



The Officers' Log

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TRUMP NEEDS DEFAMATION LESSONS

Code Words and Ridicule Work Better

Donald Trump, the New York financial impresario, ventured beyond political correctness last month in a stinging diatribe on illegal Mexican immigrants, saying that Mexico is letting the worst of its population cross our borders.

"The Donald doesn't know squat about how to insult an ethnic group," suggests Vice President Don Fiore. *"It's all in the code words like mafia, guido, godfather, wise guy, mob. You never blurt out names like 'Mexicans' or 'Italians.'"*

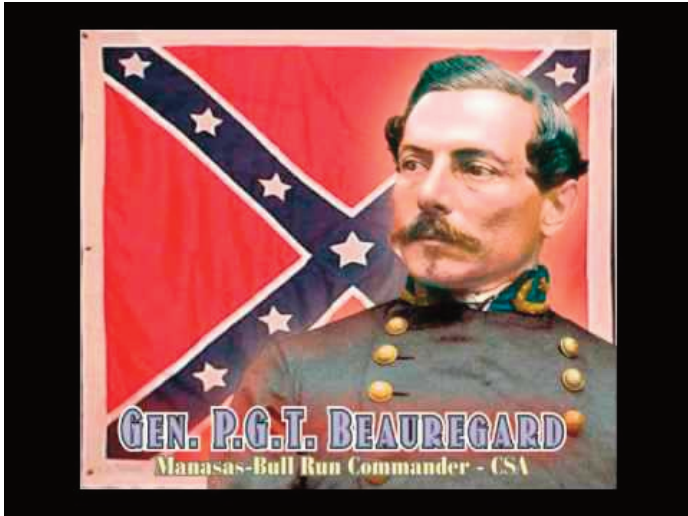


President Bill Dal Cerro smiles as he recounts just this week's worth of anti-Italic media barbs, *"Trump should pay more attention to the real world. Italian Americans are rarely assaulted head-on. Instead, the media uses cartoons, commercials, TV shows, and newspaper stories to make us look like dirtbags."*



Dal Cerro offered the anniversary celebrations of old movies *The Godfather* and *GoodFellas* as an example

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OUR REBEL ROOTS

Italians Fought for North and South

There always seems to be an Italian link in every facet of human events. Take the controversy of the Confederate flag. According to *Wikipedia*, the on-line encyclopedia, the Confederate battle flag was co-designed by Confederate general P.T.G. Beauregard (pictured with his flag), who was Italian on his mother's side (de Reggio).

How many folks know that Italians fought on both sides of the Civil War? Gen. Beauregard not only championed the battle flag over the myriad other versions but he ordered the first shots on Fort Sumter in 1861 and was credited with the South's first victory at Bull Run.



Another Italic southerner
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WHO'S WORSE?

How Hollywood and the news media intersect was apparent on a segment of *60 Minutes* (CBS-TV) on May 10th. Reporter Anderson Cooper reached back to 1996 for a story about the Gambino mob extorting the famous



Scores Club in Manhattan. The angle was how club owner Michael Blutrigh helped the FBI video-

tape the extortionists, whom Cooper described as “right out of central casting”(code for “wops,” a word CBS allows on other shows)

However, the real kicker is that Blutrigh only cooperated with the FBI to cop a plea in Florida for swindling the public out of \$450 million (almost half a billion!) in the nation’s largest insurance fraud. Blutrigh’s partner Shalom Weiss was sentenced to 845 years for the crime!

Meanwhile, the Gambino thugs were charged with extorting a mere \$1 million from Blutrigh. We asked Cooper if he plans a show on Blutrigh & Weiss. No response. *****

Fighting Ignorance Since 1987

These are not the best of times for the Italian American heritage, but some people judge success a lot differently than we. Maybe we read too much.

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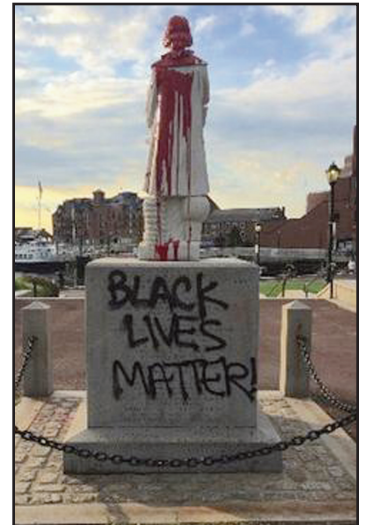
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COLUMBUS APPEAL SENT

The Holiday is about Discovery and Daring not Zeppole

A statue of the man who joined the New World to the Old suffered an indignity recently in Boston’s North End. Vandals poured red paint on the Great Navigator, another message from some folks that they don’t share our reverence for Columbus.



“America is changing,” says Chairman Rosario Iaconis, “and, sadly, so are the history books. Some revisionists are even calling for an inquisition of Columbus.”

