



Buon Anno! Bonne Année! Happy New Year! Tony Ieluzzi helps usher in 2005 at Villa Marconi



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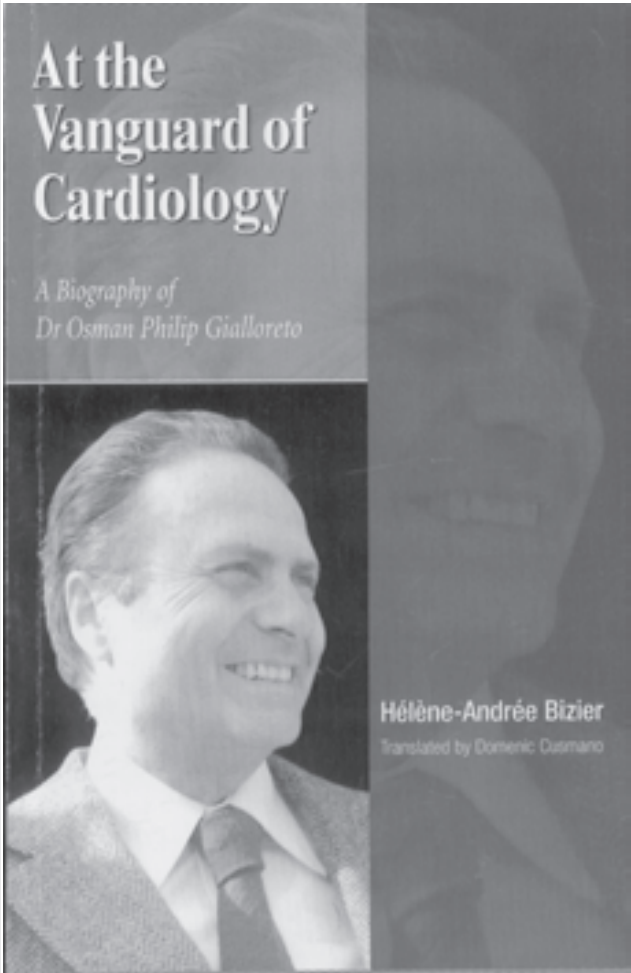
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City-Wide

All' avanguardia della cardiologia La Biografia del Dott. Osman P. Gialloreto.

di Luciano Pradal



At the Vanguard of Cardiology: A Biography of Dr. Osman Philip Gialloreto, M.D. Tradotto da Domenic Cusmano. Montreal: Cusmano Comm, 2004

ISBN 0-9730581-1-0

La biografia, in francese od in inglese, puo' essere ottenuta facendo una donazione di \$15 alla Fondation Santa Cabrini. Tutti i ricavati andranno alla Fondazione Santa Cabrini. Per ulteriori informazioni siete pregati di contattare l' Ospedale Santa Cabrini al (514) 252-6400.

La tonnellata di CO2

A cura di Carletto Caccia

Quando sentiamo parlare di una tonnellata sappiamo che si tratta di mille chili, che siano di farina o granoturco, che sia il peso di una nave o di un autocarro. Ma quando sentiamo parlare di una tonnellata di CO2, allora si tratta di anidride carbonica, uno dei quattro gas che producono l'effetto serra ed a cui si attribuisce il cambiamento di clima. Questo è un grosso problema che sta causando grossi grattacapi, tanto che ha spinto i governi dei paesi più industrializzati - salvo gli Stati Uniti - a firmare un accordo internazionale noto sotto il nome di protocollo di Kyoto. Il protocollo vuole che si riducano i gas ad effetto serra tra cui il CO2.

Veniamo ora a Ottawa dove una commissione del Senato ha appena pubblicato un rapporto dal titolo < La sfida di una tonnellata >. In sostanza si esorta ogni cittadino a darsi da fare nel ridurre di una tonnellata le cinque tonnellate di anidride carbonica che ognuno di noi produce nel corso di un anno. Il governo pertanto ci chiede di risparmiare sull'uso dell'elettricità e della benzina, cioè di ridurre l'uso degli elettrodomestici, di ridurre il riscaldamento della casa, di usare meno l'automobile, in quanto facendo così si riduce il

quantitativo di anidride carbonica che si immette nell'atmosfera.

Se ogni cittadino farà la sua parte per aiutare il governo a fare la sua, allora ci metteremo sulla buona strada nel rimediare il danno fatto ed il problema del cambiamento di clima che dobbiamo risolvere.



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City-Wide

Liberals keep their promise on Italian TV

by Massimo, Pacetti, MP
Saint-Leonard/Sanit-Michel



I am pleased by the CRTC's announcement which opens the door to Italian-language programming from Italy.

My colleagues in the Liberal Party and I have worked hard since this issue came to light to convey to the CRTC that the denial of such programming to Canadians of Italian descent and to Italophiles across the country was unjustified. The CRTC's announcement has struck a good balance on a complex issue, and it demonstrates that our efforts were not in

vain.

In determining that any future foreign third-language services will have to be purchased by subscribers along with the corresponding Canadian third-language service, CRTC commissioners demonstrated their sensitivity to an important component of the Canadian population as well as to the business interests Canadian third-language broadcasters such as Telelatino, whose viability with the arrival of RAI might be jeopardized.

The work of the expert panel, appointed by heritage minister, Liza Frulla, just days after her own appointment by Prime Minister Paul Martin following the June 28th election, should be applauded for its work in providing a clear and sensible path in the effort that will soon make more Italian-language programming in Canada a reality.

This is clear evidence that the Canadian political process works - and it does so quickly and in the interest of all Canadians.

Messaggio Natalizio dell'ambasciatore d'Italia

di L'Ambasciatore d'Italia, Marco Colombo

Come ogni anno, in occasione delle prossime feste natalizie sono lieto di rivolgere un affettuoso messaggio augurale alle comunità italiana e italo-canadese.



Il 2004 è stato un anno intenso e ricco di avvenimenti importanti. Ad esempio, l'Unione Europea ha ulteriormente allargato i propri confini e ora include ben venticinque Paesi. Come italiani siamo fieri che la storica firma - a fine ottobre - della "Costituzione per l'Europa", per la quale l'Italia si era attivata con un forte impegno sin dall'avvio del laborioso negoziato, abbia avuto luogo a Roma. L'allargamento dell'Unione e le riforme istituzionali al suo interno non significano però che l'Europa intende chiudersi in sé stessa. Al contrario, i progressi ottenuti per consolidare le sue fondamenta le consentono di essere un elemento di stabilità e di crescita nel mondo, anche per intensificare i rapporti con quei Paesi, come il Canada, che le sono particolarmente amici.

In tale contesto, va ricordato l'apprezzamento ottenuto dal Ministro degli Esteri italiano, Franco Frattini, ora Vice Presidente della Commissione europea, in occasione della sua recente visita a Ottawa. Al suo successore, On. Gianfranco Fini, formuliamo i migliori auguri di successo per la sua delicata missione.

Le sfide che il mondo attraversa in questo periodo sono di molteplice natura. Per restare nel campo della politica internazionale, sia l'Italia che il Canada operano in prima linea per portare la pace e la stabilità nelle regioni più tormentate del mondo. In quelle aree sono oggi presenti circa diecimila militari italiani, spesso affiancati da civili appartenenti ad organizzazioni umanitarie. Essi si adoperano, a rischio della propria vita, affinché anche le popolazioni più minacciate e indifese possano godere di quei diritti fondamentali che nei nostri Paesi riteniamo acquisiti, ma che altrove devono essere quotidianamente conquistati.

Per quanto riguarda gli argomenti che coinvolgono più direttamente la nostra collettività in Canada, mi fa piacere poter constatare che il cosiddetto "Sistema Italia" - ovvero l'insieme delle strutture istituzionali qui operanti nei diversi settori (economico, scientifico e culturale) - sta ben funzionando. Un efficace coordinamento permette un miglior dialogo tra i soggetti interessati e maggiori risultati per tutti.

A tale riguardo, desidero anche ricordare le importanti iniziative intraprese dal Ministro per gli Italiani nel Mondo per accorpare e coordinare - mediante apposite iniziative e convegni - i rappresentanti dei principali settori professionali della nostra comunità all'estero: i ricercatori scientifici, gli imprenditori, gli artisti e, da ultimo, i ristoratori italiani.

Quest'anno ha avuto luogo il rinnovo di alcuni dei principali Organismi rappresentativi degli italiani all'estero, come i Comites e il CGIE. La collettività appare oggi molto più compatta e sono evidenti i segnali di riavvicinamento tra le sue varie componenti. Ciò permetterà il raggiungimento di quei risultati che tutti auspichiamo per fare sì che la comunità italiana e di origine italiana del Canada sia sempre più unita e quindi più forte.

In tale direzione si sono già registrati importanti esempi di cooperazione. Ricordo in particolare la viva sensibilità con cui l'intera comunità italiana ha rappresentato, nel rispetto dei principi del multiculturalismo che onorano il Canada, la sua aspettativa di ricevere i programmi di RAI International. Attualmente, come noto, siamo in attesa di conoscere i risultati della procedura avviata dal Governo canadese che dovrebbe portare - così speriamo - ad esaudire le aspettative di tanti italiani e italo-canadesi.

So bene che voi avete fortemente contribuito, con i vostri sacrifici ed il vostro ingegno, a far diventare il Canada uno dei Paesi più avanzati del mondo ed un modello di progresso economico e di democrazia. In cambio, questo immenso e ospitale Paese vi ha permesso, cogliendo tutte le opportunità che esso offre, di affermarvi nei vari settori di attività.

Come ogni anno, desidero ribadire a tutti voi il mio invito a rinnovare l'impegno profuso nel passato a favore dei giovani e degli anziani. I primi, ormai pienamente inseriti nella realtà canadese, devono infatti essere aiutati a ritrovare quelle caratteristiche proprie della nostra cultura. Ai secondi, che hanno tuttora il compito di tramandare ai nipoti le nostre tradizioni e la nostra lingua, auguriamo di vivere gli anni della meritata pensione con l'affetto e il calore della propria famiglia. Sono particolarmente lieto di formulare a tutti voi i migliori auguri per il Natale e l'Anno Nuovo e sono certo di interpretare il vostro pensiero se, anche a nome vostro, esprimo i migliori auspici di successo per l'Italia e per il Canada nell'anno a venire.

Four more months for RAI

by Louise Daniels

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission made it easier for foreign television channels to broadcast in Canada last month.

In what many are calling a landmark ruling, the federal broadcast regulator announced that "requests to add general interest foreign third-language services ... for distribution on a digital basis will generally be approved".

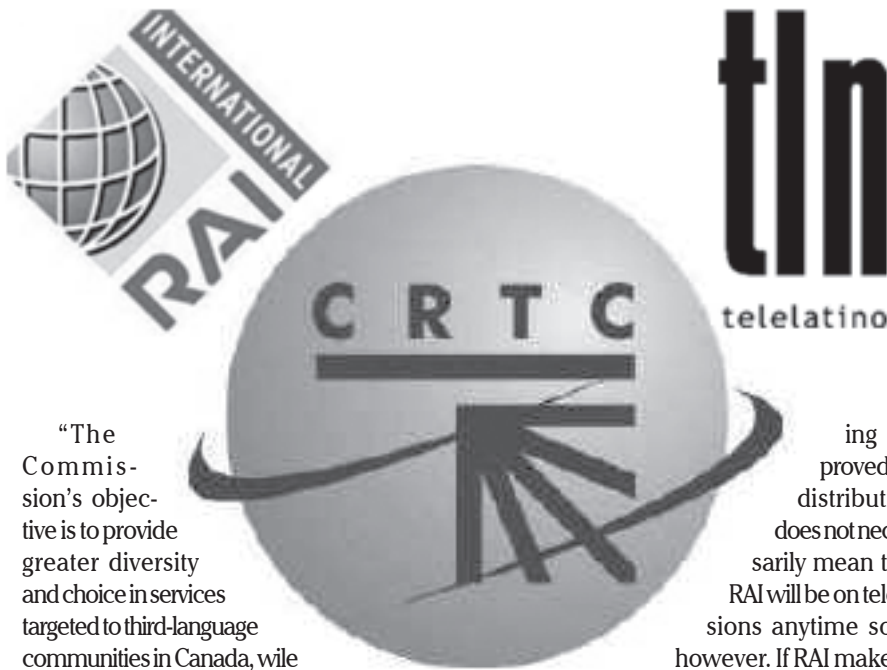
Lobbyists and broadcasters are optimistic that the ruling will bring television channels like Italy's RAI International to Canada much faster than before.

