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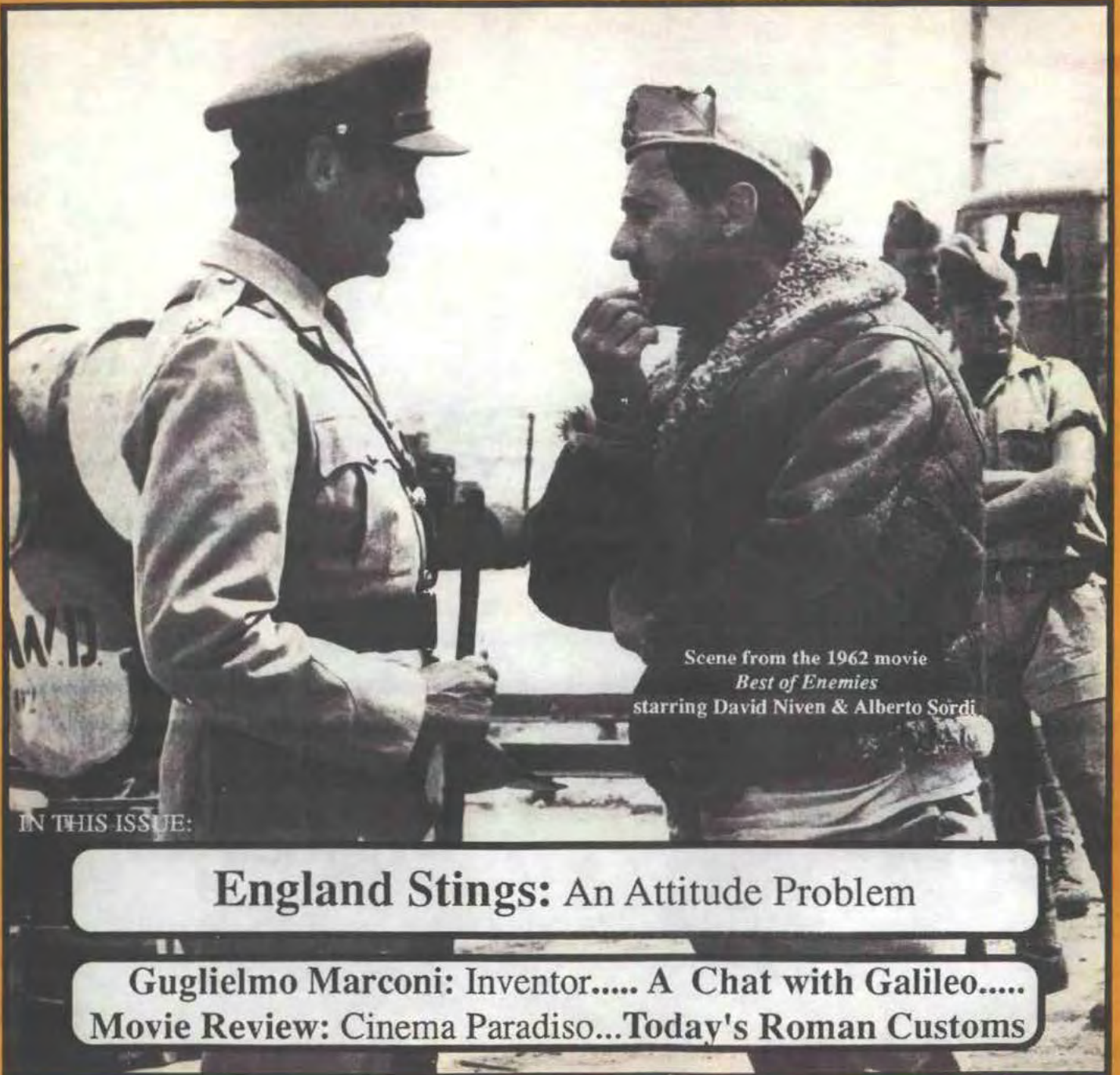
Vol. 4, No. 2

Spring, 1991

ITALIC

WAY

The Newsletter of the Italic Studies Institute, Inc.



Scene from the 1962 movie
Best of Enemies
starring David Niven & Alberto Sordi

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Letters

Address all letters to: LETTERS, The Italic Way, PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001

Agrees and Disagrees

I found the Winter 1991 issue of *The Italic Way* interesting and informative.

I agree with your editorials, "Taken for Granted, Again" and "Academy Awards." Coppola and Scorsese portray Italian-Americans in a negative and degrading way. They do not represent us.

I do not agree with your other editorial that patriotism is not waving flags, or tying yellow ribbons. I know many flag wavers (I'm one of them) who joined the armed forces, back veteran's rights, and are law-abiding citizens. In the 1960s and 70s, patriotism was considered a dirty word, and flag wavers were regarded as degenerates. I am glad to see that we have finally regained our senses, and support our country and the men in uniform.

I agree with W. A. Marsano that Italians are not lineal descendants of the Romans. Italy has been a melting pot of many peoples and cultures. The regional divisions are still alive and kicking. But, whether we come from the top or tip of the boot or the islands near it, we are all Italians, and proud of it.

I have enclosed my \$10.00 with the hope that you keep politics (Liberal-Conservative) out. And bear in mind we



Marco Lokar returned to Italy in the aftermath of threats and taunts.

are Italian-Americans, not American-Italians.

Rocco A. Pascucci
Whitestone, NY

(Ed. - While we will stay clear of the political side of your opinions we will contest your historical side. Without the Roman connection there must be a huge gap in your version of Italian history. What mysterious force, for example, linked any region of Italy with another? Why isn't "multi-ethnic" Italy just another Lebanon? Why was the second unification of Italy in the 19th Century called the risor-

gimento [resurrection]? If you and Mr. Morsano have a new theory to explain this we invite your documentation.)

Ugly Americans

Many of us remember the 1965 best-seller *The Ugly American* by William Lederer and Eugene Burdick. It appears the recent wave of patriotic fervor sweeping across our nation is spawning a new generation of ugly Americans, many of whom apparently attended the recent St. John vs. Seton Hall basketball game at Madison Square Garden.

With a large crowd to assure their anonymity, many fans used the opportunity to cowardly and unmercifully taunt Seton Hall player Marco Lokar for his decision not to wear an American flag patch on his uniform. Lokar, an Italian citizen, is opposed to all war for personal and religious reasons. And if the shameful behavior of the Garden fans was not enough, Lokar also received threatening telephone calls, prompting him and his pregnant wife to return to their homeland.

History tells us that even in Nazi Germany during the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, spectators wildly cheered American Jesse Owens.

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Letters

Hitler's Aryan supremacy ideas notwithstanding, the masses understood that athletics and politics were separate issues.

Erwin Krause
SeaCliff, NY

(Reprinted from Newsday, February 28, 1991)

Appreciation and Thanks

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your kind invitation to attend the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 11, 1991 at the Waldorf Astoria. Indeed it was quite an event with a spectacular audience in attendance. *Multi prominenti!*

Many thanks for your recognition of the Order's presence and my position in the Grand Lodge. *Ad multos annos!*

Joseph Sciamè
New York State
1st V.P.
Order, Sons of
Italy in America



The Institute's 4th Annual Dinner Dance at the Waldorf. A view from the balcony. (For more photos see page 24.)

Coppola's Complaint

I find it hard to understand why you [NY Times] included *The Godfather, Part III* in your article about sequels of hit films that flopped. How any film that has grossed more than \$70 million to date and [was] nominated for best picture and best director can be called a flop is tough for me to understand.