Iaconis also faults community leaders and politicians. “My op-ed last Columbus Day in the *New York Daily News* hit a raw nerve with those who have transformed the holiday into a feast for the sausage-and-pepper proletariat. And the trend is continuing.”

In preparation for Columbus Day, the Institute’s Board of Governors drafted an appeal to defend Columbus Day which was mailed along with *The Italic Way* magazine to all Italian American leaders and politicians.

“We are on record,” asserts Executive Director John Mancini, “that papering over Columbus’ world-changing accomplishments with the tarantella and platitudes is neither clever nor courageous.” *****

Rebel Roots, from p.1

was D.E.U. Barziza who fought at Gettysburg, was taken prisoner and eventually escaped. He wrote a number of books on his adventures. Interestingly, his full name was Decimus et Ultimatus Barziza, meaning the “tenth and last” in Latin, a hopeful plea by his mother for no more children. *****

Trump, from p.1

of keeping alive the dark image of our community. On July 1st, the *New York Daily News* used a mafia cartoon to depict a feud between New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio. Running for a number of months is a Johnsonville Sausage ad on television using a comedic mobster (need we say Italian?) to peddle brats. (see both depictions on p.1)

“It’s done every day, in every medium, to get the message out that Italian Americans have a dark side,” offers Vice President Tony Vecchione. *“If Mr. Trump really wants to be the U.S. President he should know how to be more entertaining with his defamation. At least go for laughs like the Daily News.”*

The one guy who got away with overt defamation was ABC-TV newsman Sam Donaldson back in 1984. At that time, on live TV, addressing vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, he stated that all Italian American political candidates should be investigated for mob ties. *“You might be able to do that again only with the docile Italians but you are looking for trouble with any other ethnic group,”* suggests Executive Director John Mancini. ****

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

There is new program developed by the Italian government, called *Eduitalia*, to assist American students who want to study in Italy. Students are sponsored by various clubs and schools. Unfortunately, judging by the list of student names below, there are few Italian Americans. Observes Executive Director John Mancini,

SPONSOR	NAME	STATE
A DOOR TO ITALY	MARIA KARLA SAENZ	FLORIDA
ABBEYSCHOOL CIAOITALY	DIANA QUIROZ-BONILLA	FLORIDA
BABILONIA - CENTRO STUDI ITALIANO	BRIAN WILLIAM VALDES	FLORIDA
CLUB ITALIANO DANTE ALIGHIERI	CARSON DANIEL VALDES	NEW YORK
ELICI MILANO	WEI KANG	FLORIDA
ELICI MILANO	DEVON KROESCHE	PENNSYLVANIA
CULTURA ITALIANA BOLOGNA	SOFIA KAROLINE GRUBER	NEW YORK
CULTURA ITALIANA BOLOGNA	ERIC CLAUDE MOHAN	CONNECTICUT
EUROCENTRES	LANA ALAGIC	PENNSYLVANIA
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EUROCENTRES	NICHOLAS L. BORBELY	MICHIGAN
EUROPASS	ALIDA MOGOLLON	FLORIDA
IL SASSO - SCUOLA DI ITALIANO	DAVIS ALEJANDRO CAYCEDO	PENNSYLVANIA
ISTITUTO DANTE ALIGHIERI	ANTHONY VINCENTI BERIUCCHI	ILLINOIS
ISTITUTO LORENZO de' MEDICI	EMILY GODDOY	FLORIDA
ISTITUTO LORENZO de' MEDICI	LIZETTE GRAJALES	PENNSYLVANIA
ISTITUTO LINGUISTICO MEDITERRANEO	PHILIP MATTEINI	FLORIDA
ISTITUTO VENEZIA	BURBUQUE DAKU	PENNSYLVANIA
ITALIA IDEA	ANAN LAGANA	FLORIDA
JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY	LINTON TAYLOR	PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY	GABRIELLA AROSTEGUI	CALIFORNIA
LE ARTI ORAFE	JANIRIS BAEZ	FLORIDA
LE ARTI ORAFE	JENNIFER TROTTER	WASHINGTON
SANT'ANNA INSTITUTE	HANNAH BETH TROUTMAN	FLORIDA
SCUOLA DANTE ALIGHIERI CAMERINO	KATIE MORGAN MCGILL	MARYLAND
SCUOLA LEONARDO DA VINCI	ARIANNA ANDA	FLORIDA
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME	MEREDITH CRENCA	MARYLAND

“Evidently Italian culture and heritage is more cherished by others than our own children. This has been abetted by a long-standing aversion by families to formally acculturate their young.”

YALE WAS SO WRONG!