Charles Dalfen, chairman of the CRTC said that the commission is dedicated to creating more variety in Canada's media landscape.

The CRTC has indeed attached some strings to this decision. In addition to selling the foreign channel, distributors must provide the Canadian-based competitor alongside the ethnic station. In the Italian case, the Canadian viewer would be forced to order Telelatino in combination with RAI.

Many people in the Italian community were angry when the CRTC approved distribution of nine services, including Al-Jazeera but rejected RAI last summer.

The commission cited too much local competition with Toronto based network, Telelatino. Since Telelatino already carries some of RAI's programming, the CRTC ruled that RAI would crush the Canadian opponent.



"The Commission's objective is to provide greater diversity and choice in services targeted to third-language communities in Canada, while fostering the viability of licensed Canadian ethnic services which create and broadcast Canadian programming and reflect Canadian points of view," he said in a prepared statement. "I believe the policy changes we have announced today achieve that balance."

Nino Colavecchio of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians, helped organized the protest earlier this year which contributed to the CRTC's change in policy.

He estimates that the new application process should take about four to six months to bring RAI to Canada on a 24 hour basis.

"We're all hoping they can find a way to expedite this," he said.

Being approved for distribution does not necessarily mean that RAI will be on television anytime soon however. If RAI makes it through the application process this year, said Aldo Di Felice, president of Telelatino. RAI will be added to a list of possible television stations that may or may not be distributed by cable and satellite companies.

"Having channels available in Canada, on a list that allows them to be carried, doesn't actually get them carried," Di Felice told CBC. "Consumer accessibility isn't necessarily guaranteed at all." After approval, it is up to cable and satellite providers such as Rogers to offer the channel to their customers.

With the support of the NCIC however, it is believed that RAI will probably be distributed by many cable and satellite companies.

City-Wide

The smirking temptress

by Louise Daniels

The Mona Lisa's smile has been a subject of debate for many years. Many people have made up stories about Leonardo da Vinci's famous smirk. Some say she is thinking about a secret pregnancy, others that she is hiding braces, or a toothache. Others even say she may have had brain damage.

Dr. Ross Kilpatrick, professor emeritus of Classics at Queen's University has decided that she is doing none of things, and that her smile is not the only thing relevant about this "very tiny but disproportionately famous painting."

During a lecture held at the National Archives last month, Kilpatrick fleshed out his new thesis that the Mona Lisa was actually based on a poem by Petrarch. While others have suggested the influence of Dante, Kilpatrick claims that Petrarch along with Horace were da Vinci's leading inspiration.

It's a very emotional stanza at the end of Canzoniere CXLV that goes like this which makes him think so:

*"At beauty so divine in vain he wonders,
who never yet those eyes of hers has seen,
how gently she could at him roll those eyes;
he does not know how sweetly she doth sigh
and sweetly speak, and ah, so sweetly laugh."*

Petrarch and Horace are two poets that da Vinci was believed to have been reading during the 16 years in which he painted his masterpiece.

Kilpatrick believes that the Mona Lisa is an idealized woman named "Laura" whose likeness is referenced in the authors' poems. She is a woman of intense beauty and wonder, symbolizing feminine virtue, just barely straddling the realm of dream and reality.

He says the background in the Mona Lisa is important because it doesn't exist, which symbolizes the unreal qualities of the lady. The mountains in the background have been proved to be the Alps, but there is no possible way that the mythical road and bridge which are depicted behind her exist. The fuzzy atmosphere (chiaroscuro) also contributes to the dreamlike quality of the painting.

Mona Lisa is situated in a lively villa, among great pillars that have since been mostly cut away from the canvas. This represents her realistic side. It is thought that the model for the imaginary woman was Lisa di Antonio Maria di Noldo Gherardini. The wife of a florentine business-

man in early 16th century Florence.

The reality ends there. She is depicted as not wearing any jewellery at all, which is strange because this was generally an indication of status. It is believed that this omission was deliberate. The lack of jewellery was meant to convey a sense of timeless, impossible beauty.



Why did Da Vinci paint this? Dr. Ross Kilpatrick is only one of the most recent scholar to attempt to decipher the famous image.

"What do you do to make someone more beautiful? You give them jewellery," Kilpatrick says, "but she had none."

Another clue that the woman was invented by da Vinci is the embroidery on her neckline. The style is called "vinci" (rushes) and "the Da Vinci knot" was a sort of signature that da Vinci and his students incorporated into their designs.

"This portrait has come a very long way from the time the sitter sat," says Kilpatrick, enduring one famous theft in 1911 by an Italian carpenter, a trip to Washington and Japan, as well as an "awful coat of varnish" which ruined the colours of the painting. Its poplar panels are now warping.

"The Mona Lisa didn't become famous until the 1800s," Kilpatrick says. An Italian carpenter took the painting right off the wall of the Louvre, "for the most altruistic reason imaginable," he

An excerpt of Petrarch's inspirational poem

*Place me where the sun smites flower and herb
or where he vanquishes the ice and snow;
place me where his car flies light and soft,
and where 'tis he who slays and he who saves;
place me under fortune, low or proud,
in air that's sweet serene - and dull and thick;
place me in the night, days long or short,
in prime of life or in its bitterness:
place me in heav'n or earth, or the abyss,
on hilltop high or valley deep in marsh,
in spirit free or frozen in my limbs:
place me with fame obscure or with renown,
as I was, I'll be, I'll die as so I lived
in my trilateral sighing evermore.
In realms of heaven where, and in what Form,
was that example from which Nature drew
the fair and comely face, in which she chose
to show to earth below her power above?
What nymph of fountain, goddess in a wood,
set loose such locks of finest gold in air?
When did one heart such virtues so compound?
'Tis true: the sum of her means death for me.
At beauty so divin in vain he wonders,
who never yet those eyes of her has seen,
how gently she could at him roll those eyes;
he does not know how Love can heal and wound
who does not know how sweetly she doth sigh
and sweetly speak, and ah, so sweetly sigh.*

*Ponmi ove l'sole occide i fiori e l'erba
o dove vince lui il ghiaccio e la neve;
ponmi ov'è il carro suo temprato e leve
et ov'è chi ce l'rende o chi ce l'serba:
ponmi in umil fortuna od in superba,
al dolce aere sereno al fosco e greve;
ponmi a la notte, al di lungo ed al breve,
a la matura etate od a l'acerba:
ponmi in cielo od in terra od in abisso,
in alto poggio, in valle ima e palustre,
libero spirto od a' suoi membri affisso;
ponmi con fama oscura o con illustre:
sarò qual fui, vivrò com'io son visso,
continuando il mio sospir trillustre
In qual parte del ciel, in quale idea
era l'essempio onde natura tolse
quel bel viso leggiadro, in ch'ella vlse
mostrar qua giù quanto là su potea?
Qual ninfa in fonti, in selve mai qual dea
chiome d'oro si fino a l'aura sciolse?
quando un cor tante in sè vertuti accolse?
benché la soma è di mia morte rea.
Per divina bellezza indarno mira,
chi gli occhi di costei già mai non vide,
come soavemente ella gli gira;
non sa come Amorsana e come ancede
chi non sa come dolce ella sospira.
e come dolce parla e dolce ride.*



Dr. Ross Kilpatrick is an expert on Italian renaissance art.

says. "He wanted it back in Italy."

Although the painting was quite famous at that time, the rumours and gossip surrounding the theft made it all the more so.

Alessandro Cortese was there to represent the Italian embassy which partly sponsored the event.

"It's interesting to see how poetry, architecture, and art go together," he says.

Wendy Wynne-Jones is from the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies. She says that it was Kilpatrick's fifth time speaking for the organization, and she says he "takes a fresh look at things."

Whether the Mona Lisa or La Gioconda was real, invented, or a combination of the two, doesn't affect her transcendent qualities. The painting, along with da Vinci's other works, are timeless pieces that will hopefully be enjoyed and debated for many years to come.



Un Nuovo Libro di Ermanno La Riccia

"La Padrona" un libro appassionante, ove si raccolta una bella storia d'amore e la lotta di due giovani per conquistarsi la libertà di volersi bene.

Dopo i successi dei due libri di racconti "Terra Mia" e "Viaggio in Paradiso", Ermanno La Riccia torna nelle librerie con un romanzo, "La Padrona", una drammatica storia d'amore, piena di colpi di scena, scritta con un linguaggio

Si possono acquistare copie de "La Padrona" nella redazione del Postino oppure chiamate 567-4532

City-Wide

La Dinamica dell’ emigrazione

di Luciano Pradal

E’ stata una fortuita coincidenza che mi ha permesso di constatare la dinamica dell’ emigrazione ed il genio e la laboriosita’ degli Italo-Canadesi. Ho visitato la mostra campionaria della Ditta Classic Tile & Marble Ltd., ad accompagnarmi durante la visita e’ stata Angela Filoso moglie di Luigi Filoso essi, con i figli Dino e Nino, gestiscono l’ azienda che e’ ben affermata nel campo del commercio, finizione e posa di marmi, graniti, piastrelle, ecc.

Durante la nostra conversazione siamo stati interrotti alcune volte dagli adetti dell’ azienda che chiedevano direttive ad Angela e questo mi ha fatto realizzare l’ importante ruolo che Angela ha nell’ azienda.

E’ stato impressionante constare il campionario, la bellezza e la varieta’ dei marmi, graniti, piastrelle ed altri materiali che vengono lavorati e finiti sul posto secondo le esigenze dei clienti. Ci sono campioni dei piu’ bei marmi e graniti che vengono dall’ Italia, Brasile, India e dal Quebec, tutti hanno colori e venature che conferiscono loro un tono e personalita’ distinta, e’ stata una vera esperienza visitare la mostra campionaria con Angela che mi spiegava i piu’ disparati usi di ogni tipo di materiale.

Attiguo al negozio-ufficio c’e’ il deposito ove vengono tenute in buon ordine un gran numero di lastre di marmo e granito. In questo deposito di “Pietre preziose” possiamo rendersi conto ancora una volta dell’ importante ruolo che la Classic Tile& Marble ha nell’ industria della costruzione in Ottawa ed in altre parti dell’ Emisfero Americano.

Sempre accompagnato da Angela abbiamo visitato il reparto della lavorazione dei marmi e graniti che impiega una quindicina di operai sotto la direzione di Nino secondogenito di Angela. Qui imponenti macchinari strategicamente disposti permettono di effettuare il ciclo completo della

lavorazione dei marmi e graniti, taglio, pulitura, ecc. Angela mi fa’ notare che questi sofisticati macchinari sono tutti di fabbricazione ed importati dall’ Italia. Una di esse era stata appena commissionata, il tecnico rappresentante delle officine che l’ avevano costruita aveva, solo qualche giorno prima, finito il montaggio, il collaudo ed il periodo d’ istruzione alle maestranze del Cassic Tile& Marble che ora operano la macchina.

Un’ altra macchina, mi spiega Angela, permette la pulitura e finizione di grandi lastre di marmi e graniti, l’ operatore doveva programmare il computer e la macchina, nel dovuto tempo, in varie fasi ed in tutta sicurezza, compiva tutte le operazioni fino a lavoro finito, durante questo tempo l’ operatore poteva dedicarsi alla posa di un’ altra lastra di marmo sull’ apposito piano attiguo, questo permetteva un processo di lavorazione molto piu’ efficace. La visita a questo reparto e’ stata molto interessante ed istruttiva, resa tale dalle esaurienti spiegazioni di Angela, la mia accompagnatrice.