I know that expectations were drummed up for the film to be a blockbuster. But those are tough to achieve and not really anyone's true expectations. Especially for a long picture with

adult subject matter. This film has already grossed more than *The Godfather, Part II*, and still has its release in Europe, Japan and the rest of the world to go.

It's hard for me to read that this film is a failure and I did it only for the money, when the true story is more involved.

Francis Coppola,
Los Angeles, CA

(Reprinted from The New York Times, March 25, 1991)

(Ed - It seems Mr. C wants respect as well as money. Sounds like another profession we know.)

Correction

In our last issue about Britons of Italian descent we stated that Marconi's mother was English. Actually, she was Scotch-Irish. However, his maternal relations lived in England.

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ITALIC WAY

- SICILY - Italic from the start
- THE ITALIAN CIVIL WAR - It made Italy great
 - FORBIDDEN ITALY - Sex among the ruins
 - EARLY ROCK - Before the Beatles Italians ruled
 - CELTIC ITALY - The Irish side



All'Italiana

RUDY TO RIDE AGAIN

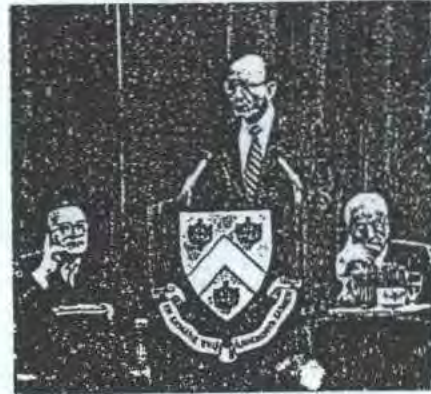
New York City is reeling. The once-mighty metropolis is in a state of criminal neglect and fiscal disarray. An atrocity is committed nearly every nano-second. It is not uncommon to read of children being gunned down in the streets on successive days. Public services are overtaxed. And as the city gets grimmer on the ground, air pollution levels continue to increase.

New York is swiftly approaching the low-cleanliness standards of such aging cities as London and Athens. All the while, Mayor David Dinkins dithers. His inaction, however, cannot account for the sheer magnitude of the problem. A decade of mismanagement by the former Mayor Edward "Eddie" Koch brought "Gotham to the brink." The sartorially resplendent Dinkins merely pushed it over the edge.

But help may be on the way. Crime-fighter Rudy Giuliani is strongly considering a second run for Gracie Mansion. Having tested the mettle of David Dinkins — and found him wanting — Giuliani would relish another chance to clean up the nastiest town this side of Dodge City. According to published reports, Giuliani is ready to throw his six-gallon hat into the ring for next year's primary. After that it could well be showdown time for David "Dude" Dinkins.

ITALIC MAGNETISM

When asked to identify the nations with the greatest expertise in the construction of magnets for the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC), D. Allan Bromley, President Bush's Science Advisor, said: "The Japanese, the Italians, and ourselves are the three most capable groups in the world in this field." Italy also features prominently in other international scientific projects such as the Moon-Mars mission, the human gene project, the space station, and the mission to Planet Earth (involv-



Giulio Andreotti (left) and Francesco Cossiga (right)

ing polar platforms). Looks like the universe is the limit for Italian science.

HORSE OF A TRICOLOR

Thanks to the restoration efforts of retired airline pilot Charles C. Dent, and Garth Herrick, an art collector and amateur sculptor, Italy and Leonardo da Vinci will be honored with a 24-foot-tall bronze steed. And they're not just horsing around. The equestrian in question is a copy of a full-scale clay model Leonardo built but never completed for his patron, Lodovico Sforza, in 1499. Captain Dent was encouraged in his pursuit by Dr. Carlo Pedretti, professor of Leonardo da Vinci studies at the University

of California at Los Angeles and director of the Armand Hammer Center for Leonardo da Vinci Studies there. Thirteen years of this labor of love will soon be consummated as the good captain prepares to present the completed statue to Italy in 1993 "as a thank-you for all the cultural gifts bestowed on the world by that country." *Bravissimo, Capitano Dent.*

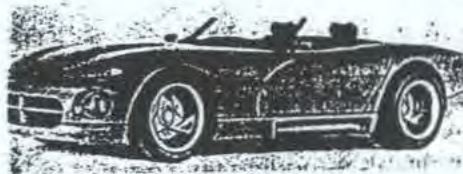
BRAVE SOLDIER

Her death in a combat-related aircraft accident heralded a grim first: American women at war. Major Marie



Aldo Ray
1926-1991

Rossi, 32, was killed during a resupply operation of U.S. Army combat forces in Iraq. Only a week before, Major Rossi was interviewed by CNN and questioned about the possibility of death. Her stoic reply during that interview was in keeping with her military professionalism. Major Rossi had flown three missions ferrying ammunition to ground troops prior to the accident. This was the first time female combatants crossed a front line. Her untimely death is surely mourned by all Americans.



Associated Press

The Dodge Viper, replaced the Japanese-made Dodge Stealth at the Indianapolis 500



All'Italiana

MAMMARY LAME

The Italian fashion house of Benetton is so obsessed with color that it must even exploit basic black to peddle its goods. Utilizing two races to promote the catchy motto "united colors of Benetton," one distasteful ad photo featured a black wetnurse suckling a white infant. The ad was banned in the U.S.A. and Great Britain.

INDY PACE CAR

Bowing to critics who needled him for planning to use a Japanese-made Dodge Stealth as pace car in the Indy 500, Chairman Lee Iaccoca chose instead, an Italian model. The Memorial Day the field of contestants was led by a Chrysler-Lamborghini Viper.

IN THE CHIPS

It may come as quite a surprise to smug chauvinists but the only European computer company that earned money in 1989-90 was Olivetti of Italy. Remarkable all the more because it is not subsidized by any government. In contrast, Bull, France's largest computer maker, lost \$1.2 billion; Nixdorf of Germany lost \$600 million; Philips of Holland lost \$2.25 billion. Still, Olivetti has had to lay off 7,000 workers reflecting declining profits.

It seems that only the Americans



Benetton's provocative advertising campaigns: cutting-edge or shock-tactics?

and Japanese can give the Italians competition. However, Olivetti remains strong in sales to banks and in personal computers. Is it any wonder Italy is the fourth richest nation in the world?

LARGESSE

Among its latest exports, Italy seems to be shipping out *lire*. In a ceremony last May Italian President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti shelled out \$17.5 million dollars to Columbia University in New York for an Italian Academy. Credit for the Italian generosity goes to Dr. Maristella Lorch, a professor of Renaissance literature, who persuaded the Italians to endow the American institution. Dr. Lorch is also a member of the Italic Studies Institute Advisory Council. (We check our mailbox every day but nothing has come from Italy.)

IN PASSING

- **George Sperti, 91**, inventor. An electrical engineer by training, Sperti also straddled the world of chemistry. His inventions included an industrial electric metering device used by Westinghouse, Preparation H for hemorrhoid sufferers, Aspercreme for arthritics, a method for enhancing Vitamin D in milk, frozen or-



Bill Cramer for the New York Times
Charles C. Dent and a model of his Da Vinci-inspired sculpture. Plans are to cast the model in bronze.



Marie Rossi has earned a place in U.S. military history

ange juice concentrate, and some 110 other patented products.

- **Frank Tamagna, 81**, economist. Born in Monza, Italy, Professor Tamagna began working for the United States government prior to the Second World War. He became an advisor to the Allied occupation authorities in Japan and to the Chinese government.

