

# Discoverer or destroyer?

## Columbus at center of storm over historical perception

The Associated Press

**Whither Columbus?**  
 Explorer or evildoer? Discoverer or de-spoiler?  
 Nearly five centuries after his epic 70-day voyage, this native of Italy and agent of Spain is at the center of a tricky cross-current equal to any encountered when he headed West to find East in 1492.  
 Just consider some Columbus Day events this year.

Replicas of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria depart Spain on Saturday for a journey retracing Columbus' Atlantic route. In the District of Columbia, a ceremony at the Columbus statue and a reception at the Columbus Club kick off a year-long national observance.

But at sunrise, in another corner of the

nation's capital, an American Indian group known as the 1992 Alliance will read the names of native tribes exterminated by sword or disease after Columbus landed. The memorial begins what is called "The Year of the Indigenous Peoples."

This time, it seems, the Indians are ready for Columbus, and they aren't laying down a welcome mat.

"Indians had a lax immigration policy back then," said Suzan Harjo, national coordinator of the 1992 Alliance and a Cheyenne and Creek Indian. She offered this short history: "They came, we welcomed, they killed."

Such are the sensitivities that the national Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission will commemorate, not celebrate, what is called an encounter, not a discovery. Some call it an invasion.

Although Columbus died in relative obscurity, he is the world's best-known

explorer. More pieces of America are named for him than anyone other than George Washington, including 47 cities and towns in the United States, plus universities, rivers, streets and plazas.

But Columbus-bashers now blame him for genocide, slavery, colonialism, plunder of tons of gold and silver, and environmental destruction.

The National Council of Councils set aside 1492 as a year of repentance and reflection. The discovery of America, the organization asserted, brought "legalized occupation, genocide, economic exploitation and a deep level of institutional racism and moral decadence."

Columbus "makes Hitler look like a juvenile delinquent," said Indian activist Russell Means. "The Spanish conquest must be repudiated. Celebrating it would be shameful and the justification of a massacre," said Ecuadorian Indian leader Manuel Castro.

Indian groups are greeting the replicas of Columbus' caravels with protest canoes, sailing to Europe to discover Spain and grieving the loss of life and lands with periods of silence.

Columbus' champions are pressing ahead with their celebrations. In addition to sponsoring an anniversary voyage that will end in San Francisco on Oct. 12, 1992, Spain is host to a world's fair. Italy also plans observances.

But the anti-celebrations have sucked some of the wind from their sails.

"These groups are seeking to associate Columbus with every ill that has beset the New World since it was introduced to the Old World," said Philip R. Piccigallo, executive director of the Order of Sons of Italy in America.

Some scholars see the 500th anniversary as an opportunity to tell the unvarnished story. Maybe it's time to discover Columbus.

## Out of the cradle

### 'Mr. Babyproofer' makes homes safe

NEW YORK (AP) — They listen to whale sounds at birth, they eat special-delivery baby food, they ride around in \$1,000 European prams. And now the babies of yuppies can take their first steps in homes babyproofed by a professional — Mr. Babyproofer.

"There's no place like home," says Mr. Babyproofer, "for things that are dangerous to the young."

Mr. Babyproofer is Anthony Simnowski, a young father and contractor who was spending a lot of time adapting apartments and houses for children. So last year, he branched out and formed New York Baby Proofing Co. For a fee, he will rid a home of the myriad threats to young life and limb.

Most of his clients are young professional couples who are security conscious — or security obsessed — but lack the time or the know-how to babyproof their own places.

For \$45, Simnowski will evaluate a home and explain what must be done to make it safe for creeping, crawling and toddling. The work itself can cost thousands, but most apartments can be babyproofed for about \$300 — "less than a stroller," according to Simnowski's wife and partner, Mary Ann.

Although some prudent souls retain the Simnowskis before the children are ambulatory (and sometimes even before they are born), most call for help only when the need has become all too apparent.

### Engineering, science scholarships available

Applications for 25 scholarships are available for undergraduate students majoring in engineering and science disciplines.

The scholarships, which are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities, are designated for students interested in pursuing careers in environmental restoration or waste management.

The Environmental Restoration/Waste Management Scholarship Program includes full payment of tuition and fees at a DOE-approved institution, a \$600 monthly stipend and a three-month practicum assignment at a DOE facility engaged in environmental restoration and waste management.

For applications or more information, contact Peggy Gibson, Environmental Restoration/Waste Management Scholarship Program, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Science/Engineering Education Division, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 37831-0117.

## OPPORTUNITIES AT HARRIS

### OCTOBER STUDIES

#### WEEKEND STUDIES

STUDY #	REQUIREMENTS	LENGTH OF STAY	PHYSICAL DATE	PAY
14224	<b>MEN 19-50</b> (Non-Smokers)	Thurs. Evening to Mon. Morning	Thursday October 10	\$250
13866	<b>MEN 19-50</b>	Weekends & Weekday returns	Wednesday October 16	\$450
13811	<b>MEN&amp;WOMEN 19-99</b> (with psoriasis)	Weekends & Weekday returns	Tuesday October 22	\$1000

#### SHORT-TERM STUDIES

STUDY #	REQUIREMENTS	LENGTH OF STAY	PHYSICAL DATE	PAY
14107-2	<b>MEN 19-45</b>	Mon. Evening to Fri. Morning	Sunday October 20	\$350
14093-2	<b>MEN&amp;WOMEN 19-45</b> (With Heartburn)	Wed. Evenings to Fri. Mornings	Wednesday October 23	\$800
13953	<b>MEN 21-40</b> (Heavy Smokers)	Sun. Evening to Fri. Morning	Thursday October 24	\$400
14354	<b>MEN 19-40</b> (Non-Smokers)	Mon. Evenings to Wed. Mornings	Monday October 28	\$450
14285	<b>MEN 19-40</b>	10 Days	Monday October 28	\$800
14369	<b>MEN 19-55</b>	Sun. Evenings to Fri. Mornings	Tuesday October 29	\$750

#### DAYTIME STUDIES

STUDY #	REQUIREMENTS	LENGTH OF STAY	PHYSICAL DATE	PAY
13838	<b>MEN&amp;WOMEN 19-65</b>	Six Brief Visits	Wednesday October 16	\$50
14166	<b>MEN&amp;WOMEN 19-75</b> (with high blood pressure)	20 Brief Visits	Call For Dates	\$650

For Weekends, Short & Long-Term Studies, Call 474-0627, Mon-Thur 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Fri. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
 For Daytime Studies, Call 476-6548 Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



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