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# Poll shows Columbus still a hero

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The reputation of Christopher Columbus remains relatively untarnished 500 years after his arrival in the New World, an Associated Press poll shows: About two in three Americans regard him as a hero.

The anniversary of the Italian navigator's first voyage across the Atlantic has brought renewed scrutiny of the explorer's effect on the natives of the land he mistook for "the Indies."

Columbus robbed, brutalized and enslaved Indians and started centuries of destruction of their cultures. But only 15 percent in the poll said they agreed with those who call Columbus a villain.

Sixty-four percent said he is a hero. Nine percent said he is both.

The remainder said he is neither, or were unsure.

A majority, 56 percent, said they would like to see Columbus Day observed as a celebration, while 32 percent wanted it to be a solemn day to reflect on the past. The rest were not sure or wanted it observed both ways.

The poll was taken Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 among a random sample of 1,001 adults by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., part of AUS Consultants. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

History has recorded that Columbus was devoted to — perhaps obsessed with — the idea of sailing west to reach "the East." He spent more than seven years preparing and getting the backing of the Spanish monarchs for his 1492 voyage.

Those polled were more likely

to see Columbus as motivated a quest for knowledge than greed.

Six in 10 cited his curiosity about the world as a motivating factor. Half agreed that he was motivated by a sense of adventure. Forty-four percent cited a search for gold and profit. Just 20 percent said a desire for fame was one of the motivations.

Men were slightly more likely than women to mention fame and profits. Those who considered Columbus a villain most often saw him as motivated by a search for gold.

Eighteen percent of men only 12 percent of women considered Columbus a villain. While a majority of those who vilify Columbus wanted a holiday to be solemn, a third they still wanted it to be a celebration.

# Report attacks administration FDA plan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's plan to change how the Food and Drug Administration approves new drugs would undermine the agency's ability to make sure medicines are safe, a House committee report says.

The report, approved by the House Government Operations Committee, is a 27-page attack on Vice President Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness and its call for altering the FDA's operations.

"The Quayle Council's recommendations strongly resemble the 'wish list' it received at a secret meeting with the drug industry last year," the report says. "The Quayle Council's initiatives may well slow down drug approvals, while exposing consumers unnecessarily to dangerous drugs."

A confidential copy of the report, approved 24-14 by the committee, was obtained by The Associated Press.

The committee recommends that the FDA junk



Quayle

the ideas of the Quayle council. Quayle spokesman Jeff Nease rejected the committee's criticism.

The committee's complaints came from an investigation earlier this year by its human resources subcommittee, chaired by the late Rep. J. Weiss, D-N.Y., said Quayle. The White House had fired arms at the FDA to get changes adopted.

The complaints center on proposals to have the FDA have private contractors review new drug applications and have the companies submit applications for clinical trials to special boards, usually universities or hospitals, instead of the FDA.

The report also criticizes plans for accelerated approval of new drugs, saying it should be limited to treatments for serious or life-threatening conditions.

# Debate

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supporters of each man.

Bush began the debate by saying that he felt the most important issue separating the candidates was experience. But Perot was quick to ridicule the notion, observing tartly that he had no experience in "running up a \$4 trillion debt" or in overseeing "a gridlock government" or presiding over a crumbling education system.

Perot said: "If it's time for action, I've got the kind of experience that counts." Then, speaking up for Clinton, he said that it was important to measure when an incident occurs. "As a young man, time passes." He said mistakes as a senior government official were far more serious.

Bush, criticized throughout his campaign for paying too little attention to domestic affairs, promised to name Baker as his

domestic coordinator. It had been thought that Baker was interested in returning to his former post as secretary of state.

On taxes, a subject of conflicting television commercials, Clinton said his economic proposals would shield all households with income of less than \$200,000 from tax increases and "restore some fairness to the tax code."

"We've got to have no more trickle down," he said. Bush, who has charged that Clinton's plan would raise taxes on the middle class, said, "You end up socking it to the working man." Over and over, he characterized Clinton economics as a tax-and-spend program.

Perot said his own economic plan included a period for "shared sacrifice," and defended his proposal to raise the gasoline tax by 50 cents a gallon.

"I know it's not popular ... but the people who will be helped by it the most will be the working people who will get jobs created by this tax." He said a Perot victo-

ry would be unique and will give him the momentum and mandate to enact his economic remedies.