Ritornati nell’ entrata ove c’e’ la mostra campionaria e gli uffici noto una foto, chiedo se e’Si’ e’ Pretoro mi previene Angela. E’ da li’ che questa avventura ha cominciato.

Giuseppe Filoso emigra da Pretoro in Canada, Ottawa, nel ‘49- ‘50, trova impiego nell’ edilizia, lo raggiunge il figlio Tommaso, l’ anno dopo l’ altro figlio Luigi, seguira’ poi il resto della famiglia; Luigi trova lavoro come marmista e posatore di ceramiche, lavoro che fara’ per ben 35 anni. Luigi si sposa con Angela e dal matrimonio nasceranno Dino, Anita, Marina e Nino. Dino frequenta l’ Universita’, diventa Ingegnere Civile e convince il padre a mettersi in proprio, nascono cosi’ le ditte: Classic Tiles & Marble Ltd. e Presto Construction Inc. due imprese che hanno saputo ben affermarsi nel settore edile nella Regione della Capitale Canadese.

Questa azienda familiare presenta un organigramma semplice ma molto efficace:

Dino si occupa di redigere i contratti avvalorandosi dell’ esperienza del padre che si occupa anche della supervisione dei lavori. Nino si occupa della lavorazione e della finizione dei marmi e graniti, Angela, la moglie di Luigi si potrebbe definire la coordinatrice, lo spirito dell’ impresa.

Durante la visita a questa ditta altamente specializzata, mi sono reso conto che anche questo e’ un esempio tangibile dei benefici della dinamica dell’ emigrazione italiana in Canada, dinamica che ha saputo creare dei leaders validissimi ed indispensabili alla sociata’ odierna.

L’ Hockey su schermo gigante!

Venite a riscaldarvi guardando due film appassionanti al Museo Canadese delle Civilizzazion!

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Shinny: The Hockey in All of Us. E stato scritto e diretto da Davide Batistella ed ha vinto differenti premi. Un film da vedere!

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Shinny: The hockey in All of Us is an award winning film. It was written and directed by Davide Batistella. A must see film!

H.E. Marco Colombo honours
Dolores De Pretto



Le nostre piu’ vive congratulazioni alla Signora Dolores De Pretto, che vediamo nella foto con il resto della famiglia, alla quale e’ stato conferito Il Titolo di Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana

Features

I veleni che noi mangiamo

Occorre saper scegliere i cibi che noi mangiamo. Gli esperti dicono che i grassi trans, contenuti in moltissimi prodotti alimentari per aumentare il loro mantenimento, aumentano le malattie cardiovascolari. Il governo ha deciso di eliminarli.

di Ermanno La Riccia

In questi giorni vi è un detto che circola insistente e che lo si sente ripetere da più parti il quale testualmente dice: «Le pillole ci allungano la vita e certi cibi che sembrano sani ce l'accorciano»: dall'uso che ognuno di noi fa di queste due entità contrapposte viene fuori la risultante del nostro cammino nella vita. Ma dobbiamo stare attenti a non sbagliare.

Sappiamo tutti che la medicina va facendo passi da gigante. Alcune malattie che sembravano quasi incurabili oggi si guariscono o vengono fermate usando nuovi farmaci. Giorni fa parlavo con un amico che non vedevo da tempo il quale mi diceva che sua figlia è guarita dalla leucemia usando delle pillole costosissime: per ogni mese di cura occorre spendere 3500 dollari. E siccome la cura deve durare alcuni mesi, anzi forse degli anni, immaginate un po' quali grandi disagi finanziari bisogna affrontare per non morire.

Purtroppo, lo sappiamo tutti, e lo dicono continuamente anche degli esperti, noi oggi ingoiamo troppe pillole, spesso anche quando non ne abbiamo affatto bisogno.

Ma c'è un'altra strada per preservare la nostra salute e combattere eventuali malattie che possono colpirci senza usare farmaci o, perlomeno, usarne il meno possibile: la prevenzione. E per prevenire gli eventuali mali che potranno affliggerci dobbiamo entrare in un altro campo con cui siamo a contatto tutti i giorni: l'alimentazione.

La nostra salute dipende da due fattori importanti: dall'aria che respiriamo e dai cibi che mangiamo.

L'aria che oggi noi respiriamo non è pulita: è piena di veleni e di molecole cancerogene dovute ai fumi che escono dai tubi di scappamento delle nostre automobili e da mille altri tipi di sostanze gassose che le nostre industrie e persino i nostri focolari liberano nell'aria contaminandola al punto tale da renderla velenosa. E noi facciamo molto poco o niente per prevenire questo disastro volontario che con le sue conseguenze ci regala brutte malattie. Altre malattie ce le andiamo a cercare da soli fumando le sigarette che, lo sappiamo tutti, il cui fumo è nocivo per la nostra salute.

Il campo dove noi potremmo fare molto per prevenire malanni e, di conseguenza, vivere

più a lungo, è quello degli alimenti. Purtroppo, la nostra vita è condizionata da una pazzesca corsa contro il tempo. Oggi tutto si deve fare in fretta: correre, correre senza fermarsi, per guadagnare sempre di più e, per tener dietro a questo stile di vita, trascuriamo la nostra salute usando una alimentazione, senza badare al reale contenuto di essa, che fa più male che bene alla

In questi giorni è stato dato l'allarme da parte di enti governativi che, finalmente, incominciano ad occuparsi della nostra alimentazione, i quali vanno constatando che, molte persone, a furia di ingoiare cibi di questo genere sono esageratamente in soprappeso.

La salute della popolazione incomincia a diventare troppo importante affinché il governo

il suo impegno. E così tante altre compagnie che fabbricano biscotti, margarine, burro ecc. ecc., ecco che è nata la necessità di fare una legge. Per dire la verità l'allarme è venuto dalla Danimarca che ha imposto il massimo del 2% di grassi nei cibi. Il Canada, sembra si stia orientando verso lo 0%, ossia la completa eliminazione.

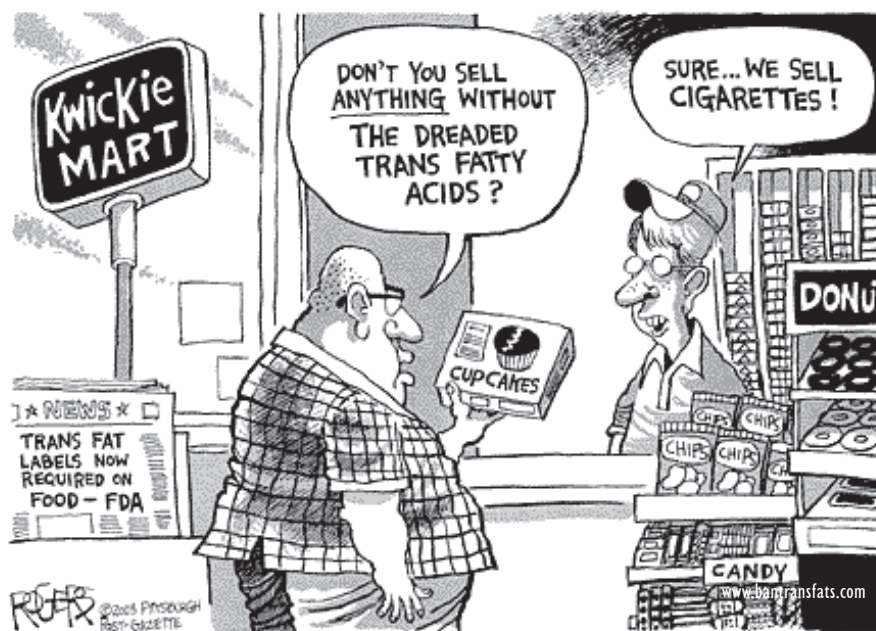
Ma che cosa ne sappiamo noi o il gran pubblico di questi grassi contenuti in una moltitudine di prodotti? Pochissimo o nulla.

I grassi trans, possono essere naturalmente contenuti nella carne o nei prodotti del latte ma si formano quando si aggiunge dell'idrogeno ad un olio vegetale. Si usano soprattutto nella pasticceria, nelle crustilles, e nei piatti di cibi congelati. Oppure negli alimenti che vanno sotto il nome di «santé», come il burro di arachide, la margarina e le barre di gragnola, sotto il nome di ingredienti come «olio idrogenato» oppure «shortening».

Una eccessiva consumazione di grassi idrogenati nuoce alla salute aumentando il tasso del cattivo colesterolo nel sangue e quindi produce malattie cardiovascolari. Ed è stato accertato che la consumazione di 1 grammo di grassi trans al giorno, dopo 10 anni aumenta del 20% il rischio di malattie cardiovascolari. I canadesi consumano da 8 a 39 grammi di grassi trans al giorno. La concentrazione di acidi grassi trans nel tessuto adiposo dei canadesi è la più elevata di quella di molti altri paesi, compresi gli Stati Uniti.

Riconoscendo la nocività di questo cattivo nutrimento le autorità canadesi ed americane obbligheranno tra qualche mese le industrie alimentari a scrivere sulle etichette il contenuto di questi grassi nei loro prodotti. In attesa che il governo emani la legge per eliminarli. In attesa della legge siamo noi che dobbiamo scegliere i nostri cibi privi di grassi idrogenati. Ed ora vi confesso che io sono alcuni anni che ho allargato la coltivazione dei pomodori nel mio giardino dietro casa dalle quali ricavo la salsa per la pasta asciutta per tutto l'anno. Solo così, al momento attuale son sicuro che elimino tutti i veleni che in varie maniere sono contenuti nei cibi.

Ora spetta a noi leggere bene le etichette sulle quali ci sarà scritto il rado di grassi che i cibi contengono... e non sarà facile.



nostra salute. E riconiamo spesso ai «fast food» ossia a quei cibi che si preparano in poco tempo oppure sono preparati in anticipo con ingredienti che ne assicurano la preservazione per un certo tempo. Hamburgers, hot dogs e pizzelle i quali, annaffiati da bibite e succhi di frutta, anch'essi ricchi di preservativi e coloranti, sono il cibo quotidiano di milioni di frettolosi canadesi. E non sono esenti da questo tipo di alimentazione nemmeno i bambini che con le loro prefabbricate merendine, con le bustine di patatine ed altri ritrovati che i nostri negozi vendono a grappoli, oppure i famosi kellogs e simili di tutte le taglie, anch'essi preparati con lunga preservazione. E biscotti, biscottini, krakers anch'essi di lunga durata arricchiscono la nostra tavola.

se ne occupi e cessi di lasciare le grandi industrie dell'alimentazione di occuparsene da sole perché esse fanno soltanto i loro interessi e non quelli della popolazione.

E' stato accertato che c'è una grande marea di cibi che contengono i cosiddetti «grassi trans» e ci riferiamo anche a tutti quelli che abbiamo menzionato prima, sono nocivi alla salute. E i deputati social democratici che siedono al parlamento per iniziativa del loro capo hanno presentato una istanza per chiedere al governo di fare una legge per bandire i cosiddetti acidi «grassi trans» dalla fabbricazione di qualsiasi cibo.

Che questi grassi facessero male alla salute lo si sapeva da tempo. La McDonald sin dal 2002 aveva promesso di eliminare il 50% di essi dai suoi fast foods ma fino ad oggi non ha mantenuto

Se tiriamo le somme

A cura di Carletto Caccia

Se tiriamo le somme, quest'anno il calendario politico sembra concludersi con un bilancio misto. Da un lato abbiamo una schiarita di orizzonte tra Palestina ed Israele che potrebbe portare alla tanto anelata pace; abbiamo la decisione della Russia di ratificare il protocollo di Kyoto; abbiamo la conclusione dei giochi olimpici ad Atene, senza atti di violenza né spargimento di sangue; e abbiamo una comunità europea allargata e unita come mai da secoli.