- **Aldo Ray, 64**, actor. Born Aldo DaRe, he starred in the movies *Green Berets*, *Battle Cry*, *The Naked and the Dead*, among others, and played opposite famous stars such as Bogart, Tracy, and Katharine Hepburn. Unlike many Italian-American stars he insisted on keeping a trace of his Italian name.

- **Dominic Bellissimo, 68**, promoter. Along with his mother, Bellissimo developed and marketed the now-famous Buffalo Chicken Wings.

- **Randolfo Pacciardi, 91**, anti-Fascist. Paralleling the life of Garibaldi in many respects, Pacciardi lived a life of danger. Starting as a teenage soldier in the First World War in which he received both Italian and British decorations, Pacciardi went on to be an implacable foe of Mussolini's regime. During the Spanish Civil War he commanded the Garibaldi Brigade which fought Fascist troops at Guadalajara. During the Second World War he recruited Italian-Americans for the Italian Legion to fight against the Axis.

The Italic Way



World Notes

[We present this section to inform our readers of events and trends that may be of interest with regard to ethnic opinions or cultural values.]

LAST EXIT TO LONDON

In London, worrying about your subway running on time is considered a minor concern. Surviving a ride on the Underground is top priority these days. In the past nineteen years, some 325 commuters have tumbled to their deaths when doors sprung open between stations. A stretch of Britain's Midlands has been equated to the Bermuda Triangle because so many commuters have disappeared through faulty doors.

Despite its tenuous grasp on its number six economic position (Italy is #4, France is #5) a recent survey of visitors to Merry Ole England have rated British rail service as among the worst in Europe. But they needn't have taken a poll. The Underground's own chief executive described the system as "an appalling shambles."

SPAIN'S REIGN

Spain was unified some 1,500 years after ancient Italy yet the popular perception is "monolithic" Spain / "fragmented" Italy. While the Italians have had their share of regional autonomy, Spain is having a tough go at reining in Basques and Catalans.

It's gotten to the point in the city of



Sonia Gandhi: asked to lead India's millions.

Barcelona that Spanish is considered a foreign language. Deriding their Spanish overlords as tainted by Arab occupation centuries ago, the Catalans have all but announced their separation from Madrid. "We want to end the Spanish pretense that we are all part of one single culture... which Central Spain has tried to impose for centuries," says Catalan's director of linguistic policy. So now, Catalan is spoken and written everywhere; even Spanish films are dubbed in it. Like



Gen. Carl Vuono retires after a four year hitch preparing the U.S. Army.

as the Army *generalissimo*. It was under his guidance that the volunteer Army became a force to reckon with. A career artilleryman, Vuono's daunting mission was to see that American soldiers were totally trained, motivated, supplied, and well-led to meet any world challenge. The Persian Gulf War was testimony to General Vuono's uncompromising demands for excellence. In the Roman tradition: *Ave atque Vale* (Hail and Farewell).

Spanish, Catalan came out of Latin vernacular. In fact, words like *amic* (friend) and *cap* (head) are closer to the Italian *amico* and *capo* than their Spanish equivalents (*amigo*, *cabeza*).

VUONO RETIRES

Four star general Carl Vuono, Army Chief of Staff, is hanging up his star cluster at the end of June after a four year term

as the Army *generalissimo*. It was under his guidance that the volunteer Army became a force to reckon with. A career artilleryman, Vuono's daunting mission was to see that American soldiers were totally trained, motivated, supplied, and well-led to meet any world challenge. The Persian Gulf War was testimony to General Vuono's uncompromising demands for excellence. In the Roman tradition: *Ave atque Vale* (Hail and Farewell).

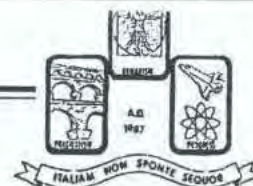
TOKYO CAPTURED

Tiramisu'. It almost sounds Japanese but it's Italian for "pick-me-up." A desert of mega-calories composed of espresso-soaked cake mixed with mascarpone cheese, cocoa powder, and other rich ingredients, tiramisu' is probably more known in Japan than in the Italian-American communities of America. For some inexplicable reason, the combination of favors sends the average son of Nippon into ecstasy. So taken are they by the Italic treat that the Japanese have created a soft drink called Tira (the Italians already have a liquor version). Italy couldn't be more pleased. Although Japanese polls have shown that the Japanese consider Italians stupid for not working hard, the workaholic Japanese have increased imported supplies



Emanuella Tramontina of *Caffe' Salta in Bocca* (Madison at 34th St) presents a new Japanese favorite.

World Notes



of mascarpone cheese from Italy (to the tune of 140 tons!) and stoked demand for Italian restaurants (now 100 in Tokyo alone). Italians now have to work harder to meet demand. The tiramisu' craze is just another of Japan's fanatical binges. *Buon appetito!*

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

• Italian scientists have achieved a major advance in transplant technology. Dr. Giuseppe Remuzzi and a team of specialists in Bergamo, Italy, have succeeded in implanting a donor kidney into a laboratory rat without the use of immune-suppressing drugs. The Italians went beyond current experimental procedures developed in the United States in which foreign cells are introduced into a recipient through the thymus gland. Dr. Remuzzi's team exposed the thymus with cells from a donor kidney ten days before transplanting the whole kidney. The waiting period allowed the recipient's body to accept the foreign cells as its own thus avoiding an immune reaction. If a similar technique can be used in humans the effect would remove the major cause of failure in transplant surgery.

• Dr. Lance Liotta of the National Cancer Institute and a team of researchers have found chemicals that block tumors from spreading and even shrink them. The technique acts to prevent tumor enzymes from being released. Without the flow of enzymes the tumor is incapable of growth. Clinical tests are set to begin within 12 months. Says Dr. Vincent DeVita, formerly head of the NCI and physician-in-chief at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, "There's no question that we're entering a new era [in cancer treatment]."

GALLO RETREATS

There was not a little doubt that Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, had stolen a march on French scientists. The French claimed that Gallo faked research and used a French virus to isolate the AIDS virus. In quest of the truth, a joint team of French and American scientists has finally concluded that there was indeed a mix-up of laboratory samples that Gallo worked with. To put the matter to rest, Dr. Gallo now admits that his virus was probably of French origin and blames the mix-up



Domingo Cavallo. Bringing new order to the economy of Argentina

on sloppy French and American lab work. However, the next question is: are the French entitled to Gallo's half of the now-famous AIDS test which earns him and the U.S. government a comfortable stipend?

HORSE-SENSE

Domingo Cavallo ("horse" in Italian) has created a bit of a miracle in his homeland of Argentina. As that nation's Economic Minister, his powers are more akin to a prime minister's. His no-nonsense policies have cut 60,000 workers from the government payroll and brought down inflation to under 10%.

Cavallo, 44, who could be the next president, is a man who "likes to push buttons" and get directly involved in problem solving.

At no time in the recent past have Argentines felt as confident in straightening out their economy as now. And why not? They've heard it from the horse's mouth.

AN ITALIC RULES THE WAVES

Another first in U.S. military annals comes out of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Midshipman Juliane Gallina has become the first female to lead the 4,300-member brigade of undergraduates. Known as "Spike" Gallina (the tradition of nicknames among Italians dates back to the Roman era) the 20-year-old Pelham, NY, resident will assume command amid controversy. According to an internal review, a "considerable segment" of midshipmen, faculty and staff belief that women have no place at the Academy. Talk about pressure!

