated outlook we might keep from the more traditional buildings that sit upon our highstreet.

Do the restaurants near our homes, or workplaces influence the food we crave or eat more of? Statistically, those who live opposite a fast-food restaurant chain are more likely to eat there due to the constant exposure on a daily basis to the colourful and influential marketing, as well as the engrossing smell and hoards of customers. If we believe the weather influences our mood and thought, does this mean those living in hotter climates could be happier? Are we missing out on the most natural antidote for happiness in our everyday lives: or is it simply a facade that causes many of the UK to migrate for 2 weeks a year?

It is actually proven that on average people are ‘happier’ in hotter countries; it makes them more sociable, outgoing and talkative. But these ideas of natural happiness are often contradicted by the ‘happiest nations’ of Sweden, Norway and Iceland. With temperatures reaching -40 in some Northern areas, this raises questions about the reliability of this data, and what we truly define as happiness.

As our town continues to develop, as new buildings appear: the Barcode, Beckley point. As we look at all this new infrastructure and architecture, shouldn’t the power of our environment bother us?

ARTICLE BY ABIGAIL FINNIE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ISOLDE THOMAS

Who Run the World?

On both sides of my family tree, I have examples of two incredibly strong women, both of whom were condemned to live a life of servitude and subordination to the patriarchal society in which they were born. One was Irish Catholic- an intelligent and ambitious woman by all accounts- who had little choice but to work in service and produce thirteen children. The other was Moroccan, who was married at twelve, had my father by fourteen, and despite being brave enough to offer shelter to political refugees under an oppressive regime, still had to ask her husband's permission to do something as simple as visit her grandchild abroad. Both were denied the freedoms and opportunities that I, as a twenty-first century woman, am guilty of taking for granted.

It's so easy to look back at the terrible injustices of the past, to ponder at how far we've come in respect to women's rights, and to realise how fortunate, as women, we are to be born today. To presume that the fight for equality has already been fought for us, and that the era of male dominance has finally come to an end.

But how far have we really come? On paper, women appear to have just as many freedom and rights as our male counterparts, but in practice is this the case?

2019 marked the centenary of Nancy As-

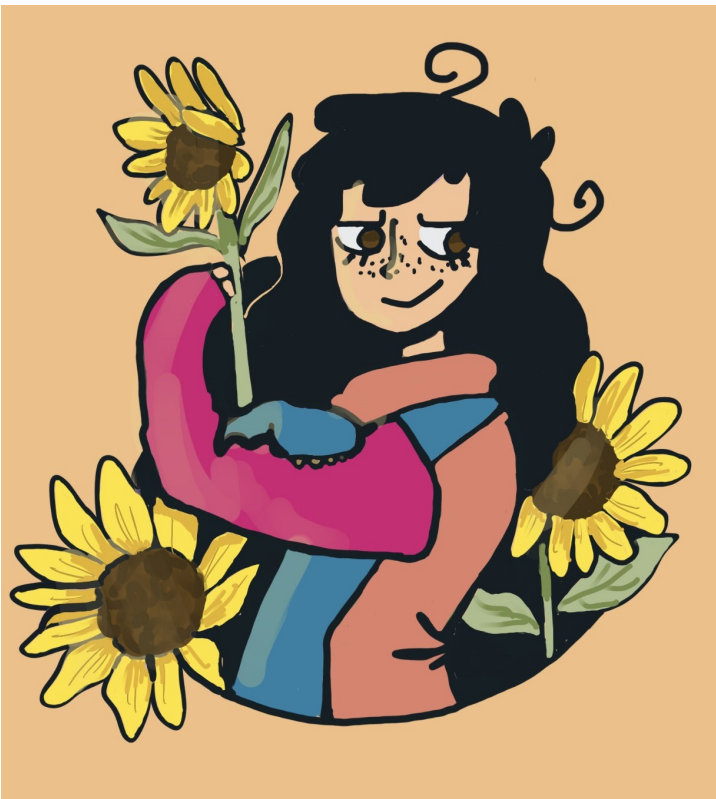
tor's entry into Parliament as MP for Plymouth, becoming the first ever female MP. Yet here we are, a century later, with men still dominating politics. Only 37% of the House of Commons is made up of female MPs. In fact, women all over the Western world are under-represented in both politics and managerial and high paying professional occupations- only 7 out of the top 100 FTSE companies can claim to have female CEOs. How is complete gender equality supposed to happen when women are not represented in the most powerful positions in our world?

