

## IT'S ONLY A MOVIE...

COMPILED BY DONA DE SANCTIS

*How stereotyping shapes the public image of today's Italian Americans. Contributors' names, when known, are in parenthesis.*

- Reporting on Italy's recent World Cup victory, *New York Times* sports writer George Vecsey noted, "I love the blue uniform, the merry anthem ...and **even the occasional hit men who play for the Azzurri.**" [Emphasis ours.] Called gently to task by CSJ member Frank Travisano, Mr. Vecsey apologized.
- **The TV Boss**, a new \$300 million Public Service Ad (PSA) campaign encourages parents to control what their children see on TV. In one PSA, a mother tells three Mafiosi that she is blocking their show because "whacking Vinnie in the head with a shovel" is too graphic for her kids. **Contact Ellyn Fisher, 212-984-1964, [efisher@adcouncil.org](mailto:efisher@adcouncil.org)** (*Jeanine Botta, Karen Fanale and others*)
- In his July 28 opening monologue, David Letterman plugged the movie *Miami Vice* with the comment, "I have a part... I play a pimp named Guido!" (*Frank Travisano, New Jersey*)
- *The Godfather* is now available as a video game that teaches kids how to earn money and respect by stealing, extortion and murder. It's based on many scenes from the famous movie, including the horse's-head-in-the-bed episode. Strongly condemned by *Godfather* director Francis Ford Coppola, it features original



cast members Robert Duvall, James Caan and even Brando. Brought to you by Electronic Arts. (*Joseph Scafetta, CSJ state chair, Virginia*)

- Carmelo Sberna, owner of *Serpico's in the Falls*, an Italian restaurant in Cuyahoga Falls, OH, has named one of his dining areas "The Mob Room" and filled it with photos of long-dead Italian American gangsters. (*John Fazio, Esq., Ohio*)
- First in line to purchase five lots on which he planned to build homes for family and friends in Myrtle Beach, S.C., **Nick Francovilla** learned that mysteriously all the lots were already sold. "We have enough New York wanna-be Italian gangsters here," the realty agent told him.
- Need an axe or a gun with an Italian flair? Contact designer Antonio Riello, whose line, "Ladies Weapons" features pieces "born from the Italian obsession for high fashion as well as for violence" and marketed to "wives of mafia bosses, arms dealers [and] sophisticated ladies."
- A "Wise Guys" Meatball Eating Contest kicked off the closing festivities of a summer-long outdoor celebration presented by the Little Italy Merchants Association (LIMA) in New York City's famed Little Italy. The contest food came from "Wiseguy Meatballs," a new product line featured on the "Wiseguy" radio show on Sirius Satellite Radio, hosted by Vinny "Big Pussy" Pastore, formerly of *The Sopranos*.



The contest was sponsored by Bolla Wines and Peroni Beer. To complain, contact LIMA at 212/302-0551 or see [www.littleitalynyconline.org](http://www.littleitalynyconline.org). [*John Perrella, New York*]

Send your contributions to: "It's Only a Movie", *Italian American Magazine*, 219 E Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. E-mail: [ddeanctis@osia.org](mailto:ddeanctis@osia.org). Include name and daytime telephone number. No telephone calls please. Submissions cannot be acknowledged.