**Columbus Controversy-Round Two**

**Arguments AGAINST**

• Christopher Columbus was not the first European to reach American soil. Vikings from Iceland and Greenland reached Newfoundland in North America almost 500 years before Columbus set sail.

• Columbus did not discover America, he invaded it. He forcibly took land and gold, and made slaves of the people he encountered.

• Many Italian-Americans use Columbus Day as an opportunity to celebrate their heritage, but there are no other federal holidays that celebrate ethnic, religious, social or cultural groups.

• Before he became an explorer for Spain, Christopher Columbus transported African slaves to Portugal.

• The Columbian exchange he initiated resulted in the spread of ideas, technology, animals, language, religion, and food. It also resulted in the importation of hundreds of thousands of slaves and diseases like small pox that killed thousands of slaves and Native Americans.

• Although the Taíno people inhabited Hispaniola long before Columbus ever set sail for the New World, Christopher Columbus conquered them and forced them to pay tribute. According to their tribute every adult was forced to pay gold or several pounds of cotton every three months. If the Taíno could not afford it, their hands were cut off.

• Columbus’ arrival in the Caribbean and conquest of the Taíno set an example for other European nations to follow. During the next two centuries the Spanish, French, English, and Dutch conquered Native Americans and forcibly removed their land. This resulted in the complete removal of Native American people by the United States in the 19th century.

• There is a new movement in the country to celebrate alternative holidays on Columbus Day. In South Dakota, the day is officially a state holiday known as "Native American Day", not Columbus Day. In Berkley, California, October 12th is known as Indigenous People’s Day, and is celebrated with a Native American pow wow.