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*From the Editors*

## THE VIEW FROM SOUTH LAWN

Columbia has a rich tradition of active, passionate students. This was vividly apparent in the aftermath of the tragic events of Sept. 11. Immediately, Low Plaza was transformed into a command center for aiding the victims of the terrorist attacks. The residence hall lounges became blood donation facilities and Lerner Hall became a shelter for those stranded away from home. Medical students rushed to downtown hospitals, law students offered their expertise to individuals and businesses most affected, and undergraduates organized fundraisers and vigils for the victims.

The public role of a university such as Columbia as a forum for political activism and debate has become increasingly salient in the aftermath of the tragic events of Sept. 11. Helvidius was founded thirteen years ago in this very spirit of political discourse, providing students with an intellectual space to contribute their scholarship to the greater academic community.

Recognizing the increased need for informed undergraduate discussion of the events of the past months, this issue includes three articles that speak to issues surrounding the Sept. 11 crisis. Gregory Shill offers a discussion on the future of international security in a post-Sept. 11 world, Professor Peter Juviler examines the relationship between human rights and religion, and Joel Teklu draws parallels between the current "war on terror" and the Vietnam War.

The World Economic Forum and the surrounding protests this winter in New York also brought issues surrounding globalization into the public's consciousness. In response, Jonathan Reich considers the significance of the anti-globalization movement and Ishwara Glassman presents a study on the effects of trade on inequality. In addition, Brian Deese explores the implications of the Western social contract for the welfare state, and Alex DiGiorgio revisits issues concerning homosexuality and inequality presented in the 1986 Supreme Court case of *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

The 13th Editorial Board of Helvidius hopes that this volume continues a tradition of providing the public with undergraduate scholarship to foster critical discussion of issues that confront and define our politics and society.

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