

IT'S "ONLY" A MOVIE . . .

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

APOLOGY ACCEPTED The U.S. Postal Service has apologized to the **Grand Lodge of Florida** and **Anthony Cagliostro**, the state CSJ chair, for showing an internal video that used the "Godfather" character. Alerted by OSIA member **Donald Mignone**, Cagliostro sent a strong letter of protest to District Manager Timothy Healy. In his reply, Mr. Healy said "I can assure that the video has been pulled and will not be shown again."

"GOOD" READING? To encourage young people to read, the Ocean County Public Library System in New Jersey distributed bookmarks listing works in fiction and non-fiction on the Mafia. Titles included "The Godfather" and "The Donnie Brasco Story." The NJ CSJ took immediate action with a letter of protest from NJ CSJ Chair **Grace Olivo**, which resulted in a letter of apology and the assurance that the offensive bookmarks were discarded. Grace then sent five pounds worth of CSJ bookmarks on Italian American achievements that were distributed to all local libraries.



SPREADING THE WORD Even the Greeks are cashing in on America's mafia craze. Just Fun Softwares in Cyprus is marketing an Internet game, "The Mafia Boss," with the invitation to "kiss the Don's ringor die." The game is "based on the real Mafia Life so-called *La Cosa Nostra*." **Stella Grillo**, NYS CSJ chair, sent a strong letter of protest, urging the withdrawal of the game.

APOLOGIZING FOR COLUMBUS Poor Columbus! Even that bastion of Catholic learning at the University of Notre Dame worried that showing 19th century murals of

the great navigator "may be offensive to some individuals." To justify their presence on campus, the university has published a pamphlet on the 12 murals that explain Columbus's life. Vatican portrait artist Luigi Gregori did the murals in 1874.

Fran Kaufman, New Jersey

TIME TO RETIRE! The HBO series, "The Sopranos" may be history, but its characters and images are still making money for the New York Dinner Theater with its interactive show, "The Soapranos," a parody of the TV show in which gang members throw Tony "Soprano" a retirement party. To complain, call 1-800-383-6080 or email interactiveshows@newyorkdinnertheater.com

Mary Ierubino, Florida

SIN CITY'S MOB MUSEUM To add to its many cultural attractions, Las Vegas will soon have a museum dedicated to organized crime. Expected to open in 2010, the Las Vegas Law Enforcement and Organized Crime Museum exhibits will include photographs, wire tap transcripts and other materials courtesy of the FBI, whose former Special Agent Ellen Knowlton, spearheaded the project. Mayor Oscar Goodman, a former attorney who defended Meyer Lansky among others, arranged to sell a downtown building for \$1 to a non-profit group that has raised \$15 million so far for the project, which is expected to cost about \$50 million on completion.



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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.