WHOSE SARI?

Not since Marco Polo worked his way up the ladder of success in China's Kublai Khan's regime has an Italian found herself invited to lead the largest political party in India. Thus it happened that Turin-born Sonia Gandhi became the rallying point for the Subcontinent's Congress Party upon the assassination of her husband and party leader Rajiv.

Resisting the honor partly out of fear for the safety of her two children and partly because she is still viewed as an outsider, Mrs. Gandhi chose to remain a private citizen. Nevertheless, fluent in six languages including Hindi, and well respected in her husband's home district, Mrs. Gandhi may yet be lured into India's politics. ****



Editorial

ZERO COOPERATION

Imagine asking the Italian national air line, Alitalia, to donate two seats on a flight to Rome to defray costs for an Institute documentary about the Italian heritage. Imagine asking Alitalia to allow *The Italic Way* among the on-board magazines it makes available to passengers. Imagine our feelings when a bureaucrat named Enrico Lepri turned us down flat on both requests adding that he might have given a favorable response had our purpose been to promote Italian fashion instead of education.

What are we to make of shallow people such as Lepri? Fortunately, the Institute does not depend on a *lira's* worth of help from Italy's bureaucrats in its task of educating the general public in things Italic. Were such bureaucrats more concerned with image than shoes, Italy might yet again be the beacon of the world.

-JLM

REFORM OR RUIN

The die is cast. There can be no turning back. Italy is embarked on a new political course that will have far-reaching consequences for the European Community and the so-called new world order. Unbeknownst to most of the America media, the Italians are using their latest political "crisis" to engage in constitutional reform.

Although Italy is an economic powerhouse, politically it is somewhat less than herculean. Whereas Helmut Kohl speaks for Germany and Francois Mitterand for France, no one political figure represents the Italian state. This is, of course, by design. After World War II, nearly all of Italy's political parties sought to limit the powers of the head of state. Few Italian prime ministers remained in office very long because they ruled at the sufferance of other coalition partners. And, as a result, Italy's international prestige suffered. Not too many years ago, Ronald Reagan's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, was asked by a reporter if the Italian government had been apprised of some late-breaking American policy change. Fitzwater responded by asking which Italian government he should inform — this week's or last week's?

Now, thanks mainly to the courageous stand taken by Bettino Craxi of the Psi (Italian Socialist Party), the newly reconstituted Andreotti government will address the issue. Craxi favors the formation of a new presidential republic in which the head of state would be directly elected. The Christian Democrats, fearing a frittering away of their power, want to slacken the pace. However, even one of their own, the former prime minister Ciriaco DeMita, wants reform sooner rather than later. He is primarily concerned about stunting the growth of the pernicious Lombard League, which seeks to dismember the Italian state. That all the major players are in accord is heartening and belies the notion that Italians "never stick together."

Still, reform is not moving swiftly enough for the peripatetic Craxi. Although his party is a member of the new government, the socialist leader feels Andreotti and company are lukewarm on reform. For Craxi: "... it is important that the question of institutional reform be addressed at the highest levels."

To that we add godspeed.

-RAI

*The Italic Way*TM

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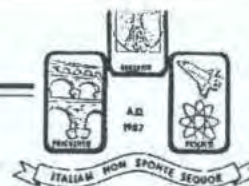
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Forum of the People



A Chat with Signor Galileo

Galileo Galilei was a visionary with a spyglass who discovered other worlds and established the scientific method as we know it today. He was a physicist, who perhaps more than Newton and Einstein revolutionized the way we view the universe. And he was an Italian who, in the words of biographer Stillman Drake, "wrote and published for the benefit of his countrymen in every walk of life."

Galileo fought against ignorance and the tyranny of orthodoxy. Unlike Isaac Newton, who operated within the confines of a rigid scientific community and toed the intellectual party line, Galileo was a firebrand. As passionate about the ladies as he was about his discoveries, he fathered three children with his mistress, but his genius served as a bridge between medieval, dogmatic Europe and the Enlightenment that followed.

Q. Sr. Galileo, you've been called the Father of Modern Science. Do you truly deserve this honor?

A. Titles and accolades can be deceiving. But what would you call the man who developed the telescope, discovered four of Jupiter's moons and formulated the first laws of physics?

Q. But didn't the Dutch actually invent the telescope?

A. With their contraption, one could view a neighbor's stairwell. With mine, the stars became my neighbors.

Q. Why did you write in Italian?

A. I am, above all, an Italian. And as such, it was my obligation to convey my discoveries to my countrymen in our mother tongue. Why do you find this strange?



Q. But the Italian school system has been maligned as provincial at best and archaic at worst.

A. Cretini! (Idiots!) I am a product of that system. Indeed Copernicus, Goethe, Byron and Keats all came to Italy to learn. Shakespeare called Italy "the seat of all erudition and the center of learning." This was no accident. The first university in the West was founded in Bologna. The first medical school was in Salerno. And my alma mater, Pisa, produced men of greatness even in your benighted century. Look at Enrico Fermi (Father of Atomic Fission), a fellow physicist and an Italian genius.

"...but no matter what the Bible, the Church, or poor Galileo swears to — *it still moves.*"

Q. Well, with all due respect, sir, most people don't associate the Italian language with the discipline of science.

A. No, my good fellow. If the truth be known, modern science originated in Italy. Shall we discuss Malpighi, Fallopio and Schiaparelli? Look through the ages and marvel at the men of science this land has produced.

Q. Sr. Galileo, you are primarily remembered as a man of passion. Didn't that prove to be your undoing with the Church?

A. My theories and discoveries arose out of my curiosity and passion. These are qualities that a true God would admire and encourage. Hidebound clergymen are another matter.

(Continued on p. 28)



REVIEW

CINEMA PARADISO

- A film by Giuseppe Tornatore
(in Italian)

On a purely artistic plane, *Cinema Paradiso* succeeds as no film by another nationality would. But other nationalities just don't make these movies. Their versions of a gritty-small-town-boy-turned-worldly-director would be far removed from reality. If the Sicilian locale of Giancaldo were a hardscrabble Welsh mining town, its downtrodden, illiterate masses would all be wearing top-of-the-line wool vests and quoting John Stuart Mill.

Residents of Giancaldo, however, are portrayed in all their lustiness and backwardness. They do not speak, they belch. Mothers beat sons with the ferocity of child abusers. No one ever shaves. (Thankfully, we are spared the sight of mustachioed women in ebony gowns.) Set mostly in the town's cinema (hence the title), an onscreen newsreel informs us that "Italian is not the language spoken by the poor in Sicily." During the showdown scene of an American Western that is being shown in the theatre, a shady figure in the audience uses his

concealed pistol to kill a rival. It's backwater Sicily at its crudest.

That's too bad. Because, despite its rustic overlay, *Cinema Paradiso* is an enjoyable flick. Toto', the main character, is a charmer. He is also highly intelligent and resourceful. And beneath his crusty demeanor, Alfredo the projectionist is a compassionate teacher. Alfredo becomes the father Toto' lost in the Russian campaign. (Yes, Italian soldiers perished on many World War II fronts.) He understands Toto' and urges him

onward. He exhorts the boy to never forget his studies and never to relinquish his dreams.