Dall'altro lato invece ci sono delle nubi cupe all'orizzonte. In Iraq, ad esempio, se si guarda al macello quotidiano tra occupanti ed occupati, bisogna concludere che solo un super ottimista può pretendere che a fine gennaio potranno svolgersi delle elezioni in un clima che consenta una partecipazione del pubblico in una atmosfera serena e democratica. In Sudan ed in altre parti d'Africa, sia la guerriglia che l'AIDS continuano a fare strage. E lo squilibrio tra nazioni ricche e povere rimane all'ordine del giorno, malgrado le roboanti dichiarazioni

politiche di vari leaders occidentali.

Qui in Canada, il quadro è alquanto variato. In settembre, è stato firmato l'accordo tra le provincie e Ottawa sul finanziamento delle cure mediche ed ospedaliere. L'intenzione di finanziare meglio le città grazie ad un influsso di fondi federali sembra procedere nella direzione giusta, mentre la promessa di lanciare un programma di istruzione per i bambini al di sotto dei sei anni d'età è ancora in alto mare. Il governo, purtroppo, non sembra avere le idee chiare sulla decisione da prendere circa l'uso dei missili i quali – almeno in teoria – sono intesi a difendere il continente nord-americano. Fatto sta che i missili potranno portare all'armamento spaziale e ad una forma di attività belliche mai praticate sino ad ora.

Come andranno a finire le cose non si sa, ma per il momento restiamo tranquilli e godiamoci le feste natalizie ed il messaggio di pace che le accompagna.



Features

Warm up in winter with wines of Italy

By: Stacey Metulynsky, Groovy Grapes Sommelier

Australian Shiraz ... Argentinean Malbec ... Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon ...
Store shelves and restaurant wine lists are stocking more and more of these “new world” wines that offer tasty, fruit driven, full bodied flavours, and modern packaging that appeal to the consumer. As the “modern wine drinker” emerges, some of the traditional, old world wine regions of countries such as France and Italy have fallen into the shadows of more trendy producers that feature labels with kangaroos, leopard prints, and other exotic creatures.

It’s easy to see why. Old world wine regions (European countries who have been making wine for centuries) have tended to maintain traditional marketing and packaging, which is sometimes confusing or intimidating to the average consumer.

For instance, old world wines are labeled by the region where the grapes were grown and the wine was produced, instead of the actual grapes used in making the wine (e.g. “Valpolicella” is a wine region, and a wine labeled as such would actually contain a blend of three Italian grape varieties grown there, none of which are called Valpolicella). So instead of knowing right off the bat what kind of wine is in the bottle, a consumer must first know what grapes are grown in a particular region to be able to then narrow down what kind of wine is likely to be in the bottle.

Sound confusing? It doesn’t have to be. The best way to get to know more about old world wines is to try them. Italian wines, for example, offer a great range of styles, from light and fruity to full bodied and rich, many of which are priced very competitively. Not sure where to start? Well, check out this list of holiday-friendly Italian bottles. From budget to blockbuster, we’ve got you covered.

Party-friendly

Rotari Brut (Vintages 708495, \$17.95)

Sparkling wine is great to kick off holiday parties, toast the new year, or sip with canapés and good friends. This one is fresh, fizzy, and made in the Traditional Method – the same way that Champagne is made in France.

Tabletop-friendly

Giovello Pinot Grigio (LCBO 580183, \$10.35)

This light bodied, refreshing white is packaged in a stunning

cobalt blue bottle with a dragonfly on the label. Also try its red wine partner Merlot in the blue bottles too.

Pocketbook-friendly

Farnese Sangiovese Daunia (LCBO 512327, \$7.10)

You can’t ask for more for seven bucks – medium bodied red wine with ripe cherry flavours, a bit of spice, and a deep inky colour that looks expensive in the glass.

Food-friendly

Frescobaldi Nipozzano Chianti Riserva (LCBO 107276, \$19.95)

A great example of why Italian wines are great with food. Try this one with pasta with tomato sauce, beef stew, or lamb.

Fire-friendly

Masi Grandarella (Vintages 961086, \$28.95)

The perfect companion for a cozy evening spent relaxing by the fire. Full bodied and brimming with rich, velvety flavours of fruit and spice. Worth every penny, and if you can bear to part with it, makes a special gift too.

Stocking-friendly

Tedeschi Amarone Della Valpolicella Classico 375 ml (Vintages 695395, \$23.95)

This half-bottle size works as a special stocking stuffer. Another full bodied red with interesting layers of spicy, smoky notes and lots of ripe fruit flavours.

Chocolate-friendly

Brachetto d’Aqui (Vintages 597849, \$16.95)

A sparkling, slightly sweet red wine with flavours of strawberries, perfect for fruit trays and chocolate truffles. A rare gem – grab some while it’s still available.

Stacey is a professional wine lover, writer, event planner, and educator who runs a wine events and education business called Groovy Grapes. Groovy Grapes provides wine-related education, event planning and consulting, from home-based gatherings for family and friends, to restaurant wine clubs, to large corporate events. Go to www.groovygrapes.com for more information or email stacey@groovygrapes.com to receive the free newsletter.



Comunicato stampa

Ministero per gli Italiani nel Mondo

Sconti e facilitazioni per viaggi, soggiorni e ristorazione, così come per visite ai musei o acquisti. E’ l’iniziativa del Ministro per gli Italiani nel Mondo, on. Mirko Tremaglia, a sostegno del cosiddetto “turismo di ritorno”. Affinché, cioè, i nostri connazionali residenti all’estero trovino in Patria un’accoglienza ancora più favorevole. Verrà presentata **mercoledì 15 p.v. alle ore 11.00** presso la **Sala stampa di Palazzo Chigi**.

Grazie a questa speciale Carta dei servizi che si chiamerà “*Carta turismo per gli Italiani nel Mondo*”, gli esercenti italiani potranno presto contare su un nuovo segmento di mercato, potenzialmente enorme (4 milioni i cittadini italiani residenti all’estero, 60 milioni gli oriundi), costituito da una clientela entusiasta e desiderosa di tradizione, qualità, cultura, bellezze naturali e paesaggistiche. In una parola, di Italianità.

Con un fatturato di oltre 90 miliardi di euro l’anno, il turismo contribuisce al 7% del PIL nazionale. Da uno studio commissionato dallo stesso Ministro Tremaglia risulta che, grazie a questa iniziativa, l’afflusso turistico nel nostro Paese potrebbe moltiplicarsi per dieci, favorendo la creazione di nuova domanda di beni e servizi. Un’altra occasione, per gli Italiani all’estero, di dimostrare che rappresentano per l’Italia un autentico moltiplicatore di ricchezza.

Per gli Italiani nel Mondo che vengono a visitare l’Italia è nata una Carta dei Servizi che permetterà loro di usufruire di sconti e facilitazioni su biglietti ferroviari, aerei, soggiorni, visite a musei ed eventi culturali. Il progetto, presentato oggi alla Sala Stampa di Palazzo Chigi e patrocinato dal Ministero per

gli Italiani nel Mondo, nasce da un’idea della PromoturItalia.

<*Un’organizzazione* – ha spiegato stamani il presidente Antonio Inchingoli – *che si pone l’obiettivo di identificare l’altra Italia, quella che vive all’estero, per offrile attraverso la carta del turismo, una gamma di servizi turistici che possano favorire il cosiddetto turismo di ritorno. Per questo motivo abbiamo attivato una serie di convenzioni con circa 700 alberghi per un ammontare di oltre 12mila posti letto*>. Gli italiani residenti all’estero avranno anche la possibilità di comprare biglietti on line per musei e teatri; previsti, inoltre, sconti in ristoranti e società di autonoleggio. Per i possessori della carta, che sarà totalmente gratuita, verrà garantito un servizio di assistenza e soccorso stradale attivo 24 ore su 24 sull’intero territorio nazionale. Per avere informazioni si può contattare un call center (800-189-929) sempre attivo e collegarsi al sito www.promoturitalia.it, portale dal quale si potrà richiedere direttamente la Carta dei servizi. Secondo il Ministro per gli Italiani nel Mondo, On. Mirko Tremaglia <*è questa un’iniziativa importante che contribuirà a far capire alla classe dirigente italiana che gli oltre 60 mila italiani sparsi nel Mondo sono una risorsa straordinaria in termini sociali ed economici. Gli esercenti italiani che stipuleranno le convenzioni con PromoturItalia potranno così contare su un nuovo segmento di mercato costituito da una clientela entusiasta e desiderosa di tradizione, qualità, cultura, bellezze naturali e paesaggistiche. In una parola, di Italianità*>.

Riunione Quadri Dirigenti del CTIM Germania

di Comitato Tricolore per gli Italiani nel Mondo



Alla presenza del Dott. GianLuigi FERRETTI, Coordinatore Mondiale dei C.T.I.M. e del Dott. Stefano ANDRINI, della Segreteria Generale C.T.I.M. di Roma, sabato 18 dicembre 2004 si sono riuniti nella Sede centrale di Stoccarda i Quadri Dirigenti del C.T.I.M. in Germania.

Il Dott. Ferretti, dopo aver chiesto un minuto di silenzio per l’amico Mario Frizzera, rappresentante del CTIM nel CGIE, tragicamente scomparso la scorsa settimana, ho ricordato l’ultra-quarantennale battaglia condotta dal Ministro Mirko Tremaglia, per la concessione dell’esercizio del diritto di voto agli Italiani all’estero assieme al CTIM, da lui fondato e guidato in tutti questi anni. Il Coordinatore ha poi spronato i dirigenti ad intensificare i loro sforzi in vista dello storico traguardo dell’ elezione dei deputati e senatori degli italiani all’estero nel 2006.

“Questa battaglia deve assolutamente trovarci preparati” - ha detto Ferretti – “dobbiamo tutti insieme superare il terribile choc della perdita di Bruno Zoratto e, nel suo nome, impegnarci tutti per vincere”.

Dopo i competenti e propositivi interventi di Sandro Zulian -portavoce dell’attuale Comitato Direttivo, che opera collegialmente-, di Oreste Motta e Giancarlo Larosa (Dirigenti CTIM di Stoccarda), del Dirigente di Norimberga Lucio Albanese, di quello di Colonia, Di Renzo, e di altri partecipanti, si è concordato sulla necessità di continuare il lavoro nel campo assistenziale, con l’apertura di sedi di Patronato nelle maggiori città tedesche.

Nel campo informativo, si provvederà alla divulgazione di un organo di stampa del CTIM.

Per quanto riguarda il campo politico, ci si impegna per un rafforzamento del CTIM, intensificando il tesseramento e preparando una serie di iniziative e di manifestazioni pubbliche in tutta la Germania.

Per fine aprile/inizio maggio 2005 e’ prevista l’assemblea degli iscritti per il rinnovo delle cariche sociali e per quella occasione e’ gia’ stato invitato il Ministro Mirko Tremaglia.

Nell’ambito del Comitato Direttivo, che sarà ampliato, verranno inoltre istituite delle Commissioni, che si occuperanno specificatamente dei problemi relativi alla scuola, all’assistenza sociale, alle espulsioni e dinieghi dei permessi di soggiorno, alla doppia cittadinanza, ecc., e all’incremento della cultura italiana e dello sport.

Al termine della riunione e’ stato stilato un documento, votato all’unanimità, di ringraziamento al Ministro Tremaglia per avere dedicato la sua vita agli Italiani nel mondo e per fissare le decisione prese.

Arts & Entertainment

DiCaprio becomes king of a different world

Los Angeles Times
By Rachel Abramowitz

Perhaps it's the nature of our media-obsessed times that one of the most famous men of the '30s and '40s — Howard Hughes — is being played by one of the most famous men of our day, Leonardo DiCaprio. In the two decades covered by "The Aviator," Hughes produced scads of films, directed the most expensive movie of his day, set aviation records for the fastest trip across the country and fastest trip around the world, launched Hughes Aircraft (now part of Raytheon Co.), built the airline TWA and battled a Senate investigation into his role as a war contractor.

He was Bill Gates, Buzz Aldrin and Jerry Bruckheimer rolled into one, with the sexual voraciousness of Wilt Chamberlain.

It's Hughes' carnal appetite that makes DiCaprio sound a little giddy. In his prime, the mogul, who died a bedsores-ridden, codeine-addicted recluse, romanced seemingly every pretty girl in Hollywood, including Katharine Hepburn, Ava Gardner and Rita Hayworth.

