

Journal of Politics & Society Nation's First Commercially Distributed Undergraduate Periodical

New York, NY, Summer 2007—The Helvidius Group, publisher of Columbia University's *Journal of Politics & Society*, announces the very first nationwide commercial distribution of an undergraduate periodical. In partnership with Source Interlink Companies, the Helvidius Group has placed the 2007 edition of the *Journal of Politics & Society* in Barnes & Noble and other major bookstores. Jodi Ford, Business Manager of Source Interlink Companies, commented: "It is a pleasure to work with the Helvidius Group and to have Columbia University's *Journal of Politics & Society* as part of our title portfolio." The Journal now reaches 351 bookstores in 46 states. Sales began May 18 and will continue until mid-August.

The distribution agreement, 18 months in the making, represents an unprecedented achievement for an undergraduate organization. Jacob Weaver, Editor-in-Chief of the Helvidius Group, stated: "We are proud to join the likes of *Foreign Affairs* and the *Columbia Journalism Review* on bookstore shelves with this venture. The *Journal of Politics & Society* looks forward to bringing the best in undergraduate scholarship to a much broader audience." The Helvidius Group is an undergraduate student-run organization advised by the Department of Political Science and governed by the Activities Board at Columbia and Student Development & Activities. Approval of the competitive contract offer required extensive coordination among these groups. After considerable negotiation, the University agreed to test the distribution effort beginning with this year's Journal. The contract will automatically extend annually for one-year terms unless terminated by either party.

The Helvidius Group views this initial distribution effort as a market test. If distribution proves financially sustainable, the Journal has the potential not only to continue to attract a much wider audience, but also to pave the way for other high-quality student publications to reach the general public. Robert Taylor, Director of Student Development & Activities, stated: "This distribution arrangement presents a great opportunity for the work of Columbia University student publication groups to gain wider exposure; it represents the great potential for the professional development of our undergraduates."

The *Journal of Politics & Society* is already unique in its focus on undergraduate scholarship in the social sciences; it provides undergraduates the rare opportunity to be published in a professional, peer-reviewed journal. Each edition of the Journal also features the work of a prominent public figure in the form of an introductory guest essay. The 2007 edition included a guest essay by Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach for America, as well as pieces analyzing heroin and opium consumption in Iran and sexual harassment against female US soldiers during wartime. The Journal's academic advisor, Jack Snyder, Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations and Director of the Harriman Institute, summed up this exceptional format: "The *Journal of Politics & Society* presents a unique dialogue between the world's most important political commentators and the best undergraduate political writers published anywhere. In its pages, the new generation speaks to power, trenchantly."

For more information about the Helvidius Group, write or visit:

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