A subtle and largely unnoticed theme in the film is one of growth. All the major characters in *Cinema Paradiso* undergo a metamorphosis. Toto's first pangs of love — his one and only true love as it turns out — are by turns comical and touching. Ciccio, the Neapolitan who wins the lottery, uses his new found fortune on philanthropy as well as profit. (Filmmaker Giuseppe Tornatore displays an ironic wit when he has one of the Sicilian townfolk complain that Ciccio, the Neapolitan, won the lottery because "Northerners are always lucky.") Alfredo grows in stature when he comes to terms with his blindness. The town of Giancaldo is also transformed from a donkey-infested desert into a fairly bustling and sleek mini-metropolis.

Viewed through tri-color glasses, *Cinema Paradiso* is art. From the cinematography to the message, it pulls on the emotions and evokes images at once nostalgic and sentimental. We've all lived in Giancaldo. And now it's time to go back home. - RAI



CINEMA PARADISO
Alfredo and Toto'

NATALE R. ANZELMO, A.I.A.
FRANK A. LOMBARDO, A.I.A.

ANZELMO & LOMBARDO A.I.A., P.C.

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Focus

ENGLAND STINGS:

An Attitude Problem

By John Mancini & Rosario Iaconis

Recent activities within the European Community (EC) have uncovered one of Europe's dirty little secrets: Italy gets on Great Britain's nerves.

It started with the question of unifying European currency, something the Brits regard as a degradation of their insular freedom. As it happened, the rotating presidency of the EC found an Italian in charge at the time. Italy has always embraced the concept of a united Europe, and why not, it all started with the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Great Britain, on the other hand, has dragged its feet since then, only joining in stages as its economic decline becomes more desperate. So here were the Italians trying to achieve a major breakthrough. What guttersnipes! The Brits balk at the discussions, blaming the Italian chairmanship as disorganized and chaotic. The cop-out saves Britain for the moment but leaves the Italians with a feeling of *deja' vu*.

Throughout the decade of the Sixties the English media excoriated Italy as the new "sick man of Europe." Despite record-breaking growth rates and expanding industries, Italy remained only a marginal player in the game of world power politics and economics. From *The Economist* to *The Financial Times of London*, English editorial writers delighted in highlighting the sorry comings and goings of those anarchic Italian prime ministers. (This from a nation that gave the world such political giants as Clement Atlee, Harold Wilson, Edward Heath and James Callaghan.) Ironically, as that period drew to a close, Britain's economic clout was

Byzantine South. Apparently, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, each with their own ethnic and linguistic heritage, are not part of the United Kingdom. These areas, including northern England, were experiencing widespread unemployment and economic deprivation.

Then in 1975, Britain's Ital-bashing got help from an unlikely source — the French. His Pomposity, President Valery Giscard D'Estaing, personally railed against Italian participa-



Seemingly detached from the club is Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti (upper left) at a 1990 meeting of the Group of Seven

tion in the big power economic conference on Guadeloupe. Britain and West Germany agreed that Italy was a Mediterranean midget unworthy of consorting with the preeminent powers. The United States merely stood by and watched the

Later, after much haggling, Italy was permitted to enter, but only as an also-ran with Canada.

crumbling.

In the early 1970's, however, the English intelligentsia took a new tack. While acknowledging Italy's economic resurgence, they stopped short of calling it a miracle. Only the Germans (those supermen of the continent) could muster such an achievement. And, anyway, there were two Italys: the prosperous quasi-Teutonic North and the backward, half

proceedings with indifference. (Later, after much haggling, Italy was permitted to enter, but only as an also-ran with Canada.)

The assassination of Aldo Moro in 1978 by the Red Brigades brought out the British media in force. Italy was on the verge of total collapse. Italian intelligence and carabinieri were bumbling amateurs who did not have a prayer against the

Focus



The English press claimed that an Italian ship nearly rammed the U.S.S. Saratoga during the Persian Gulf War. Actually, the Italians were a thousand miles away from the site.



Garibaldi turns over the redeemed south of Italy to the Italian king. With the reunification, Britain no longer saw a nation of artists but rather a potential adversary.

daring terrorist cells replicating throughout the peninsula. Ironically, it was later learned that the administration of British Prime Minister Harold Wilson had almost been toppled in a coup d'etat in 1968. By the mid-1980's, the Italians had eradicated the threat of the Red Brigades.

By this time, Margaret Thatcher was now in power at 10 Downing Street. After two years of her draconian economic curatives, however, the sceptered isle was rocked by a steep recession. In order to rally her countrymen and save her sagging fortunes, Maggie went to war against Argentina over the Falkland Islands. It was at this juncture in history, after nearly 40 years of peace with Italy, that the British bared their lurid souls. In the course of this conflict with Argentina, a high-ranking general on the British military command openly questioned the Argentinians' mettle and ethnicity. If they are Spanish, he said, we might have a fight on our hands. If they're Italian, we'll win without a question.

The words may have changed, but the malady lingers.

Claiming Italy's Patrimony

In times gone by the saying was "an Italianate Englishman is the devil incarnate", for in those days before the reunification, Italy was the seductress of uptight Englishmen. It was their playground as well as



Italian troops accorded the Honors of War during the East Africa campaign. British troops who fought at Monte Cassino and at Keren (East Africa) held Keren to be the worse of the two.

their school. Garibaldi and Cavour brought an end to the old Italy and with it the English lost their alter ego.

Fragmented and downtrodden for centuries, Italians bore no resemblance to the Italic race that once ruled the western world. The spirit of Rome no longer resided among the *contadini* of Italy and the English duly laid claim to the Roman inheritance to sanctify their own Empire. Victorians such as Rudyard Kipling quite believed that at the fall of Rome the best and brightest of Italy fled to England despite the historical fact that Roman troops evacuated Britannia in 410 A.D. to defend the homeland from German invasion. Even Adolph Hitler claimed Roman blood in his *Volk* as well as the English.

Fragmented Italy also allowed England to rule its *Mare Nostrum*, the Mediterranean. Italian reunification, although championed by the British public, brought no long-term benefits to the British Empire. The "happy-go-lucky" Italians were now a threat to decades of British hegemony in the

Mediterranean and the delicate balance of power in pre-World War I Europe. This, perhaps, may account, in part, for the English disdain of the Italian nation-state.

(Continued on p.15)

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England (continued from p. 13)

Best of Enemies, World War II

For the Italians, the Second World War should not have happened. Not just because they lost, but because their military reputation never quite recovered. The Italian military suffered greater humiliation at the hands of Anglo-Saxon propagandists than on the battlefield. According to the English view, a nation of waiters dreamed it could take on the British Empire but was easily trounced, leaving England free to face off its true enemy, the powerful Nazi horde.

Not only were Mussolini and his Fascists the butt of derision, but the Italian national character as well. On the home front, Britain's well-oiled propaganda ministry portrayed the Italian war effort as a badly staged opera. (Even American



Why do cinema Romans come with British accents?

be remembered that the English rounded up troops from every corner of their empire to fight their battles, and it was their deaths that have pushed up any additional "British" casualty figures.

It would seem that there was a concerted effort to denigrate Italians during the war. In *Siege of Malta*, Ernie Bradford writes:

"In the last stage of this action the Italian destroyer Tarigo, with her captain

mortally wounded and with his ship hit time and again, yet managed to lay herself between the attackers and their prey and launch three torpedoes, sinking the [British] Mohawk. As later events in the war would show, the Italians could show a spirit second to none, particularly in escort work and small-boat ac-

"The stories of [Italian] cowardice carried in the British press, like all things else always in wartime, were designed for home consumption by civilians." *Siege of Malta, Ernie Bradford*

filmmakers adopted this theme. In *Five Graves to Cairo*, actor Fortunio Bonanova played a singing Italian general.) The Italian Army was only adept at mass surrender. The Italian Navy couldn't sail and fight at the same time. And the Italian Air Force dropped bombs anywhere just so they could return quickly to their bases. Just how Italy managed to sustain a war effort on four fronts for three years and fight the Germans for another year or so is never adequately explained.