That was one facet of his character that DiCaprio wanted to make sure got into the biopic of Hughes' life, directed by the revered Martin Scorsese. DiCaprio even added an improvised scene in which Hughes picks up a cigarette girl at a nightclub with the kind of callow, but not uncharming, *droit du seigneur* taken by the young, the handsome and the exceedingly rich.

"I wanted to make it abundantly clear that he was not just a ladies' man, but the fearless ladies' man. He was the Casanova, the swashbuckler of the 20th century, unmatched, unrivaled. Girl, you know it's true!" DiCaprio says, laughing. He's been picking desultorily at a chopped salad at Dan Tana's, the unpretentious Italian joint that happens to be a Hollywood stalwart, when he suddenly perks up. "There are people that are in his category, but no one matches up to Howard Hughes. It's the quality of the women, and the quantity."

He sounds almost awestruck.

"It awes any man," he clarifies. "He had girls stashed away in bungalows in Bel-Air. He had every gorgeous starlet, and if he wasn't with her, he'd probably rejected [her]." He leans back to theatrically dispense a can-you-believe-it fact, hair falling across his forehead. "The rumour was that he rejected Marilyn Monroe. Didn't like her feet."

Of course, DiCaprio, who happens to be young, handsome and exceedingly rich knows nothing — *nothing* — about chasing beautiful women. This reporter once observed DiCaprio and other luminaries such as Jack Nicholson cutting a swath through a party thrown by the Ford modeling agency, obviously there to enjoy the conversation.

DiCaprio acknowledges there are parallels to today's Hollywood, that magnetic pull between powerful men and the model-actress-whatevers.

Still, it's one thing to be interested, another to be pathological.

"I would never dream of doing something like that myself," he says. (He's been off-and-on dating the Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen for the last five years.) "He could be relentless with women. He committed a huge portion of his life to bedding as many beautiful women as he could. His perseverance! He wouldn't let up, just like he wouldn't give up with his planes or movies or anything. A man obsessed."

He pauses, thinks. He likes how it sounds. "That's a great thing that I'm going to keep saying." DiCaprio is beginning the kickoff of a global publicity blitz to promote "The Aviator," which opens this week, and is making mental notes about the part of his rap that he can reuse. "They're going to ask me about him, and I'm going to say quite simply, 'a man obsessed.' It simplifies things."

DiCaprio sounds like a politician honing his message, but in a sense his persona has become his message — with the stunning success of "Titanic," the actor was transformed into an icon.

As is often the way of the very famous, DiCaprio is both affable and elusive. He is excitable and occasionally waggish when discussing Hughes and vague in discussing everything else. He's just turned 30, but he's still baby-faced and walks with the loping, slightly stooped grace of a teenager. He's wearing brown pants and a loose black sweater, although at one point he lifts up the sweater to rip out the label and reveals his Calvins in the process. It's lunchtime, he has that hazy just-woken-up look.

DiCaprio certainly didn't have to research Hughes' ambivalence toward the limelight.

Hughes' attitude was "Look at me! Look at me! Don't look at me! Don't look at me!" DiCaprio says, speaking in breathy bursts to convey the conflict between the need for attention and the need for privacy. "I'm just kidding," he adds almost reflexively. Actually he's not, but he's suddenly self-conscious about sounding too on-point about his own celebrity.

"I'm sure he loved all its advantages and detested all the disadvantages. He was very shrewd in knowing that the less he gave about himself the more people would want to know."

"Look at me sitting here," says DiCaprio. "Hughes would never sit and do an interview like

this. Watch any Hughes footage or any interview. It's him talking about airplanes. He would not discuss anything else."

Part of DiCaprio's job is to sell movies, by offering choice glimpses of himself. Still, he also believes in not revealing too much, not for the usual celebrity-proffered reasons of privacy, etc., but because of a higher purpose. He explains: "It's a fundamental need to say I want people to believe me playing different characters."

Indeed, in some ways, the real DiCaprio is almost irrelevant because it will never compare to his mythic status.

Even in Hollywood there are gradations of fame, from those who merely sport publicists, to the rarified few such as DiCaprio and Tom Cruise whose decisions affect the fates of studios. The more iconic the star, the more likely their persona has fused with some strand of the national identity.

Cruise once embodied the striving '80s yuppie. In his post-"Titanic" glory, DiCaprio personified the youthful promise of the '90s, the go-go Clinton years, the Internet boom. His famous "Titanic" cry — "I'm the king of the world" — will no doubt be the most famous six words he ever utters.

"The Aviator" presents the perils of being King of the World.

While the film, which cost an estimated \$100 million, highlights the glory days, it also depicts Hughes' slowly deteriorating mental state as he turns into a milk-swilling germaphobe with obsessive-compulsive disorder. There is a long sequence in which he locks himself into a screening room for a year and watches films naked and unbathed and collects bottles of his own urine, all neatly arranged in straight lines.

"I was really captured by his inability to stop at anything unless it was perfect in his own mind," says DiCaprio. "Being America's first zillionaire, he had all the means to do it. What's it like to have everything? The fact he had everything at his disposal, all the dreams in the world, and he probably led in the last years of his life one of the most lonely, sad existences that I've ever heard of."

Adds Scorsese, who took on the film at DiCaprio's request, "It's an ancient Greek myth of a man who has everything in the world, who's king, and deep down his own worst enemy is himself, his pride, his ego, his greed."

The boy king of Hollywood has been the project's prime progenitor.

DiCaprio, a credited producer on the movie, first stumbled upon a Hughes biography seven years ago and broached the idea to director Michael Mann, with whom he'd wanted to work. John Logan ("Gladiator") was commissioned to write the script.

"Other than me, Leo is probably the only person on Earth who's read every draft — 15 — of the screenplay," Logan says. "His DNA is all over the screenplay."

But by the time it was done, Mann had finished "The Insider" and "Ali" and was tired of biopics, so DiCaprio gave the material to Scorsese with whom he'd just finished the much-troubled "Gangs of New York."



"I didn't know if he would respond to it," recalls DiCaprio. "He has an intense fear of flying, and I knew that." But Scorsese said yes and, as DiCaprio recalls, added, "I don't know anything about flying at all, and I'm petrified of it, but I didn't know anything about boxing and I did 'Raging Bull.'"

"[Scorsese] has an inherent desire to portray characters in their own mental descent into their own personal hell," DiCaprio says, smiling, as if he has a private joke going on. "I know he likes to lock himself in screening rooms and watch movies over and over again. The screen-

ing room sequence was certainly something he read in the script and said, 'I know how to film that.'

"Fortunately for all involved, DiCaprio did no flying while making "The Aviator," as the film's insurance company was less than thrilled to have their biggest asset gallivanting through the skies in World War II-era airplanes. Also, Scorsese was able to channel his fear productively, as the film features a numbers of scenes where Hughes crashes airplanes — each fall a balletic and elegiac tumble from the sky.

It's odd to think of the Scorsese-DiCaprio partnership, which is about to extend to a third film, "The Departed," in which DiCaprio plays an undercover cop in an Irish gang in modern Boston. For decades, through such seminal films as "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," Robert De Niro was the star of Scorsese's work, a dark scabrous spirit that embodied the director's fascination with the propulsive obsession that leads to self-destruction, with the transcendence that comes through agony.

For all his acclaim, De Niro isn't the most accessible of movie stars, too psychologically wrought and internal for easy digestion at the multiplex (unless he's spoofing himself), but he was the director's alter-ego, while DiCaprio, with his easy charm, has been ours, the audience's.

Arts & Entertainment

Kevin Spacey takes on legendary pop icon

Los Angeles Times
By Geoff Boucher

The restaurant on Melrose Avenue was empty when Steve Blauner walked in, and the aging showbiz manager correctly surmised that his lunch date had rented the place out for efficiency, or maybe for effect. A waiter pointed Blauner to a rear room and its lone occupant, who rose from his table and extended his hand. It was the actor Kevin Spacey, bathed in a warm aura cast by the window at his back.

"That was so the light would be in my eyes," Blauner recalled, using the blunt language that meshes his Bronx youth and Hollywood education. "And they say backlight makes you look younger."

That meeting more than a year ago was to discuss a film about the music and life of Bobby Darin, a figure of deep passion for both men. Despite the privacy afforded by the empty restaurant, it was hard to imagine that anyone else in Hollywood would have been leaning in to eavesdrop. A Darin biopic was a pitch that had languished for more than a decade, and Darin himself was a pop-culture figure who stirred the passions of dedicated music fans but, to the mainstream mind, was either forgotten or anchored more to "Splish Splash" than "Beyond the Sea."

Still, Blauner arrived as a protector of the flame — he was Darin's friend in youth and devoted business manager to the end. Spacey, meanwhile, came to the table as the Hollywood star who, after more than a decade, was within reach of turning his lifelong reverence for Darin into a career moment. He wanted to co-write the screenplay, he wanted to direct the film, he wanted to star, he wanted to sing ... he wanted to be Darin.

Blauner cut to the chase and, give or take a few choice adjectives, said something like this: "You're too old, you shouldn't sing and you're out of your mind to direct."

The lunch that followed was either four hours or six hours, depending on which man you ask, but both agree how it ended. Blauner gave his blessing that Spacey, 45, would portray Darin on screen — in his early 20s and 30s — and that Spacey would sing every song in the movie. What's more, Spacey would also direct and co-write the film along with Lewis Colick.

"His passion for the project was unreal," Blauner said. "It was like a Mafia sit-down. There was no way to say no to him. It was like that with Bobby too. There was no sense arguing."

The result of that meeting and many other surrendered arguments is "Beyond the Sea". It is one of the more intriguing films of the season because it revolves around an obsessive star who, through sheer force of will, overcame showbiz conventions to let his voice sing out even as he fought against the tick-tick-ticking of life's merciless deadlines.

Whether that particular man is Kevin

Spacey or Bobby Darin depends on how you read the script.

In one childhood scene in "Beyond the Sea," a wide-eyed Darin stares at a poster of Frank Sinatra framed outside the entrance of the Copacabana club in New York as the child's mother clutches his hand, telling the boy that someday he will trump Sinatra in fame and voice.

The movie delights in improbabilities like when Walden Robert Cassotto (Darin's real name) reaches his 20s with a receding hairline and a grave heart condition. The tenacious Darin, gifted with sublime timing and verve as a singer, rose to fame with the bobby-soxer hit "Splish Splash" in 1958 and, a year later, the pouting teen torch song "Dream Lover."

Just as Darin's mother made a Sinatra show bill a compass point from a New York sidewalk, Spacey's mother made Darin an icon within the walls of the actor's childhood home in Woodland Hills. "My mother was in love with Bobby Darin," Spacey said, "and I sang all his songs into a hairbrush

when I was just a kid. I was just 12 or 13 when he died."

But a hairbrush and a Hollywood film are not the same.

Spacey sings every song in the film — a gaudy gamble on his part. A Darin biopic had long been deemed impotent as a film prospect because the American public knew little about Darin's face — or life. They did know the voice that sang "Mack the Knife" and "Dream Lover."

That voice, though, is never heard in "Beyond the Sea."

"I knew Bobby Darin, suh, and you are no Bobby Darin!" Spacey said as

he roamed the floors of the Capitol Records tower one afternoon last month. It's a line Spacey has been using a lot lately to poke the eyes of the critics and Darin purists who have taken shots at his ambitious venture.

The Capitol tower is called the House That Frank Built in deference to Sinatra's years of platinum and gold, but outside one of its storied studios there is a large photograph of Darin in which his expression suggests a stern artist at work. Spacey, well armored by his years on stage and sound stage, said the gaze of his old idol made him gulp. "I saw that, and it was like he was saying, 'All right, you think you can do this? You better be good.'"

Upstairs in a conference room in the tower overlooking the Hollywood Hills, Spacey spoke of "Beyond the Sea" like a portrait artist giddy to receive a royal commission but still fatigued and nervous awaiting the public display of his take on the king.

