

## it's only a movie . . .

How stereotyping shapes the public image of today's Italian Americans. Contributors' names, when known, are in parenthesis. Send your contributions to: "It's Only a Movie", Italian America Magazine, 219 E Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. E-mail: ddesanctis@osia.org. Include name and daytime telephone number. No telephone calls please. Submissions cannot be acknowledged.

- Are you afraid that the stereotype of Italians with thick mustaches. speaking broken English might disappear? No problem, thanks to Nintendo and its video game "Mario Kart Double Dash," which present brothers Mario and Luigi, and the "goombahs," mushroom-shaped characters who get whacked in the game. *Kay Costello.*



- Proud for all the wrong reasons, Dawn Capone, the owner of a small deli in Bloomingdale, outside Chicago, uses her connection to an infamous relative to promote her business. Photo by dedicated activist *Walter Santi.*



- Describing alleged illegal activity by ex-referee Tim Donaghy, Herald Tribune sports columnist, Doug Fernandes wrote that Donaghy was "suspected of conspiring with Guido and Paulie" in the July 22 issue. A letter of protest was sent to the newspaper's executive editor by CSJ Florida State Chair *Anthony Cagliostro.*
- Now middle-schoolers have their own mafia role model in Vince Luca, the teenage son of a mafia boss who tries to date the daughter of an FBI agent. The

teen novel by Gordon Korman presents a number of honest characters—all of them Irish American. *Don Fiore.*



- Christmas is around the corner and once again children will see the heart-warming movie, *Miracle on 34th Street.* The re-make of this classic in 1994 by 20th Century Fox. begins with New York City's Thanksgiving Day parade, as the real Santa Claus, played by Richard Attenborough, spots the parade's drunken Santa and chides him publicly. The sham Santa's ethnicity was left out of the 1947 original, but in the newer version is named Tony Falacchi for no apparent reason other than in Hollywood all the bad guys are Italian. *Don Fiore.*



### BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS:

- Controversy over the "Wopburgher" featured on the menu of the Blue Parrot restaurant in Louisville, CO prompted two polls that asked if the name should be changed. In the poll by the city's Daily Camera newspaper, people voted 58% in favor of changing the name. Participants in the second poll, offered by the NBC-TV affiliate in Chicago, were even more offended: 82% voted for a name change. Kudos to **Manny Alfano** and his **Italian American One Voice Coalition** for getting the vote out!

*Compiled by Dona De Sanctis*