There is something in the English psyche that demands Italians remain stereotypical. Great painters, yes. Excellent cooks, for sure. Magnificent vocalists, no question. These just happen to be the very talents that the Anglo-Saxon lacks. In all other endeavors, however, Italy must lag far behind Britain. So it was that World War II presented the perfect opportunity for the English to prove their point.

The reality, of course, was that the Italians paid a considerable price. The record shows that 330,000 Italians perished in the war, half of them civilians. By comparison, the British (ie., English, Welsh, Scots, Northern Irish) lost 304,000. It should also

tions. The stories of cowardice carried in the British press, like all things else always in wartime, were designed for home consumption by civilians."

In *An Improvised War* by Michael Glover more evidence of character assassination is revealed:



Hardscabble Italy or traditional England? Adjectives with a message

"Above all the [East African] campaign gave Britain and her sympathizers the first enduring victory of the war, a boost for morale which would have been all the greater had it not been for a simultaneous propaganda campaign which sought to show the Italians as contemptible adversaries. That was a sentiment which would not be shared by anyone who fought against them at Keren."

COMING TO TERMS

One would suppose that the Englishman's worst nightmare would be

(Continued on p. 17)



Perspectives

[Highlights of historical records that shed light on modern times]

WITH THIS RING...

By Pamela Gleason

If you lived in Ancient Rome you couldn't get married in the month of May—not unless you were willing to risk an unlucky future. In fact, if you wanted to do things right, you would wait until the Ides of June (the thirteenth) in order to enter the wedding bond. The auspices for marriage during these six weeks of early summer were so bad, it was even said that no woman who entered into wedlock during this period ever lived long afterwards. The Calends of July (July first) was also unfavorable, since this was a feast day, during which it was illegal to do violence to anyone. Of course, if the bride-to-be was a widow, the bridegroom could marry her with a clear conscience since any violence done to her was presumably already done by her former husband.

The superstition against marrying on these inauspicious dates has long since disappeared (however, a June wedding is still preferred), but certain parts of the Roman wedding ritual have survived practically unaltered to the present day. For instance, our modern practice of placing the wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left

hand comes directly from the Roman betrothal ceremony. Ancient custom required the man to give his intended a simple iron ring in the presence of a number of witnesses. The woman would immediately slip this ring onto her fourth finger, left hand, to show that she entered the engagement willingly. (Consent of

the bride was also a Roman requirement.) The fourth finger was particularly suited to cementing a marriage pact because it was believed to contain a nerve which led directly to the heart. This "very delicate nerve" was "discovered" by Greek and Egyptian doctors who dissected corpses. (Physicians in

Rome were generally forbidden to perform dissections, which is why the great second century doctor Galen advised medical students to go to Alexandria for their training.) The writer Aulus Gellius explained, "It is, therefore, thought seemly to give this finger, in preference to all others, the honor of the ring, on account of the close connection which links it with the principal organ." Presumably, an iron band around the finger which housed such a well-connected nerve would tend to keep the heart from straying.

The ancient wedding ceremony also contained

(Continued on p. 18)



A servant not the groom carried the Roman bride over the threshold

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England (continued from p. 15)

to wake up one morning and find his country being run by Italians. In fact, there are a number of jokes circulating with just such a punchline. The English hang-up with Italiaphobia was a contributing factor to the Second World War. In 1935, fearing the Fascist naval buildup and the new threat to British hegemony in the Mediterranean and Africa, Great Britain signed a bilateral naval treaty with Nazi Germany that unleashed Hitler's rearmament program.

Even today, rather than work in unison with Italy and France to offset German dominance in the European Community, Britain still clings to vestiges of the old Atlantic

Alliance hoping, fevently that the Anglo-Saxon world can reassert itself. Where it will all end is hard to say. Clearly, the English must swallow a heaping helping of their pride and admit that the Italian nation exists as an equal in many respects and superior in many others. Moreover, they must let go of their Britannia-rules-the-waves mentality and quickly recognize that the Italians are the good guys. Standing on old stereotypes now will doom Great Britain to the point at which it started only five hundred years ago — an isolated island kingdom which needed to hire an Italian navigator to reach a mainland.

Even today, rather than work in unison with Italy and France to offset German dominance in the European Community, Britain still clings to vestiges of the old Atlantic Alliance...



Perspectives

Ring (Continued from p.16)

many elements which are preserved in today's Christian tradition. Whether she had been married before or not, the bride wore a white, unadorned tunic. She also wore a veil over her hair and the top of her face, although this veil was, as a rule, bright orange rather than white—the color was supposed to symbolize the dawn of a new day. She typically covered herself with a saffron colored cloak and wore matching saffron shoes on her feet (nothing borrowed or blue for the Roman matron). The ceremony usually took place at the home of the bride and at her family's expense, and was presided over by a priest. Marriage was both a religious and legal rite, and, as such, required the presence of a number of witnesses in addition to the families involved. Before the couple were officially joined, an auspex would sacrifice



The Romans offered their beloved a band of iron to be worn on the fourth finger of the left hand, which was thought to be connected to the heart.

an animal and check the entrails to make sure that the auspices were favorable. If they were not, he could call a halt to the entire proceeding, just as today anybody

who knows "of a reason why this couple cannot be joined in holy matrimony" can "speak now."

Several different forms of marriage existed in the course of Roman history, most of which maintained the wife's inferiority to her husband. By the second century AD, however, the status of women had risen considerably, and most marriages were far more equal. The heart of the wedding ceremony, then as now, was the declaration by the bride and groom of their willingness to marry one another. The couple joined hands, after which the bride uttered the stock phrase, "*Ubi tu Gaius, ego Gaia*" (roughly translated as "Where you are master, I am mistress"). Some historians claim that the bargain was sealed with a kiss, while others assert that the bride's declaration was all that was

(Continued on p.25)

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Italians & the Holocaust
1930: Reprint of Atlantica Magazine
Italian language in Australia
* Available only in photocopies



Summer, 1988
Images: Symbols or Stereotypes?
Italian Frogmen of WW II
Vittorio Veneto, WW I
Atlantica remembered



Fall, 1988
Italy at Work:
Modern Italy Forges Ahead
Dr. Henry Viscardi: Helping
the Handicapped



Winter, 1989
Cartoon Characters by Italians
The First Safe Airplane
Health & Italian Culture



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Gore Vidal
Beccaria: A Founding Father?
Roman Emperors
Roman Evil Days



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Italy's North vs. South
The Spanish Armada
Italy on Videodisc
Italian Aviation
Composer Charles Gabriele



Fall, 1989
Italian vs. Black
Ferrero's Negro Army
African-Italian Restaurant
A. Barlett Giamatti
Bensonhurst Tragedy



Winter, 1990
Mussolini, Part I
Antonio Meucci & the Telephone
Mario Lanza



Spring, 1990
Jews of Italy
Mussolini, Part II
Italian Aerospace
DaPonte: Mozart's Librettist



Summer, 1990
Italians & the Bible
Shakespeare's Italian Connection
Napoleon's Italian Victory



Fall, 1990
Italian-Americans in Advertising
Pestolozzi: Father of Teaching
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Project Italia

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Heritage Film Completed

Project Director Frank Vitale has completed the first of our series of films on the Italian heritage. *The Italians: Unity in Diversity* is the name we are using but it deals with the classical Roman heritage and its effect on modern America. Filming was completed in time for the 4th Annual Dinner Dance. A short "coming attraction" of the 30-minute movie was shown to the 700 guests at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Narrated by former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, the film is a radical departure from previous documentaries about Italians. Researched by non-Italic scholars, with some on-camera cameo appearances, the film represents a balanced view of a truly remarkable heritage.