The actor spent three years honing his voice for the role. He spent equal amounts of

energy working on the story and the film's nonlinear, dreamlike styling, which he said finds its rhythm in Darin's songs and heartbeat but adds the dreamy melody of a film beholden to Fellini's "8 1/2." After he coaxed executives at Warner Bros. to part ways with the project after it spent a decade and a half spinning its wheels in the studio's boardroom mud, he also had to raise more than \$20 million to make the picture under the Lions Gate banner.

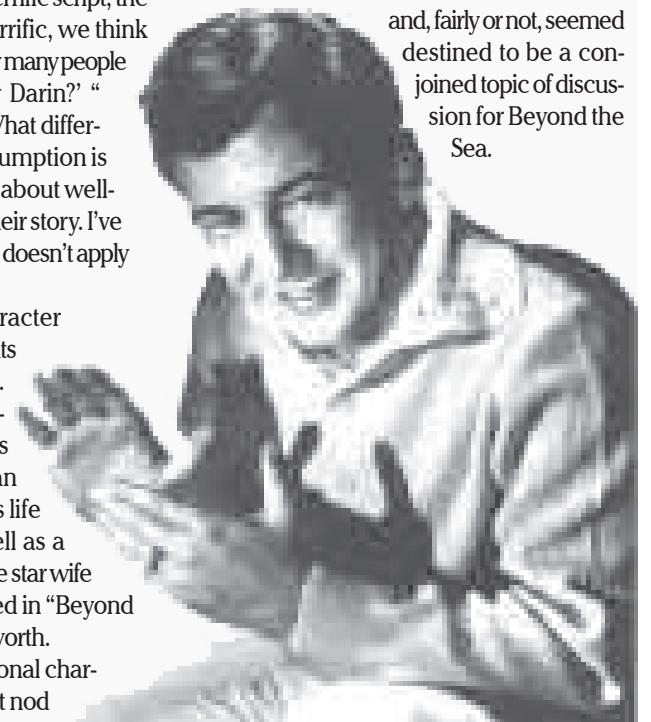
"At that time the consistent argument I would hear was, 'Well, it's a terrific script, the story is good, the music is terrific, we think you might be good in it, but how many people have really heard of Bobby Darin?'" Spacey said. "I would ask, 'What difference does it make?'" The assumption is that people only go see films about well-known people if they know their story. I've never been quite sure why that doesn't apply to fictional characters."

Darin is a nonfiction character with a life that certainly presents opportunities for melodrama. Besides his race to fame before his heart gives out, there's a family secret that creates an explosive situation in Darin's life and internal struggles as well as a volatile relationship with movie star wife Sandra Dee, who is channeled in "Beyond the Sea" by actress Kate Bosworth.

Darin is also a bit of a fictional character in the film thanks to that nod

to Fellini. There are scenes of Darin as a child (toting an ominously tick-tick-ticking pocket watch) reappearing for conversation with his adult self, including one at the funeral for the singer's mother that finds a curtain in the rear of the chapel that rises to show a cheering theatre audience awaiting the still-grieving Darin. The film is more akin to the expectation-bending style of "Man on the Moon," the Milos Forman study of Andy Kaufman's life, than to any standard music biopic such as

"Ray," the Ray Charles life story that has been well received this season and, fairly or not, seemed destined to be a conjoined topic of discussion for "Beyond the Sea."



Kevin Spacey dances in the new movie, *Beyond the Sea*. He went to great lengths to make the movie in which he portrays his mother's favourite singer, Bobby Darin. Above, Bobby Darin as Bobby Darin.

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Sightseeing

Suffering from Sardinia withdrawal

By: Mariano G. De Marinis

Mariano of Somerset Travel Agency Ltd. recently travelled to Sardinia on a familiarization trip organized by MANDI Tours. This is part one of a two part series to be continued in February.

How does a five day whirlwind tour of Sardinia appeal to you? Well I survived it along with 14 other travel agents from across Canada.

Our flight with Alitalia from Toronto to Cagliari via Milan and Rome was eventful because we arrived on time, contrary to the skeptics, and all of the luggage followed. Imagine that!

As we left Cagliari behind, there were huge piles of glistening white salt. Adjacent to these were vast shallow lagoons, an unusual habitat for flamingoes and pelicans. The juxtaposition of views was almost surreal and it left us wondering if what we were seeing was actually real.

As we drove along the southern coast and through the towns of Pula, Domus de Maria, Teulada, San Anna, Arresi, Masainas, Giba, S.G. Suergiu on our way to Sant'Antioco, a number of landscapes re-occur. Over thousands of years, the rocks of varying sizes have been neatly piled along the roadside so that the land can be cultivated. To reinforce the property lines, huge cacti have been planted.

At this time of year, red and yellow prickly pears stick out at the top of the broad green prickly leaves. To pick them however, is a delicate art and the taste of this fruit certainly has to be acquired, not to mention all the seeds.

As you start to climb the hills, the uninhabited spaces are wild with breast-high heath and

arbutus shrub and myrtle, and there are patches of arable land in the lonely landscape good for grain. For once, Sardinia was a great granary.

When travelling on this island nothing is ever finished. Each time it looks like there is nothing beyond - and yet as you turn the corner you discover another village or a hidden cove.



These are only some of the ancient structures which can be found in Sardinia.

There are unremarkable ridges of moor-like hills running away - here, there is a sense of space and a feeling of being "lost in time" - which is so lacking on the European mainland.

As I entered the island of Sant'Antioco I ob-

served a bridge built by the Romans. The fisher's colourful boats cover the beach in this huge bay. We then continued to the white and sandy Spiaggia Grande (Big Beach), located in Calasetta.

This is home to the Big Beach Windsurfing Centre located in the bay. The Centre is equipped with windsurfs and is suitable for anyone who likes windsurfing from the beginner to the experienced. There is a skilled staff to match you to catamarans, drifts, canoes and bodyboards.

The area is blessed by an eternal spring and the surrounding region is rich with beautiful bays and inlets, ancient coasts, mooring places of the powerful Carthaginians, and Roman fleets still hiding important remains of their glorious past.

Nearby is the Hotel Stella Del Sud (Star of the South) which has a large seawater pool. When we arrived here, exhausted, in the afternoon, we were treated to antipasto of prosciutto, homemade wine, olive oil and bread, including a pita-like bread that you just snap off. Between courses we were introduced to a mixed fish salad with smelt and calamari. The homemade pasta with an aroma of fish, was followed by a swordfish steak and a side of egg-plant (melanzane) and arborio rice. It was all washed down with white wine, even if it was in the afternoon, and finished with cappuccino. What a treat for us Canadians! This meal set the prec-

edent for all the culinary delights that awaited us!

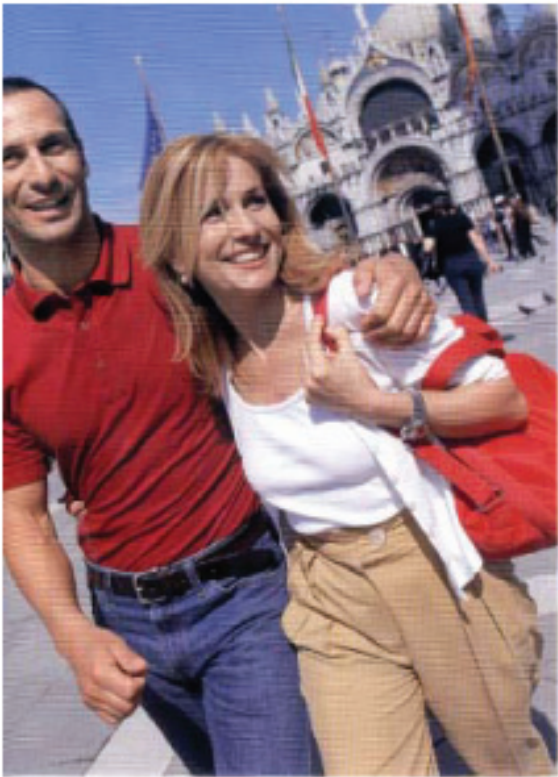
From Calasetta we departed for Barumini, the most astonishing testimony of the grandeur of the protosarda civilisation that existed around 3,500 BC. We visited one of about 8,000 'nuraghe' or primitive yet sophisticated fortifications that were re-created only in the past century from thousands of irregular field stones strewn all over a promontory. This archaeological site has been designated as a World Cultural Patrimony by UNESCO. We were invited to enter a small, dark passageway and then made our way down to the centre by stepping on large rocks backwards. Inside there was natural light and a maze of two storey rooms all made from local field stone laid dry with no cement. There was no entry for the handicapped or the faint of heart!

Calasetta has an enviable position from which many other excursions are available: From Calasetta through Carbonia Nebide arrival to Masua - a panoramic drive on the sea of about 118km.

For those interested, there are six and eight night escorted tours of South-Western Sardinia. Pre and post tour arrangements can of course be made including lengthening your sojourn. (Contact Somerset Travel Agency for further information (613) 234-1941).



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Arts & Entertainment

For Mickey Gubitosi, it's the role of a lifetime

Los Angeles Times
By Deanne Stillman

There has been much lamentation of late that the country has been hijacked by religion. I agree. But everyone is talking about the wrong religion.

The country was taken over a long time ago by the worship of fame and celebrity, a bizarre theology that kicked into high gear with the arrival of *People* magazine in 1974 and now corrodes every aspect of American life.

Nowhere are the problems that this worship poses more obvious, and troublesome, than in the career of Robert Blake, a great actor whose work was eclipsed long ago by his countless public appearances as "himself" - a tough, good-looking guy with a boyish, mischievous grin who always dressed in black, had cellblock muscles and repeatedly told his Hollywood bosses where to get off.

Blake, whose acting career has spanned almost seven decades, is now playing the most difficult role of his life - murder defendant.

He stands accused of killing his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, a fame-crazed stalker raised by a fame-crazed grandmother who fell in love with Blake while watching him talk street on Johnny Carson's show.

Today, in a culture that has reduced citizens to members of a "viewing audience," that believes style is substance and that actors are the characters they play, Blake may have trouble convincing a jury that essentially consists of fans, not peers, that he's innocent.

On trial for his life, he must now undo decades of work in which he has played killers and basked in the adoration of mobs who applauded him for being one - unlike, for instance, O.J.

Simpson, whom a jury could not picture doing anything but carry a football and fly through airports in Hertz commercials. As Blake himself once told an interviewer, "Most people like me end up on death row, or in the graveyards, or in prison."

Blake was referring to his childhood of abuse at the hands of his father, but now that his prediction is on the line, his body of work as a film and television actor must be factored into the equation. He has appeared in dozens of films and television shows, turning in performances that were both stunningly spare and classic. "Don't give it to the audience," Blake once said. "Leave it to the audience."

He is perhaps the only remaining actor of his generation to have worked with Alfalfa and Rin Tin Tin as well as John Wayne, Claude Rains, Charlton Heston, John Garfield, Gregory Peck, Sidney Poitier and Spencer Tracy. In interviews, Blake has often credited Tracy for his acting style. "The two most important things in acting," Blake said Tracy told him, "are a child's imagination and a sense of truth."

Born in Nutley, N.J., in 1933 at the lowest point of the Depression, Blake - or Little Mickey as he was called then - came into show biz during the era of the child star. When Blake was three, his father, James Gubitosi, a blacksmith, put his kids on the vaudeville circuit as the Three Little Hillbillies.

Soon, Gubitosi moved the family to Holly-

wood, where Shirley Temple and other diminutive, underage entertainers radiated America's future and made fortunes singing for their supper.

It wasn't long before Mickey got a gig on "The Little Rascals," then as Little Beaver in the Red Ryder cowboy-and-Indian tales, and later as the street kid who sells Humphrey Bogart the winning lottery ticket in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," oddly prefiguring his shattering portrayal of Perry Smith in "In Cold Blood," who

stories ever made.

Written and directed by Richard Brooks, "In Cold Blood," as the saying goes, is as serious as a heart attack.

Tipping its stylistic hat to film noir and the morgue, it was shot in black and white, almost in documentary style, so faithful to Capote's book (itself a heightened version of reality) that it seems real.

