

Helvidius Priscus (died between AD 70 and 79)

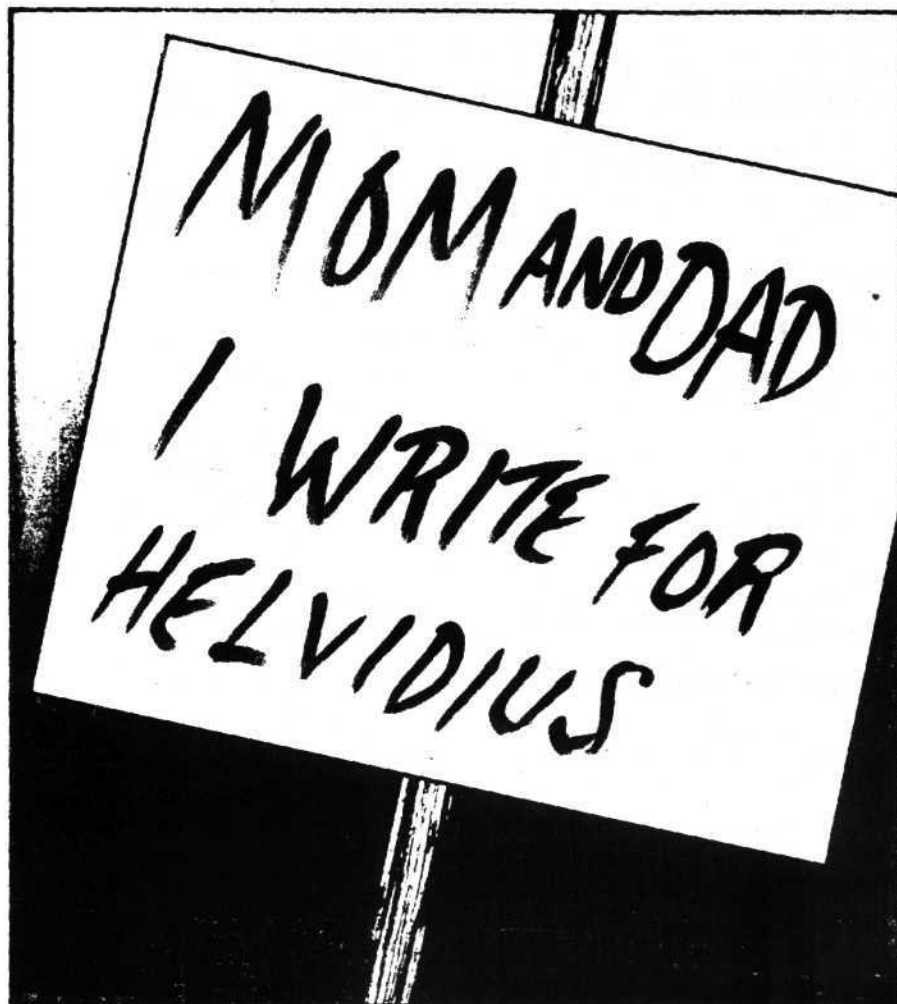
A Roman Statesman and Stoic philosopher known for his independence of mind, virtue, and staunch advocacy of republican government. His beliefs brought him into direct conflict with the emperors Nero and Vespasian, both of whom banished him. Helvidius' defense of liberty and freedom of speech, as well as his opposition to dynastic succession eventually led to his execution. He is thus remembered as the first martyr for free speech.

The Roman sculpted in stone is not, in fact, Helvidius. He was, however, of the citizenry that Helvidius tried to protect.

On the Cover: "Head of a Roman of the Early Empire" (*The History of Art*, pg. 163. Exeter Books:New York 1987.)

Volume III, Number 1 - Fall 1991

Helvidius: The Columbia Undergraduate Journal of Law and Public Policy, published in December and April, is a non-profit organization. Helvidius was founded in August 1989 by Peter Tomassi CC '91 to serve as a forum for the discussion of diverse issues in law, public policy, and politics, as well as for the informing of pre-law students. The editors welcome the submission of manuscripts beginning in September and January. All materials should be directed to *Helvidius*, 206 Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027. All submissions are subject to editing and no material will be returned without postage supplied by the author. The articles printed here reflect the opinions of their authors.



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THIS OBVIOUS.**

Make your parents proud. Have your work appear next to the policy-maker of the present and future. You never know who'll be writing for us next. *Helvidius* is always looking for well-written essays of the political persuasion for the fastest-growing, best-known, most influential undergraduate journal of law and public policy on campus. The submission deadline for our Spring 1992 issue is in mid-March.

Helvidius also needs associate editors and publishing assistants. For further information, please call Chris (x36888) or Neil (x32083).

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*The Columbia Undergraduate Journal
of Law and Tu6(ic ToCicy*

Fall 1991

Columbia University in the City of New York

Volume III, No. 1

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Foreword

Although it might be said that every issue of an undergraduate journal is an achievement, this issue is truly a milestone for Helvidius. From its humble beginnings on the second floor of Schapiro Hall in 1989, Helvidius has flourished and developed into a publication worthy of its namesake. From 5 members, we have grown to 35. From a circulation of 600, we have grown to 3000. Today, through the benefits of campus recognition and assiduous ad solicitation, we are able to publish without drawing funds from the members' pockets.

The contents of this issue also demonstrate the extent to which Helvidius has grown. We present here a substantial range of campus opinion: from an argument in favor of the legalization of homosexual marriage, to an argument against affirmative action. We provide pre-law students with in-depth reviews of some of the best law schools in the nation. We have the pleasure of offering guest articles by New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, Senator Bob Kerrey (D-NE), and Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger. In addition, major contemporary issues continue to be a special focus of Helvidius. In this issue, two authors address the problems of the confirmation hearings of Justice Clarence Thomas.

The goal of this growth, however, is not self-aggrandizement. Rather, we hope through this expansion to better serve Columbia University's need for information and argumentation on legal, political, and public policy issues. We believe that the best way to execute this responsibility is by remaining true to a policy of editorial neutrality, a policy which has served as a constant guide to the editors amid the tumult of all the aforementioned changes.