It is the intention of the Institute leadership to hold a number of exclusive private showings of the new film to introduce it to a cross-section of media representatives and Italian-American groups. Private showings are scheduled for Manhattan and Washington DC in the late summer or fall. Thereafter, the film will be offered to public television stations around the country.



Top, Director Frank Vitale reviews dialogue with Ms. Geraldine Ferraro. Above, an actor plays the part of Roman statesman M. Cicero.

The book, *The Proud Italians* has been chosen as the companion to the Project Italia film series.



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Media Madness

[In which we present media material with commentary]

Item: Filmmaker Spike Lee (*Do The Right Thing*) continues his obsession with Italian-Americans in his latest tour de farce, *Jungle Fever*. It's an entertaining story of a successful Harlem architect who has a torrid affair with his Italic secretary.

Comment: The premise of this work is that a white woman, from a racist Italo-American family, is drawn to the hero's sexual blackitude. Asked why he portrays Italian-Americans as the enemies of blacks, Spike replied, "I'm not saying all ethnic conflicts are between Italians and blacks, but the most violent ones, in my estimation, have been." Well Spike, it wasn't Italian slaveships that sailed your people across the Atlantic or Italian planters who chained them to the cotton plant or Italian men in hoods who lynched them regularly. Estimate again.



Item: Vincent Gardenia bombs out in a "humorous" stageplay about the Mafia, called *Breaking Legs*.

Comment: Yo, Vinnie. Are times that hard?



Item: *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* is in its last few weeks off Broadway.

Comment: There is a god!

Item: Sly Stallone attempts to change his "dumb" image in a new film called *Oscar*. He plays Angelo (Snaps) Provolone, a mobster who tries to go straight.

Comment: Yo, Snaps. But does it improve the Italian image? Who cares? It's money in the bank. By the way, Sly is to film another movie called *Stop or My Mother will Shoot*, co-starring Sicilian-basher Estelle Getty. Can it be the story of real gangster Ma Barker? Fat chance.

SYLVESTER STALLONE
IN
OSCAR

[IN CRIME AND COMEDY, TIMING IS EVERYTHING.]



Media Madness



Item: Actor Joe Bologna stars in a zany new television series called *Top of the Heap*. It's the spin-off of *Married with Children*.

Comment: Yo, Joey. We don't know the ethnic origin of the stupid Bundy family, but father and son Verducci we kinda figured out. Hey, it's money in the bank, right?

Item: Gossip columnist Liz Smith asked *GoodFellas* star Joe Pesci if he intends to clean up his off-camera language to which the thespian replied, "No #\$\$%*! way!"

Comment: Yo, Joe. Just when the Institute was going to claim that you are really an intellectual off-screen you go and open your mouth without a script. We are always reminded that the Mafia really exists but our rudest awakening is to find so many prostituted actors in the Italic community. Hey, you gotta live, right?



Item: The 1960 epic *Spartacus* has been re-released with 10 minutes of new homoerotic dialogue about snails and oysters.

Comment: This is truly a great movie even though Roman civilization gets bad press. Unfortunately, between *Ben Hur* and *Spartacus* the under-educated public honestly believes the world would have been a much better place without Rome and the ancient Italians. Then again, most people live on myths anyway. Snails and oysters?



News of the Institute

MAJOR FUNDRAISER EXCEEDS GOAL



Chairman John Santora welcomes his guests

In our last issue we reported that Dinner Chairman John Santora and his committee promised to fill the Starlight Room at the Waldorf (capacity 450) for our 4th Annual Dinner Dance. Not only did John's committee meet the goal but reached 717 guests. As luck would have it, the Grand Ballroom became available and all comers were accommodated. Needless to say, the financial goals were also exceeded. This in the middle of a recession, yet!

From a tightly-packed cocktail hour held in two large rooms, the guests adjourned to the splendid ballroom for a meal of macaroni with *puttanesca* sauce (the Waldorf finally achieved *al dente* after four years of practice) followed by veal with roasted potatoes and asparagus accompanied by white and red Italian wines. The committee also insisted on a Viennese Hour (actually two hours) complete with cordials of all kinds. All the more a bargain since the ticket price did not go up since last year.

Entertainment was provided by the Steven Scott Orchestra - twelve pieces with three female vocalists. The evening was capped off by door prizes of a trip to Italy and a Caribbean cruise, among others. A three minute coming attraction of the new Institute film *The Italians: Unity in Diversity* was also shown.

Special awards were presented to John Santora (Altar of Peace Award), Vincent Pizzulli (for fundraising), Michael Carbone (for membership recruitment) and Monica Polizzi (for events coordination).

The Plenary Council presented President John Mancini with a marble plaque for his inspiration and leadership of the Institute.



A rare photo of the Institute founders: John Mancini, Carl Pescosolido, Steve Gristina



Authors of *The Proud Italians*: Carl Pescosolido and Pamela Gleason



An overview of the Grand Ballroom



Ring (Continued From p. 18)

needed for the assembled company to burst into congratulatory cheers and begin their feasting.

At nightfall, the party moved to the groom's house. The bride would typically be escorted through the streets by a throng of wedding guests, who would sing ribald and sometimes downright dirty songs. The groom would throw handfuls of nuts to the young boys in the procession, who would eagerly gather them up. (Did these nuts rattle as they hit the ground, something like the noise of tin cans tied to the bumper of a car?) When the procession reached the groom's house, the bride would be lifted over the threshold (although typically not by the groom), both because it would be a bad omen if she were to stumble upon entering her new home, and because the threshold was sacred to the Vesta. Once inside, the bride would be presented with a lighted torch, with which she would kindle a fire on the hearth. Then she would toss the torch into the street, where the assembled

company would scramble for it since it was considered a lucky memento, just as single women today strive to catch the bridal bouquet.

Of course, the Romans were practical people, and no wedding would ever take place unless and until a marriage contract was duly drawn up and signed by both parties and their families. The contract would stipulate proper behavior for each spouse as well as acknowledge the receipt of the wife's dowry. The dowry was not, however, a gift to the husband. Typically, he was not allowed to spend it, but was rather expected to invest it and use the income to help defray living expenses. If the marriage were to be dissolved, the wife was expressly entitled to take the dowry back. The marriage contract might also list other assets which the husband or wife expected to keep if the marriage should end in divorce: the practice of signing a pre-nuptial agreement is therefore an ancient and venerable custom.

In the later days of the Roman Empire,

the institution of marriage was very similar to our own. The purpose of marriage, according to the third century writer Modestinus, was "the joining together of divine and human law...the total union of whole lives." While marriages were more frequently undertaken for political or economic reasons than to join two loving hearts, many Roman couples appear to have grown to love one another. Divorce was certainly common: in fact, if we are to believe Seneca, "Nowadays there are women who no longer count the years by the consul, but by the number of their husbands." However, many tombstones show that couples lived together for forty or fifty years, and it is not uncommon to see the abbreviation "S.V.Q." inscribed on the monument to the departed spouse. These initials stood for *sine ulla querela* ("without a quarrel"), proving that then, as now, some matches were indeed blessed by the gods.