The killing of the Clutters by Hickock and Smith is reenacted in the family's actual Kansas house; six of the jurors from the murder trial appear as themselves in the movie; spectators in the crowd scene outside the courthouse include some who had actually watched the killers arrive for their trial. Most important, Blake and Scott Wilson (who played Dick Hickock, the other half of the killing machine) conjure up frightening characters who seem real, so real that it's as if they just walked out of a jail cell and into your bedroom.

With his sad, abused and lost-child character now peering out from behind the skin of a desperate and lonely ex-con, Blake creates an American figure who is one for the ages - a narcissistic man/boy with fantasies of buried treasure, artistic desire and a killer's heart. "I thought Mr. Clutter

now prescient "Don't do the crime if you can't do the time."

In his fan-club newspaper, Blake wrote, "I'm an actor, and I'm not interested in becoming a 'personality'." But in fact Blake already was a "personality" and suggesting that he wasn't was a component of that gig, which he did regularly on "The Tonight Show." In 1978 he left "Baretta," and by 1980, with his persona sealed as a professional Joe Six-Pack, he slid into a thick fog of drugs and booze, making the occasional TV movie, including "Of Mice and Men," which he produced and starred in with Randy Quaid.

In 1997, Blake was once again involved in a strange bit of foreshadowing when he surfaced in David Lynch's "Lost Highway," a movie about a man accused of killing his wife. Here he played the ghoulish Mystery Man who laughs demonically when asked, "Who are you?" - suggesting layer upon layer of irony, from "Wouldn't you like to know?" to "Wouldn't I like to know?"

The idea of casting Blake as the face of death was hailed by art-house fans as cool, but really, Blake had gone from great to caricature to kitsch, another American talent sucked dry, and it was sad. As Blake himself might have said, though, "Dat's da name of dat tune."

And therein lies his problem: It wasn't really Robert Blake who said that, it was Baretta. No, maybe it was Blake doing Baretta doing Blake on a talk show. And what did he really mean?

Whoever it was, Blake is such a good actor that he's now trapped inside a hall of mirrors. At a recent pretrial hearing, he even confounded Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp over the question of whether a recorded phone call should be admitted as evidence.

Blake said it showed his anger toward Bakley. Schempp said it was "conciliatory," not "threatening."

What Blake couldn't say in response was that sometimes people sound conciliatory when they are in fact angry. It's called acting and we all do it. But if he had said that, he would have sounded like a liar, when in reality he might have been telling the truth. Subtext may be mandatory on the stage, but it doesn't win acquittals.

For Robert Blake to convince a jury that he's innocent, he's going to have to supersede the Perry Smith/Baretta/ticked-off every-guy-who-hates-his-job that everyone thinks of him as and take on a character he has not yet played - a man wrongly accused of murder.

If he can do this - deliver the performance of his life - he'll not only break the dreaded curse of Our Gang (Stynnie was a longtime junkie, Alfalfa was murdered), he'll have a brand-new career - as a song-and-dance man, which he has often told interviewers was his dream all along.

He says he regrets not having been cast as Sky Masterson, the part immortalized by Marlon Brando in "Guys and Dolls."

So far, the closest he's gotten is hooking up with Bakley, who had a fling with Christian Brando before she met Blake.

But he evidently has a very good voice. Shortly before Bakley was killed, he took her on a trip to the Sierra town of Three Rivers.

One night, he and Bakley visited a local resident.

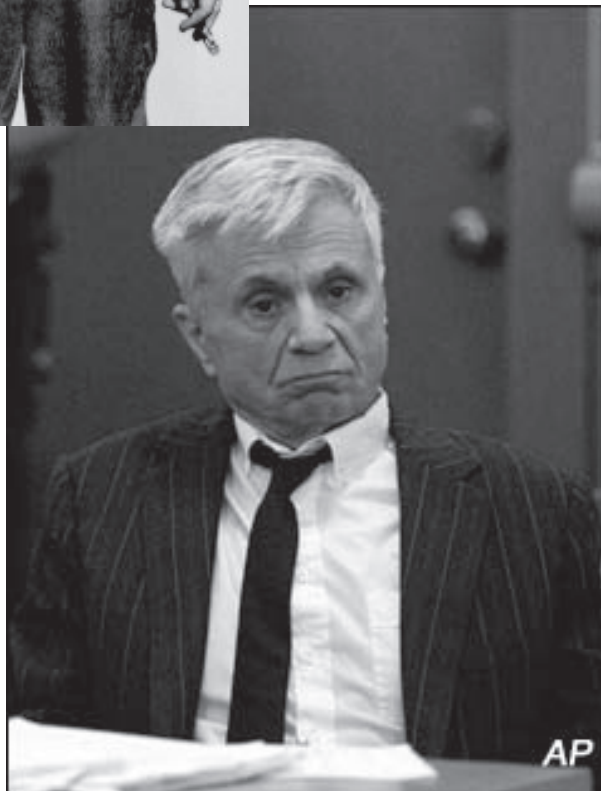
"He seemed very sad," the resident told me a while ago. "He asked if he could borrow my guitar."

The child star once known as Little Mickey strummed a few chords and began a song.

It was "Over the Rainbow."



Bobby Blake, as he was in his youth, above.
Robert Blake as he is known today, at right, in court as an accused murderer.



said to his partner Dick Hickock while the pair was on the run after killing the Clutter family, "Remember Bogart? We could get us a couple of burros."

It was in the 1960s and early '70s that Blake made his most memorable movies - a testament to the actor, the directors, writers and cinematographers of those movies as well as to the era that has often been cited as the heyday of American filmmaking.

In each of these movies, Blake was at the height of his acting powers, playing quintessential American characters who were self-reliant, explosive, tormented and stranded.

This all added up to sex appeal, and in these movies, the dark, handsome and well-defined Blake had it in spades.

The masterpiece of Blake's career is his performance in "In Cold Blood."

Just as the Truman Capote book on which the film is based is the font from which a sea of crime-related narrative nonfiction flows, this 1967 film is the progenitor of countless true-crime films, cop shows, "Cold Case," "American Justice," Court TV and even Dick Wolf's career.

Although the film is now almost 40 years old, it still stands as one of the most chilling crime

was a very nice gentleman," his big-eyed and sincere character tells a preacher before he swings from the gallows. "I thought so right up to the time I cut his throat."

In the mid-'70s, at his peak in terms of critical acclaim, Blake chose the easy money and accepted a major TV role, the tough-guy cop "Baretta," kind of a caricature of the other tough-guy roles he had played. Once again, the gig oddly prefigured reality; in the pilot episode, Baretta's new wife was killed like Bakley outside an Italian restaurant.

"Baretta" was a gigantic hit and catapulted Blake into the upper tier of popularity. A litany of Blake-originated dialogue entered national speech, including the oft-uttered and perhaps

Arts & Entertainment

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL with Giovanni

—Jeffery Poissant (EMD)

Birth Place and Parents' Roots?
Fort Lauderdale, FL, parents from New York

Horoscope sign and Birth date? Capricorn January 8, 1978

How many brothers and sisters do you have?
Two sisters, Tracy, 29, and Lynda, 18

Do you have a nickname? Frankie Knuckles

Favourite car? 1968 Camaro

Favourite sports show? The Best Damn Sports Show

What articles of clothing do you like to see on the opposite sex?
Bikinis on the beach, otherwise I like to see women who dress classy

Favourite cocktail? Crown Royal and Sprite

Favourite colour? Blue

If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would it be? Italy

How would you spend a typical day off?
Relax with my kids and my girlfriend, maybe play some chess

Favourite male actor? Kevin Spacey

Favourite female actress? Salma Hayek

Favourite male singer? Michael Jackson

Favourite female singer? Nelly Furtado

Favourite music group? U2

If you could only keep one household appliance, what would it be? Refrigerator, because I love food and I want to be able to keep everything fresh

Favourite food? Manicotti

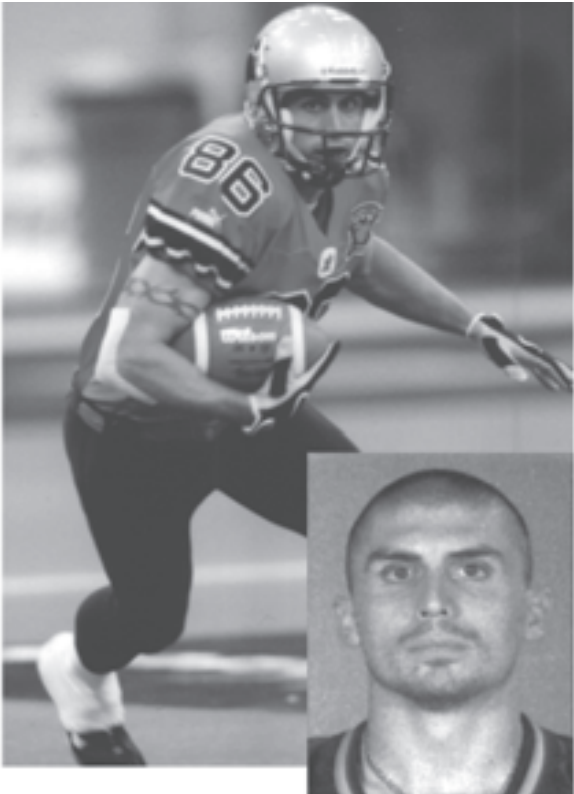
Least favourite food? Onions

Favourite item of clothing? Shoes

Do you enjoy cooking? What kind? Yes, anything on the grill

Your greatest achievement? Winning The Most Outstanding Rookie of the Year award for the Canadian Football League in 2003

Your best quality? Easy to get along with



FRANK CUTOLO

Number 86, Wide Receiver/Punt & Kick Returner for the BC Lions. Frank was named the CFL's 2003 rookie of the year. Frank's family roots are in Venice, Italy.

Your pet peeve? Stupid drivers

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? And why?
Right on the ocean in Florida

Your greatest love? Playing football

Qualities you like the most in your mate?
She takes good care of me, her smile, and she's a great mom

The best words or the shortest phrase to describe yourself?
Friendly, fun-loving, and easygoing

If you are to become one of the characters in a TV show for a month, who would it be? Homer Simpson

Noise that annoys you the most? Nails scratching on a chalkboard

If you could go back in time, what would you change? For all of our nations to not go to war with each other and get along better

Favourite place to shop? Finish Line

If you had one wish, what would it be? Eternal happiness

What is it that you treasure the most? My kids

What do you dislike the most about your appearance?
My height, wish I was taller

Most important lessons learned with your career?
Take advantage of your opportunities

What advice would you give others, starting out in your industry?
Live for the moment

Do you have any pets? Name and type?
My dog Jasmine, she is half Boxer, half Rottweiler

Do you collect any memorabilia items? If so, what kind?
Baseball cards when I was younger

What are your favourite holidays?
Christmas, because it's fun to see how excited my kids get, and it brings my family together

What do you do to relax? Play chess

Joe Piscopo vows to stop negative stereotypes in new TV show

NJ Star-Ledger Staff
By Mike Frassinelli

The only Italian-American lead character on "Seinfeld" is a loser who pushes women and children out of the way during a fire drill and picks half-eaten eclairs from the garbage.

George Costanza has a simple solution when another Italian-American character on the classic television show urinates on a couch: Turn over the cushion.

"One Italian pees on the couch, the other Italian takes it," Emanuele Alfano, chairman of the Anti-Bias Committee, UNICO National, said during a conference at Seton Hall University in South Orange to discuss discrimination and defamation of Italian-Americans.

It's also not lost on Alfano that Dick Grayson, Robin's alter ego, became a ward of Bruce "Batman" Wayne only after his family was wiped out by an Italian.

Or that an Italian doctor on the television show, "The Nanny," announced that he spent the best six years of his life in junior high school. Or that another show contained this punch line about why it is so easy to get Sicilian women pregnant: "cheap Chianti and narrow streets."

