

Letter from the Editor

Over the past several years, "change" has certainly become the operative word in both domestic politics and international affairs. A great proliferation of information, manifested in the world-wide Information Revolution, has co-evolved, leading to a marked increase in public awareness as well as to an apprehensiveness about our modern and dynamic political world.

In the past decade, no shift in international politics has been greater than the end of the Cold War. Along with the war's end came the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the birth of new, more democratic and capitalistic republics. Estonia typifies this change in the former USSR. Nevertheless, with Estonia's transformation, many difficult issues have arisen. Articles by Jeffrey Li and Sarina Singhi, Estonian Ambassador Toomas Iivasa, and Yelena Dudochkin discuss the political and social changes in the Baltic republic. These accounts should be compelling to anyone interested in the dynamics of the interplay between and within the international and domestic political environments of a modern state.

In our own country, the Republican sweep of the past elections and the public's reaction to this seemingly fundamental political realignment is of particular interest. Nevertheless, even with the transformation of American politics, many of the same concerns still haunt the general public. Among these are the federal budget deficit, health care, and the effects that foreign trade may have on the American economy. In this issue, our writers deal with these and other topics that are now being viewed by Americans in a different light. As we examine these issues, providing informed debate on them is essential.

In addition to dealing with domestic and foreign policy, we remain committed to giving pre-law students and those interested in the judiciary and other policy issues with an important resource. In this issue, we deal with the dynamics of law school as well as relevant topics currently being debated in the judicial realm of American government, both of which are also undergoing significant changes.

Robert Kennedy once said, "Progress is a nice word. But change is its motivator. And change has its enemies." Progress has no enemies. Change often has its enemies because it is misunderstood. By engaging its readers and familiarizing them with the current domestic and international issues, Helvidius is actively working to clarify that misunderstanding. Our readers and others who seek to better understand their political and social environment will be more able to comprehend and accept previously feared and rejected, yet worthwhile changes. Hopefully, those changes can then be made, ultimately leading to the progress of our selves, our country, and our world.



Helvidius is named after Helvidius Priscus, a Roman statesman and Stoic philosopher in the first century AD known for his virtue, independence of mind, 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. Thus he is remembered as the first martyr for free speech.

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