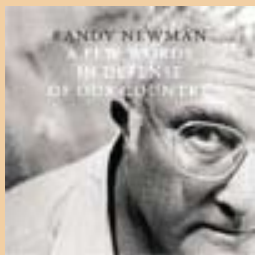


it's "only" a movie...

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

- **NO RESPECT!** Referring to Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Sam Alito in his song, "A Few Words in Defense of Our Country," Randy Newman sings, "You know it pisses me off a little that this Supreme Court is gonna outlive me.... But I defy you, anywhere in the world, to find me two Italians as tightass as the two Italians we got."



- **PEOPLE'S CHOICE?** As mandolins play, the cartoon, "Grova Nostra," introduces us to "Don Guiniani's mafia of guinea pigs," who keep order in a small town. Billed as "a gangster-violent socio-political satire reminiscent of classics like the Godfather ... with a Disney look and feel," it airs on the Comedy Central cable network which voted it its "People's Choice video."

Frank Rich, Waltham, MA

- **THANK YOU, TONY SOPRANO.**

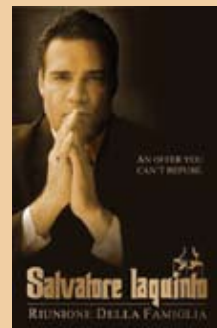
In his article, "My Jersey Journey: A Cultural Guide to New Jersey" Perry Garfinkel notes, "We New Jerseyans are not all Italian and we do not all try to kill our colleagues and bury them in the Pine Barrens." The article ran in the *AARP Magazine's* Sept-Oct., 2008 issue. To complain, contact aarpmagazine@aarp.org



- **THE BIGOT OF BELMAR** In the July 4 edition of the free newsletter, Kenneth E. Pringle, mayor of the seaside town of Belmar, NJ, offers constituents, he took aim at "the guidos who show up tanned to the color of coconut shells" and "hair-sprayed Staten Island girls" who fight with brass knuckles and straight razors. His answer to the NJ CSJ complaint? "It's meant to be tongue-in-cheek." To complain, write him at mayor@belmar.com or call 732/681-3700.

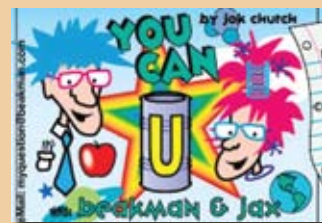
Grace Olivo, Chairperson, CSJ-NJ

- **ITALIAN PRIDE?** He serves in the Virginia state legislature and is up for re-election next year so **Delegate Sal Iaquinto (R)** decided to raise campaign funds by tapping his inner gangster. His printed invite to the Sept. 16 fund-raiser featured him as an Al Pacino look-alike and advised guests to wear "zoot suits or business casual. No cement shoes." Sons of Italy members took offense, the media took note and Mr. Iaquinto apologized after having dinner with his family at the Roma Lodge #254 in Virginia Beach.



Paul Siebeking, John Del Russo & Albert Marra, Virginia

- **HISTORY LESSON** The Romans invented taxes, executions-as-entertainment and bad taste in architecture, according to **Jok Church**, creator of "You Can with Beakman and Jax," a syndicated comic strip that teaches children "science, technology and history." Church's summary of Rome's contributions was presented in his Aug. 31 Sunday column. He runs in nearly 300 newspapers and receives more mail from kids than anyone except Santa Claus.



Lynn Martone, New York

- **CRIMINALLY INCLINED?** In her July 7 review of two films on organized crime in Italy that took top prizes at the Cannes Film Festival last May ("Winners at Cannes are hits in Italy, too"), Chicago Tribune critic Christine Spolar noted that both *Il Divo* and *Gomorra* "have triggered discussions about the relentless criminality of Italian society."

Compiled by Dona De Sanctis

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO: "It's Only a Movie", Italian America Magazine, 219 E Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. E-mail: dde sanctis@osia.org. Include name and daytime telephone number. No telephone calls please. Submissions cannot be acknowledged.