The USA -the so called leader of the 'free' world- is led by a populist President who, in November 2019, overturned the momentous Roe versus Wade 1970s abortion legislation by putting a ban on abortion in the state of Ohio. This is a huge step backwards in the fight for women to have a say over their own bodies. Abortion, as stated by the UN Human Rights committee, is a fundamental human right any and all women should have. So, why was such a controversial bill passed in arguably the most developed nation in the world? Every one of the 25 senators who voted for the bill to be passed were men. Men who couldn't possibly comprehend what it must feel like to have no control over your own body, men who can safely say they would never have an abortion but will never have to make that choice. Notably, of the four female senators who were allowed to vote, none of them supported it. Women were unable to prevent such a backward and inhuman law due to lack of political power.

In the UK too, the gender-pay gap still stands at 17.3%; rape convictions are at their lowest ever and our gender equality rank has fallen six places to 21st position in the world (World Economic Forum 2019). Yes, I enjoy many more freedoms than my grandmothers could ever have dreamed of, but this is not a time for complacency.

All this means that on every level, from political, economic and sexual, women in the modern world still face an uphill battle in their fight for freedom. Surely feminism is as relevant as ever?

ARTICLE BY LEILA HOPKINS AIT BAMAI
ILLUSTRATION BY DAISY HORNE



Bullying - A Background

Bullying is something kids our age really don't look forward to. It is one of the things that happens to you at some point in your life. Four types of bullying are, Cyberbullying, Physical Bullying, Verbal Bullying and Relational Bullying.

Cyberbullying is where a person says some spiteful things about another online. 3 out of every 5 children are bullied by classmates or a person they don't know on social media. It can happen very quickly just by maybe one comment on a social media app. Having previous experience, sometimes it makes you feel as if you don't even exist. One way to overcome these circumstances is to block the person on the website or app. If this person comes back to you, report it to a parent as you cannot do anything other than to get another person involved.

Verbal Bullying is where you are bullied face to face by a person verbally. This is when you hurt people with words not physically. The average percentage of Verbal bullying is 80% in England and is reportedly said that it is the most common use of bullying. It is the most used way of bullying but there are many ways to stop that person or group of people such as ignoring them and not retaliating. If it still carries on, report it to a TEACHER, not a child as they might make the situation even worse. Getting another child involved may make it worse as many times they

will stick up for you and may start to bully the person or group that is bullying you, physically or online, or even just hurt them physically and verbally.

Physical bullying is when someone repeatedly hurts another by kicking them or beating them up - there are many other ways physical bullying happens, even by just flicking someone purposely. It is not very nice and many people have not experienced it but it is something many people experience by watching. Physical bullying usually happens when a gang hurts a single person. These gangs are usually teenage boys (aged 15-17) against a young kid (aged 10-13). Many adults bully kids this is called child abuse.. It is really not a nice thing and many people recall their scars and bruises and start getting depressed. In fact, one of the main reasons people get depressed is from being a victim of bullying or some other reasons.

Relational Bullying is where a person damages your personal relationship with someone, usually friendship relationships, or your social life with someone. Many things can happen when you are bullied relationally: depression and anxiety and these can last well into adulthood. Some people even turn to alcohol and drugs as a result of bullying. Some even commit suicide. Ways to stop these things from happening to you or stop them from

carrying on include: not gossiping about it , talking to someone and, if you decide to sort things out, say things in an assertive and confident way to the bully or group of bullies.

One of the main things you **MUST** do when being bullied or know bullying may happen is tell an adult. This is because if you don't get it sorted it could get worse like when I had an incident with some other people we told a teacher and now we are very close. If it happens in school ask your head of year or your teacher to sort it out.

This article has covered all 4 ways used to bully others, how to overcome them and the main thing to do when you are in a situation like that. Now when you experience these ways of bullying you will be prepared.

