

HELVIDIUS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

The Columbia Journal of International Affairs,
Law and Public Policy
Volume XI
Spring 2000

Helvidius: The Columbia Journal of International Affairs, Law and Public Policy is named for Helvidius Priscus, a Roman statesman and philosopher of the first century AD. Helvidius Priscus was 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. He is known as the first martyr for free speech.

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Helvidius: The Columbia Journal of International Affairs, Law and Public Policy is published in April. *Helvidius* was founded in August 1989 by Peter Tomassi (CC '91) to serve as a forum for the discussion of diverse issues concerning law and public policy. Since then, it has grown to include international affairs and various special sections. The editors welcome submissions at all times. Submissions should be directed to: The Helvidius Group, Box 156, 4th Floor Lerner Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027. All materials are subject to editing and will not be returned without postage supplied by the author. The articles here reflect the opinions of the respective authors.

EDITORS' NOTE

The world did not explode, the Moon did not fall out of the sky and the threat of computer-generated chaos ultimately came to nothing. In short, January 1, 2000, was exciting because of what did not happen.

We are still around to marvel at the novelties that the political scene throws our way. Once again, we are in the midst of an election year, one that oddly is full of some very familiar names. On the presidential tickets are a Bush and a Gore—Governor George W. Bush of Texas and Vice President Al Gore. Throw in a Clinton for good measure. Hillary Rodham Clinton, not to be deterred by chants of "carpet-bagger" is a candidate for the US Senate from New York. And of course there's Giuliani. Rudy Giuliani has promised that he will prevent Clinton from sliding into retiring Senator D. P. Moynihan's seat and is the Republican candidate for the position.

The international scene has been no less exciting. Taiwan's recent elections ushered in a rival political party (the Democratic Progressive Party) into the seat of presidential power, much to the consternation of both the ousted ruling party (KMT) and of the People's Republic of China, whose threats against the island nation become more frequent. War rages on yet in Chechnya, but with a new commander-in-chief. Vladimir Putin, new President of the Russian Republic, replaced ailing President Boris Yeltsin in a relatively smooth transition of power.

We, too, have changed. This year, the 11th editorial board of *Helvidius* decided to rethink the concept of the group. We decided that in addition to compiling and printing our annual journal we would branch out and lay the groundwork for a larger organization—one with the same scope, but a broader reach. To that end, we created The Helvidius Group. A political discussion superstructure, the Group took its first steps outside the journal by hosting and sponsoring talks and events, aimed at facilitating a meaningful and productive exchange of provocative political questions and ideas. We fully expect that our online presence will be firmly established next year through the hard work and perseverance of the 12th Board.

Thanks to the continued dedication of our Executive Board, Associate Board, writers and a host of advisors, The Helvidius Group will grow and thrive, embracing its new role and realizing its goals in ways we can only now imagine. ®

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CC'00/SIPA'01

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