Jewish Americans often recount their plight in gaining entry to the Ivy Leagues years ago. But here is a quote from a Jewish source that shows who had worse odds:

According to historian David Oshinsky, on writing about Jonas Salk, *“In 1935 Yale accepted 76 applicants from a pool of 501. About 200 of those applicants were Jewish and only five got in.”* He notes that Dean Milton Winternitz’s instructions were remarkably precise: *“Never admit more than five Jews, take only two Italian Catholics, and take no blacks at all.”*

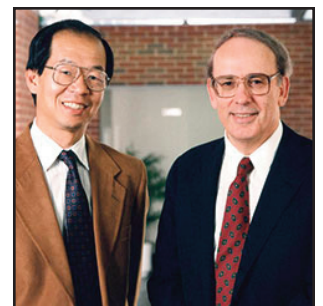
Yale’s loss was the world’s gain. Our staff took only a few hours to come up with this short list of Italian American accomplishments in medicine. Observes Advisory Council Chairman Alfred Cardone, *“It is quite amazing to compare our media image as buffoons and mobsters with the reality of our medical talent.”*



Time Magazine’s “100 Pioneers” include Dr. Tom Catena who runs the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the war-torn Sudan. *“Catena is the only surgeon serving a population of 750,000 people. He works tirelessly, day and night, treating all ailments, war injuries and starvation.”*

Another *Time Magazine* pioneer is Dr. Rudolph Tanzi who created what’s been nicknamed *“Alzheimer’s in a dish”*—human brain cells that, in a petri dish, develop the markers of this terrible disease. *“This makes it possible for scientists to better study which of the countless drugs out there might actually slow or wipe out this mind-blowing disease.”*

A recent obituary for Chinese American Dr. Frederick Li noted that his associate in pioneering the link between genes and cancer is Dr. Joseph Fraumeni (next to Dr. Li), hence the



cont’d on p.4

Yale, from p.3

medical term Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. Dr. Fraumeni continues to lead in this field.

Did you know that Dr. George Lombardi saved the life of Mother Teresa in 1990? He was flown to India to determine if the humanitarian was suffering from malaria or something else. Lombardi diagnosed it as an infection from her pacemaker, not malaria, something the other doctors hadn't suspected.

The doctor who led the team that saved President Reagan's life when he was shot in 1981 was Dr. Joseph Giordano. Giordano, a Democrat, famously replied to Reagan's joke that he hoped all his doctors were Republicans: "Today, Mr. President, we are all Republicans."

WHO KNEW?

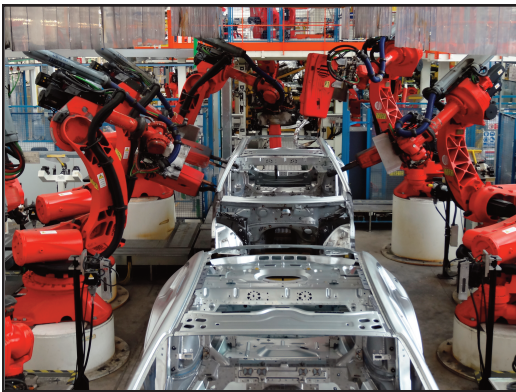
The Italian Ministry of Economic Development has put out a short but clever video on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaXqHU32bm4) turning stereotypes of Italy on their heads.

Among the revelations under deceptive headings are:

Pizzamakers? Italy is a world leader in major construction projects, 1,000 sites in 90 nations.

Latin Lovers? Italy has the world's 5th largest trade surplus in manufactured goods.

Gesticulators? Italy is Europe's 2nd largest exporter of machinery and capital goods (100 billion euros), like the automotive robots pictured here.



E t e r n a l C h i l d r e n ?

Italy is a leader in aerospace technology and the third country to orbit a satellite.

Finally, someone in the Italian government understands the need to upgrade the nation's image.

OUR MEMBERS WORK!

Beside being members of IIA, many of us have hobbies or causes to enhance our Italian heritage.

Frank Di Piero (center) hosts a Chicago radio program he calls *Keepin' It Real with Frankie D.* With him discussing the Italo Balbo Flight of 1933 are members (l-r) Walter Santi, Bill Dal Cerro, Dom Candeloro, and Don Fiore. You can google this program by typing in "Windy City Hometown Entertainment Network" and scrolling down to find "*Keepin' It Real.*"



Member Mario Ignagni of Minnesota is our go-to guy for *Wikipedia*, the on-line encyclopedia. We asked Mario to clarify the biography of boxing great Rocky Marciano (pictured to the right of President Eisenhower)



which left the impression that Rocky cavorted with mobsters. Mario was able to convince the editors to revise the entry to reflect the truth.

Member Ken Borelli of San Jose, CA, has been involved in the preservation efforts of the Romaggi Adobe House in his state. The property was built at the time of the Gold Rush and stands in testimony to the Italian presence in the state before the mass immigration. Just google "Save the Romaggi Adobe Foundation."