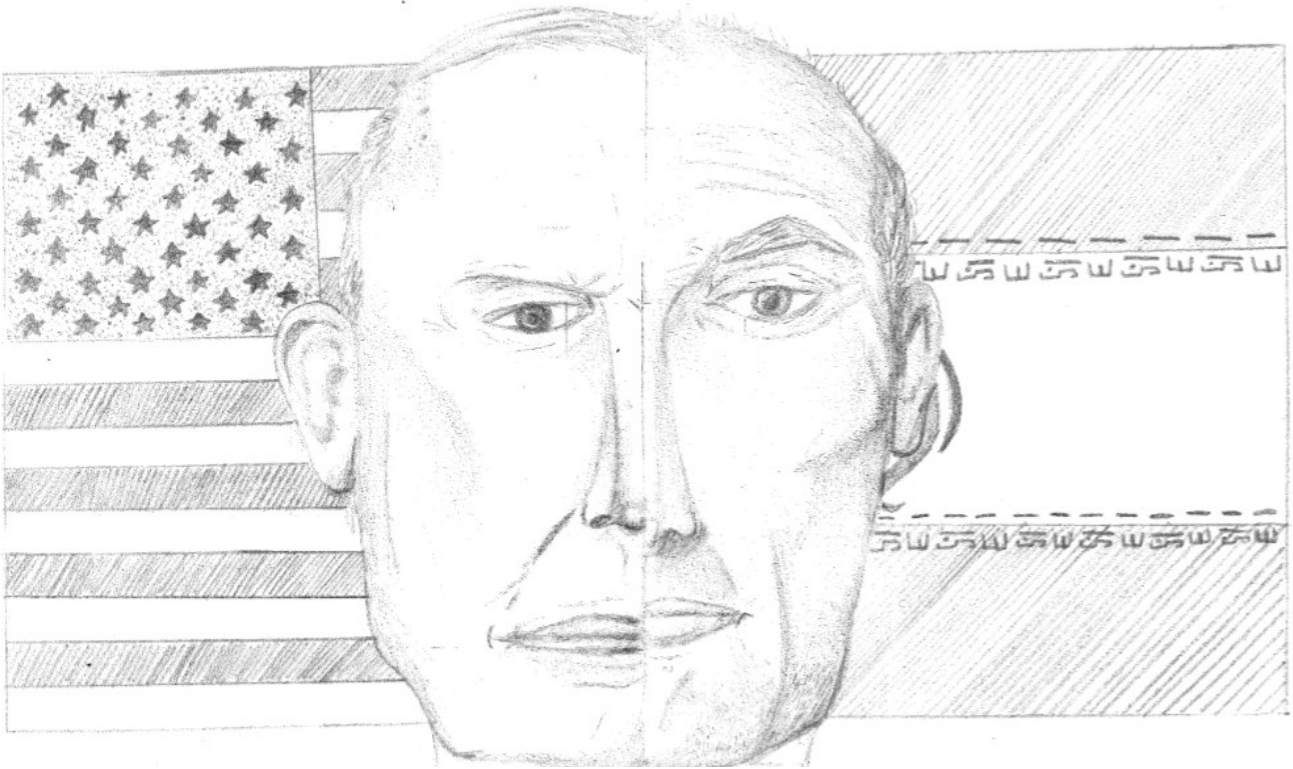
ARTICLE BY MARLIE-MAE HARRIS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY AOIFE DAVIES-WEBB



AMERICA AND IRAN

The Reality Behind the Conflict



Most people have heard about American president, Dwight Eisenhower, who suspected 'World War Three' that however, decided that they needed a war to occur earlier this year. But, you new Iranian prime minister. This idea may have only seen one side or one became an operation called part of the story. Actually, the tension 'Operation Ajax', which was a joint CIA-British operation. The people working on this operation managed to convince the Iranian government to remove Mossadegh, leaving the minister. Iran also owned an oil company alongside the UK that supplied oil globally. However, Mossadegh decided that all of the profits should be an investment for the Iranian people only. To do this, they would have to get rid of the British owners. In America, they were worried about how doing this would have an effect on the global oil supplies, and that Iran was under Soviet influence. The 34th

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I can understand why this may have upset Iran because the prime minister that the Iranian public had elected themselves was overthrown, and the citizens also had no choice over the new leader and this could've angered them. America and the UK did this because they were concerned

about the global impact, however, the president and others involved could have dealt with it in a better way and allowed the people to have a say in who they wanted to rule. What the US decided to do could be seen as unreasonable, leading to other events that cause upset between the two places.