Institute (continued)

BUDGET DELAYED

The Executive Council has failed to draft the 1991-92 budget on time for Plenary Council approval. The delay stems from incomplete plans for the expansion of the various programs (Project Italia, The Italic Way, and Aurora Youth). Meetings are scheduled with the Board of Governors and Financial Secretary Bob DeSiena to complete strategic planning. If all goes well, a budget will be submitted to the Plenary Council for approval by late June.



The Governors: Steve Gristina, John Mancini, Carl Pescosolido, Ed Riguardi, Carl Borsari (missing: Michael Downey)



Financial Secretary Bob DeSiena (front right) with wife Carolyn and table companions.



PROFILES

Guglielmo Marconi

by Elio Zappulla

When Guglielmo (*goo-yell-mo*) Marconi won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1909, he ventured into *terra incognita*. Other scientists before him had been unable or unwilling to understand what Marconi almost instinctively grasped. It was through his tenacity and sheer scientific genius that mankind entered the age of technology. Without Marconi there would be no long distance wireless. Without wireless, no radio. And with no radio, mass communication such as broadcast television, satellite and interstellar transmitters would not exist.

He was born in Bologna, Italy, into a family of means. His father had married a young Scotch-Irish lass from Dublin who had come to Bologna to study music. With this diverse parentage young Marconi became fluent in English as well as his native Italian.

Because of poor health as a child, Marconi was placed in the hands of private tutors who were impressed with the young man's intellect and passion for scientific pursuits. This insatiable appetite for discovery followed him at work and at play. It was during one particular vacation at Biellese in the Italian Alps that Marconi's curiosity was piqued by a theory on electromagnetism in a scientific journal: transmitting signals across space without wires. Marconi had earlier been inspired by the writings of German scientist Heinrich Hertz and by the brilliant work and lectures of another Italian, Augusto Righi, a noted physicist whom Marconi had heard lecture at the University at Bologna where Marconi often went to use the library or attend lectures. (Oddly enough, the world's foremost pragmatic scientist never received a formal university education.)

Fascinated by the possibility of communicating without wires, Marconi, now in his early twenties, cut short his vacation and hastened home to plunge into experimentation with this tantalizing concept. Assembling a vast array of scientific instruments, he worked without rest and within a month had "broadcast" a few primitive chirping sounds across a distance of about one kilometer on his father's estate.

Marconi continued to refine his invention and soon approached the Italian government for assistance and financing. However, the government initially could find no merit in Marconi's work, and so he was forced to look elsewhere. He turned to England and was also rebuffed. The English were as skeptical as the Italians. In fact, when Marconi arrived in England to pursue his dream, the customs agents, looking suspiciously at his scientific apparatus, decided to smash it to bits on the spot!

Nonplussed, Marconi persevered with remarkable energy. With the help of new-found friends, he was soon transmitting signals from a London Post Office to a building across the street, and then to another part of London. On March 27, 1899, he sent a signal across the Channel, and before long everyone began paying attention to the elegant Italian. Soon, Marconi had set up a company that installed the "wireless," as his invention was now called, in lighthouses up and down the English coast. By now, Marconi had returned in triumph to Bologna to the cheers of his fellow Italians.

But Marconi's biggest dream was yet to be fulfilled. He wanted to send his wireless signals across the great Atlantic itself.

To most scientists, this idea seemed preposterous and Marconi was often ridiculed. Such scientists informed him that the curvature of the earth "obviously" made it impossible to send straight-line signals more than a certain distance. No one could predict that radio waves would bounce off the atmosphere.

Working at fever pitch, Marconi defied the critics and on December 22, 1901, in the dreary cold of a winter day at St. John's, Newfoundland, changed the world forever. He received a wireless message sent by his associates from 2,000 miles away in England.

In the years that followed, the use of wireless became widespread. Soon, dramatic evidence of the practicality of Marconi's invention was furnished by ships at sea who were now able instantly to send out immediate distress signals when in danger of



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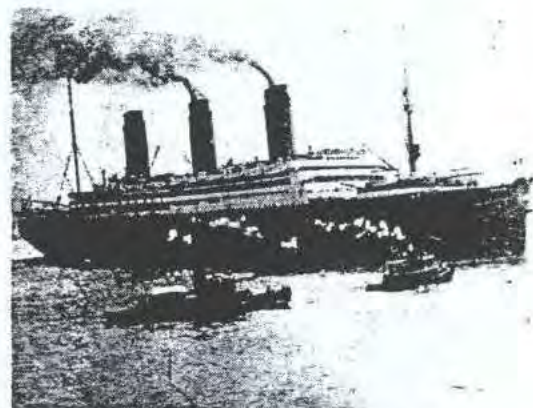
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sinking. The first ship to profit from Marconi's new system was the S.S. Republic, which was in trouble off Sandy Hook in 1909. Its distress calls enabled other vessels to rush to its rescue; hundreds of lives were saved. Marconi's reputation soared. With the sinking of the Titanic and the rescue of 700 women and children, the "Marconi wireless" was required on all trans-Atlantic shipping.

The remainder of his career was a series of triumphs. He continued to perfect the "wireless," or "radio," as it came to be called, and worked on numerous scientific projects. He taught Bell Telephone that short waves and microwaves were the waves of the future. By 1933 he was working on radar as well linking the British Empire with an instantaneous communications network called BEAM, fulfilling his prediction of 1911 to "...put a girdle round the Earth in 40 minutes..."

Of all the applications for his wireless communication his least favorite was television. It spoke well of this genius that he wished to devote his research only to those areas that would save human life rather than entertain the masses.



HMS Titanic proved Marconi's worth



Lionized by governments everywhere, Guglielmo Marconi felt most at home in Italy, where he was appointed a senator and where he died (in Rome) on July 20, 1937. Mussolini's accolade for him was "Magician of Space and Conqueror of the Ether."

The Magician behind his apparatus

The Italic Way



Galileo (continued from page 9)

Q. Are you a heretic, then?

A. No, I am a scientist!

Q. Isn't that what pitted you against the Church and led to the inquisition against you?

A. My belief in Copernicus' solar-centric system raised hackles in the Church. They chose to hound me. They railed against logic and science with fire and brimstone. Their real fear was not of the truth, which as rational men they understood, but of the magnitude of the revelation and what effect it would have on millions of worshippers.

Q. What exactly did you espouse?

A. Simply put, the earth is NOT the center of the universe. It's not even the center of our solar system. The earth is a planet — one of many — that revolves around a star. That star is our sun. Throughout the universe there are literally millions of such suns. And perhaps, planets that revolve around them.

Q. Can you explain to us your feelings in uttering the famous words *Eppur si muove*?

A. My frustration with the Church disturbed me deeply. I was mostly alone in my anguish. They told me to agree with the Bible that the earth remains fixed. I agreed under duress, but no matter what the Bible, the Church, or poor Galileo swears to — *it still moves*.

Q. You say you were 'mostly alone.' Did you have any defenders in your day?

A. Tommaso Campanella, a fellow scientist from the southern region of Calabria, wrote a treatise in my defense called, appropriately enough: *Apologia Pro Galileo*. His courage to speak out gave me hope that even under foreign occupation Italians could unite to fight for truth.

Q. Finally, what is your feeling about the tremendous advances in today's scientific world, in space, in medicine, in technology?

A. The problem is precisely the same as in my day. The spiritual and humanist side of man is being outpaced by knowledge. The human mind finds it difficult to adjust, but, *eppur si muove*.

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