Clinton and Perot both pledged to get cracking immediately after the election with proposals for introduction immediately after the January inauguration.

The president said he was anxious to work with a "brand new Congress" next year, though there is no guarantee that he would be more successful with the new lineup than with the old.

Bush insisted that the nation's problems are not so severe. Clinton portends, saying, "The country's not coming apart at the seams," and that the United States had recovered from worst problems than the current ones.

But Clinton bore in, and Perot too. Clinton said that America's wages have declined in the last years of Republican rule in the White House. Perot said international competitors are doing better than the United States in business and government working hand in hand.

# Ship

Continued from Page 1

Hamburger Supper on Oct. 19, Burns said.

Students are going to recreate both the Spanish court and the port where the ship was docked, she said. The students are going to research what life was like at that time and create scenery based on that.

The students' ship has a frame made of wood and chicken wire covered with brown sheets, Burns said. The back will be a raised quarterdeck, and the decking will be the floor of the ship. They plan to use plastic PVC pipe for the masts.

The classes are building the ship in such a way as to show what it was like to spend six weeks on a late 15th Century ship.

In addition to working on this project, the students are being taught about Columbus from a

different perspective, one reflecting the fact that not all cultures celebrate Columbus as a hero.

"Not everyone celebrates Columbus Day, and we want to give students the information to make that decision (of whether or not to celebrate the holiday)," Burns said.

The sixth grade teachers are excited about this project and hope they had the chance.

"This is an opportunity to show how education should work," Burns said.

# Aggie

Continued from Page 2

Whatever the final tally, scores of College Republicans have been handing out registration forms since the summer: at football games, grocery stores, the student union, even door-to-door.

"If you look through the whole community, we were the major ones putting out the effort" to register voters, Meuret said.

"Here at Texas A&M, the conservatives are activists, which is different than most universities," he said. "They get involved in the political process. That's what makes this campus different."

Democrats also recognize the effect GOP student voters could have on down-ballot races.

Some local Democratic candidates already have made a pitch to the Republican club, explaining their stance and trying to convince the Bush-Quayle supporters not to vote a straight ticket.

"They're concerned. If we're able to register that many student voters, that totally changes the outcome of any election in this county," Meuret said.

Students made the difference in electing the local sheriff during his first campaign, a narrow win in 1984, Brazos County GOP

chairman Lewis said. And state Rep. Steve Ogden, a Republican from Bryan, said Aggies took him to the Capitol for his first term in 1990, too.

"I think the students at Texas A&M are a major force in any political race in Brazos County, period. Their support of my candidacy had a lot to do with the margin with which I won," said Ogden, who is unopposed this fall.

"They loved Ronald Reagan, and they love (Sen.) Phil Gramm, and they generally respond very positively to the standard Republican arguments, particularly when you use the Republican philosophy to appeal to what they want, which is opportunity. And if you talk about the Republican philosophy that appeals to less government, more economic opportunity to pursue their dreams, you're hitting them right in their heart," Ogden said.

The students also provide a major source of campaign volunteers, Ogden said.

"The political grunt work in this county is done more and more by those students, and they do a wonderful job," he said.

"They are an incredible resource of worker bees. And I can tell you, as a candidate in this county, if the students are for you, your opponent's in big trouble."

believes more and more Aggies will turn to the left this year — especially, for the same reason, Ogden cites: economics.

"In the past, I think the campus has certainly had a reputation for straight-ticket voting the Republican side, and that's very frightening for any down-ballot Democrat," he said.

"If you're in a situation where you're down-ballot, and you know there's going to be a large group of voters who primarily are interested in the national race, they don't care too much about what's going on below that," Ogden said. "It's very difficult to get down-ballot Democrat to be comfortable working that campus."

It can be uncomfortable, too, being a pro-Clinton student on campus.

"It's very hard to be a Democrat at A&M," senior Adam Burns said during a confrontation between Clinton and Bush supporters after the Quayle rally. "The Republicans are quite militant."

But the Aggie Democrats are growing — up to 300 members now, club leaders say. More members may make up 25 percent of students, although many are scared to admit it.

"That's not much. But at A&M, it's quite a few," he said.

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