



IT'S "ONLY" A MOVIE...

How stereotyping shapes the public image of today's Italian Americans.

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

CONTRIBUTORS' NAMES, WHEN KNOWN, ARE IN PARENTHESIS.

- **BECKEL BIGOTRY** Co-host of Fox News's political talk show, "The Five," **Bob Beckel** often refers to Italian Americans as "grease balls," and "guidos." Responding to a comment that all Italians are not in the Mafia, he said, "Yes they are." A recovering alcoholic and drug addict, Beckel has apologized for slurs aimed at "rednecks," but not to Italian Americans. Contact him at thefive@foxnews.com (*Manny Alfano, NJ*)



- **JERSEY BOYS & GIRLS** To viewers headed for the beach last summer, **Daniel Sieberg**, a co-anchor on ABC's "World News Now," suggested meeting "all the guidos and guidettes" in New Jersey. He refused to apologize even after a co-anchor warned that failure to apologize would trigger complaints. Contact him at Daniel.sieberg@gmail.com. (*John W. Del Russo, Sr., Virginia*)

- **CARFELLAS = CARWRECK** The Discovery Channel's "Carfellas" is a reality show starring convicted felon **Mike De Lucia** (aka "Mickey D.") and his pals, **Tommie** and **Mario**, who run a used car lot in on NY's Long Island. Grossly overweight, ignorant and foul-mouthed, the three middle-aged, cigar-smoking bozos fight, curse, and play pranks on each other as they push "previously owned" autos. The program is produced by Leftfield Pictures's **Brent Montgomery** and **David George**. (*John DiBattista, Maryland CSJ President*)



- **MIAMI MAFIA?** "A degree from Miami gives you amazing career connections," boasts the Ohio university in its promotional brochure. Offensively (and illogically), the school refers to its national network as "**the Miami Mafia**," because "*we have so many interns and graduates working in Washington, D.C.*" (*Bob Giusto, Ohio*)
- **SELLING THE STEREOTYPE** "Tired of Wise Guys and Bad Deals?" asks **Jack Daniels Motors** in New Jersey. To promote themselves, the multi-branch dealerships air TV commercials, featuring Italian American gangster puppets that intimidate prospective customers and even hit one with a two-by-four. "Could you see any other racial, ethnic or religious negative stereotypes... used in such a way?," asked *NY Post's* **Phil Mushnick** in a July 2011 column. Complain to gzulli@jackdanielsmotors.com (*Vito Sciancalepore, New Jersey*)
- **MISSISSIPPI MUD** Billing itself as an "Italian family restaurant," in Natchez, MS, "Lil Dagos" offers "good home-cooked Italian meals," such as "Dago" meatballs, sausages, and cheese toast (?). "We hope our name does not offend anyone, especially those who share our Italian ancestry," the café's home page states. "...our Scottish/Irish mother always referred to the six of us as 'lil dagos.' She meant no harm and we assure you we mean no harm now." So change the name!