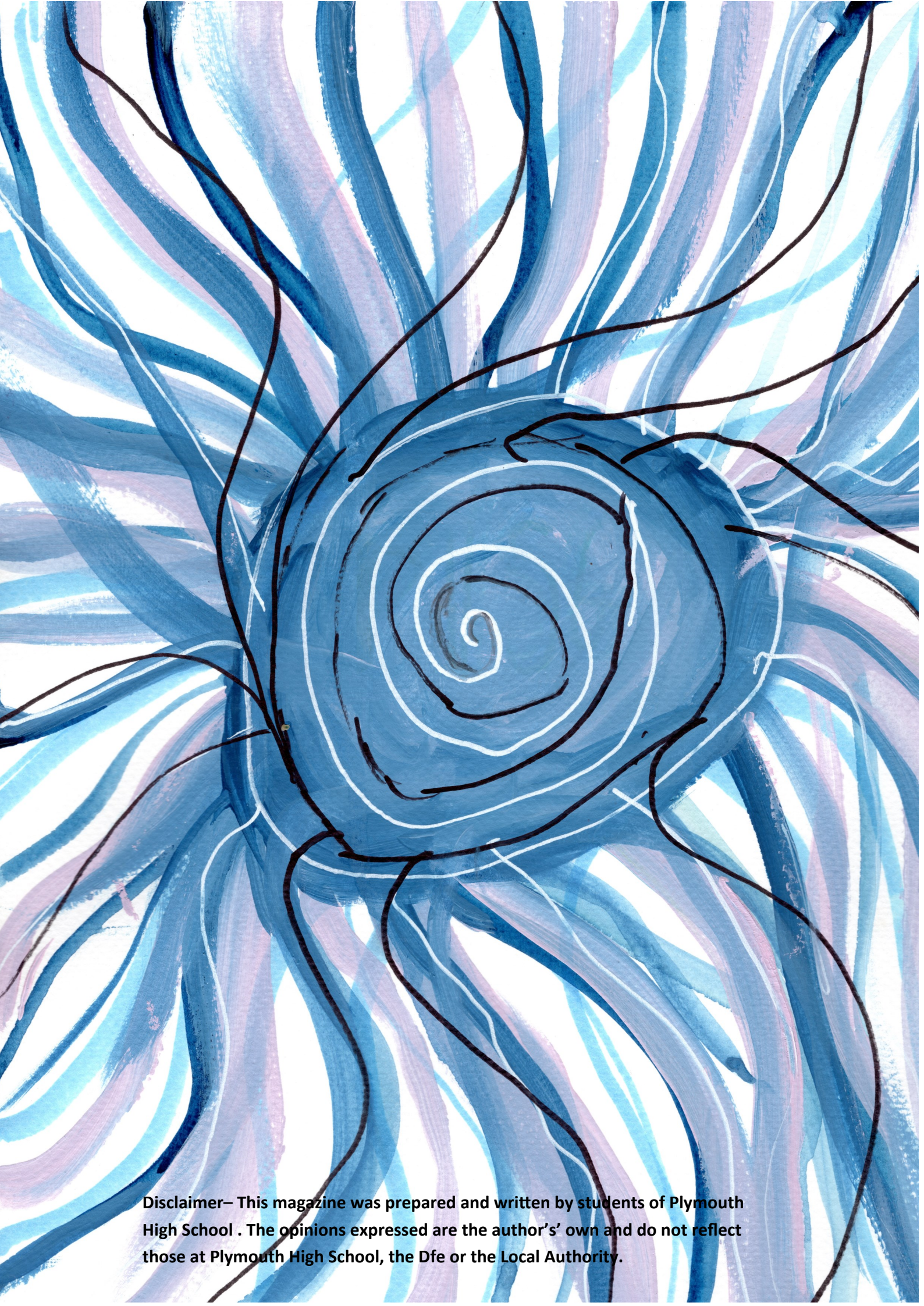
26 years after this incident (in 1979), the Iranian public grew dissatisfied and unhappy with their social and economic living conditions. They were living under the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He used American aid to fund vital things in his eyes, whilst leaving the majority of the citizens in poverty, this upset a lot of Iranian citizens, leading to disapproval towards the Shah going across the country. The Shah (Iranian monarchy) went to America. Two weeks after the Shah left Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini arrived back in Iran after the exile. He had been exiled for calling for the overthrowing of the Shah, and many other things. When he returned, he led a drive to abolish the shah. In October of that year, the current US president - Jimmy Carter - allowed the Shah to seek more help in America. This outraged Iranian students in America and they stormed the US Embassy. They took 52 hostages. Two weeks later, and the hostages still weren't released, so the military began a rescue mission. One of the helicopters they were using to do so crashed, killing all 8 US service members. Even though the Shah had been abolished by 1980, these hostages weren't released until January 20th, 1981 - 444 days after being taken captive.

The Iranian people were angered and upset towards the Shah, which caused them to do these things and could have felt like America was just leading the Shah on to take more aid, therefore leaving more people with horrible living conditions. In America, they may have seen aiding Iran as a good thing and a way to help them.

Moving back to modern-day, January 3rd was a very tragic day for many this year. One of the top military commanders in Iran, Qassam Soleimani, was killed in an airstrike. Soleimani was seen as one of the most powerful men in Iran, next to the supreme leader. In response to this attack, Iran fired 2 missiles at 2 American bases stationed in Iraq. I can see how Iran would retaliate in this way, as they were angry and devastated due to a massive loss of a massive part of their country.

In my personal opinion, everything that has gone on here was extremely saddening and tragic. Both sides of this argument had their reasons that were justifiable in their eyes, which makes it easier to understand. However, in today's society, I believe that people are too quick to judge and need to look under the surface to see why before retaliation. That is the same with these powerful countries as well because no one knows what kind of damage you can do.

ARTICLE BY MADDISON MCCOY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MAISIE WILMOT



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