At the university in Essex County, the county where fictional mob boss Tony Soprano resides, Alfano said the popular Hollywood portrayal of Italians as gangsters is only a portion of the problem. At a daylong conference attended by "Saturday Night Live" funnyman Joe Piscopo and numerous other prominent New Jersey Italian-Americans, Alfano wondered why, in the words of columnist Jack Newfield, prejudice against Italians "is the most tolerated intolerance."

"If we say nothing, if we do nothing, surely we will become nothing," Alfano said.

His talk was a perfect segue into an often

volatile panel discussion on entertainment and the media. The panel included Piscopo, Trenton Times publisher Richard Bilotti, Tom DeGenaro of One Voice Coalition, Purdue University professor Ben Lawton, actor-director-producer Tony Lo Bianco, and playwright and journalist LindaAnn Loschiavo.

Bilotti said that while movies and television drive most of the negative images of Italian-Americans, newspapers aren't shy about running big spreads to preview each season of "The Sopranos." Bilotti said his paper did, too, before he finally stepped in and stopped it.

Lo Bianco said the unemployment problem is so rampant in the acting profession, with only about five per cent of actors working, that many Italian-Americans are reluctant to turn down gangster roles or any other role.

That statement later drew a sharp rebuke from DeGenaro, who fumed, "Actors of Italian descent who allow themselves to be cast as mentally challenged buffoons, criminals and people of ill repute aid and abet the defamation."

Lo Bianco said he is shooting a pilot for Showtime about an Italian-American police chief, a positive role model, and noted, "I think that's a start."

Piscopo said he used to play a stereotypical Italian Jersey guy character on "Saturday Night Live," and didn't think much about it at the time. Now, he said, he is embarrassed by it.

He is working on a show called "Bloomfield Avenue," which portrays an Italian-American family from North Jersey.

But because it is not a gangster show, it has been a hard sell, Piscopo said.

"In the name of my grandparents and my parents, I will make that movie," he vowed.

The conference, which also touched on a surprising history of lynchings of Italians, was organized by Seton Hall professor William J. Connell, the university's La Motta chair.

Loschiavo said part of the problem is that Italian-Americans are not funding plays that could improve their image. While there are 90 Hispanic drama groups, she said, there is not one Italian-American theatre or drama group in the United States.

When she said that Italian-Americans should start supporting writers, an angry audience member shouted: "Like Scorsese and Coppola!"

Piscopo said during an interview following the panel discussion that the exchange of ideas was healthy.

"I loved it. It was great," he said of the sometimes raucous banter. "They were passionate about that."

Piscopo during his routine jokes that the conflict in Iraq can easily be solved if America sends in two guys from Jersey in a Buick.

But the death of his father two years ago has made him become more ethnically aware and more protective of the legacy of Italian-Americans like his parents and grandparents.

"I've seen the light," he said.



Joe Piscopo has come a long way from his start portraying negative Italian roles on Saturday Night Live. He says he has "seen the light," and now he will try to bring a new positive TV show to fruition.

Arts & Entertainment

Soprano with "voice of an angel" dies

New York Times
By Anthony Tommasini

The soprano Renata Tebaldi, one of the most beloved opera singers of all time - Arturo Toscanini, hard to please, said she had "the voice of an angel" - died yesterday in the Republic of San Marino, where she had a home, her doctor told The Associated Press. Miss Tebaldi, who had been in failing health for several months, was 82.

At her best, in roles like Puccini's Mimi and Tosca and Verdi's Desdemona and Alice Ford, Miss Tebaldi was a singer of overwhelming expressivity and matchless vocal allure; arguably, hers was the most sumptuously beautiful lirico-spinto soprano voice (one combining lighter lyrical and weightier dramatic qualities) to emerge from Italy in the 20th century.

Cooler heads could fault her for what often seemed incomplete technique, some strident full-voiced top notes when the vocal line took her above high B-flat, and occasional lapses in pitch. But most opera buffs and critics found it impossible to have a cool head when listening to Renata Tebaldi. She beguiled listeners with the sheer plummy richness of her voice, the melting legato phrases, the deeply expressive yet never maudlin emotional quality of her singing, the unearthly beauty of her floated pianissimo high notes and the temperament she could summon in moments of dramatic intensity.

Though a dedicated artist, she was reluctant to challenge herself. She avoided singing in any language other than Italian, deeming French too nasal and German too guttural, always afraid to compromise the beauty of her sound in her native tongue. But what she considered cautiousness, some critics thought complacency. A vocal crisis in 1963, compounded by exhaustion, compelled her to take a year off, during which she recuperated and reworked her technique. When she returned to the stage in 1964, even some of her most ardent fans conceded that her voice had lost some of its lustre.

Still, during what she called her "second career," Miss Tebaldi did some exquisite singing and continued to win understandable devotion from the public. After a deeply affecting and vocally exquisite performance as Desdemona in Verdi's "Otello" one night at the Metropolitan Opera, the audience kept her coming back for so many curtain calls that she finally appeared wearing her coat around her costume, to signal that she needed to go home.

Tall and stately, she was a lovely woman with creamy white skin, big blue eyes, and trademark dimples when she smiled. Rudolf Bing, the crusty general manager of the Met during Miss Tebaldi's prime years, knew her demanding side. "Miss Renata Tebaldi was always sweet and very firm," he once said. "She had dimples of iron."

During the 1950s, she endured a public rivalry with the soprano Maria Callas. Biographies of the two divas present contrary accounts of who started it and how. The dispute was fueled by publicists and an eager press. But artistically, the idea that they were opposites - Callas the galvanizing dramatic artist and Tebaldi the supreme vocalist who valued beauty of sound above all else - was wrongheaded. In roles like Violetta from the Verdi opera "La Traviata," Callas could sing with vocal elegance and vulnerability; in roles like Verdi's Aida,

Miss Tebaldi could be fiery and impetuous.

For all Miss Tebaldi's accomplishments, her career faltered in the late 1960's. When she retired in 1976, she was only 54. Still, she began early and had as active and successful a first 15 years as any singer of the 20th century.

Renata Ersilia Clotilde Tebaldi was born on February 1, 1922, in Pesaro, Italy. Her father, Teobaldo Tebaldi, was a wounded soldier from the First World War when he met and married Giuseppina Barbieri, a gifted singer who had wanted a musical career but became a nurse. Six years younger than his wife, Teobaldo was restless and unfaithful. The marriage fell apart when Renata, their only child, was three. Giuseppina took the little girl back to her hometown, Langhirano, outside Parma.

Not long afterward the child woke one morning and could hardly stand. The diagnosis was polio. She began treatments - injections, massages, thermal compresses, physical therapy - that lasted five years but proved successful. During this time she and her mother bonded tightly. When Miss Tebaldi's career began, her mother travelled with her constantly, essentially continuing until, at 68, she died in New York in 1957, a loss that devastated

Miss Tebaldi. (Despite periodic meetings over the years with her father, they never fully reconciled.)

At first as a child, Miss Tebaldi was drawn to the piano, and she enrolled in studies at the conservatory in Parma, which necessitated a difficult commute. When she was 17, her piano teacher persuaded her to study voice at the conservatory with Ettore Campogalliani, who would later recall her as a scrupulous, perceptive student with a passion for music who kept a certain distance between herself and others. Later the renowned vocal pedagogue Carmen Melis became her most important teacher.

Her opera debut was in 1944, in the smaller role of Elena in Boito's "Mefistofele" at the regional theater in Rovigo, Italy. Instant success propelled her into appearances in Parma as Puccini's Mimi in "La Bohème," her first Desdemona and other roles. In 1946, she auditioned with Toscanini at La Scala in Milan, and Miss Tebaldi later said that she remembered every detail of it: her queasiness as she waited backstage, the fearsome presence of the gruff maestro, and finally Toscanini's shouts of "Brava, brava!" This led to a career-making appearance in a concert to reopen the La Scala opera house, heavily damaged during the Second World War.

By the time of her much-anticipated Met debut in January 1955, as Desdemona, Miss Tebaldi was already a celebrated singer. Today's opera buffs can only swoon looking at the cast list that night, with Mario Del Monaco as Otello, Leonard Warren as Iago and Fritz Stiedry conducting. The critic Olin Downes hedged in his initial assessment for The New York Times. But when he finally met her in

February, Downes was duly impressed. "It is a voice of range and colors of all sorts, and one that throbs with feeling," he wrote.

Singing always came first for Miss Tebaldi. She never married and had no children. Yet for a 1995 biography, she openly discussed several romances: a youthful attachment with a handsome medical student to whom she was briefly engaged; a lighthearted relationship with Nicola Rossi-Lemeni, the renowned bass of Italian and Russian heritage; and, most significantly, an intense romance with the conductor Arturo Basile, a hardy and generous man who was in the last phase of a deteriorating marriage when he and Miss Tebaldi began their four-year relationship in 1958.

In a 1995 interview with The Times, Miss Tebaldi said she had no regrets about her single life. "I was in love many times," she said, flashing her dimpled smile. "This is very good for a woman." But she added, "How could I have been a wife, a mother and a singer? Who takes care of the piccolini when you go around the world? Your children would not call you Mama, but Renata."

In 1973, Miss Tebaldi sang her final performance at the Met, again as Desdemona, with James McCracken in the title role, Sherrill Milnes as Iago and a young James Levine conducting. She had sung some 270 performances with the Met, a house where she considered herself "la regina" - the queen.

From then on she sang only in recitals. In January 1976, she made it partway through a recital at Carnegie Hall, which she assumed would be her farewell to New York. She had to stop because she was "too emotional," as Rudolf Bing told the audience on her behalf. A month later she tried again and sang the program, complete with six encores, to tumultuous ovations, though her singing was shaky.

Almost 20 years later, she returned again to New York to sign copies of an authorized biography by Carl Maria Casanova, "Tebaldi: The Voice of an Angel" (Baskerville Publishers). A line of autograph-seekers stretched from the Met's gift shop across Lincoln Center Plaza and up Broadway.

Miss Tebaldi had a long and productive relationship with the Decca recording company (also called London Records) and left classic accounts of major roles in complete recordings of "Otello," "La Forza del Destino," "Andrea Chenier," "La Bohème," "Tosca," "Madama Butterfly" and "Il Trovatore," among many other works. Asked during that 1995 interview how she felt about her discography, she said, "I cry when I hear the records." She added: "Now I understand what happened during my performances. I feel the same thing. Not because I know I am Renata Tebaldi, but because I can be objective."



http://members.tripod.com/Barry_Stone

Features

Semplice visita a parenti o missione provvidenziale?

di Luciano Pradal

Mons. Guerrino Pagotto, Vicario Generale della Diocesi di Vittorio Veneto, non vedeva da piu' di 50 anni i suoi cugini Elio, Agostino e Lina di Ottawa, Giorgina di Toronto e Dosolina di Montreal. Non gli e' stato facile lasciare il suo lavoro in Curia e assentarsi anche per soli 10 giorni per andarli a visitare. Ma una volta arrivato a Ottawa una dura notizia l' attendeva: Rizzieri Bellai, cognato di suo cugino agostino, era improvvisamente deceduto e i funerali sarebbero stati celebrati sabato, solo due giorni dopo il suo arrivo in Canada.

Rizzieri Bellai era uomo di grandi virtu', padre e nonno esemplare, modesto, grande lavoratore, stimatissimo impresario che, con il fratello Antonio, aveva saputo fondare e gestire la piu' grande e rispettata impresa edile di Ottawa, Rizzieri ha lasciato nel piu' grande dolore e costernazione non solo la sua famiglia ma anche numerosissimi amici, che sentiranno a lungo la sua mancanza.

Quale mano provvidenziale ha guidato in cosi' dolorosa circostanza la presenza di Mons. Pagotto tra i famigliari e amici di Rizzieri Bellai? Egli ha potuto concelebbrare la S. Messa esequiale e ha offerto parole di conforto e incoraggiamento a tutti i presenti che gremivano la chiesa di S. Antonio, parrocchia degli italiani in Ottawa. Nei giorni seguenti egli ha visitato Italia la moglie e Gemma la sorella di Rizzieri.

La missione di Mons. Pagotto l' ha portato a concelebbrare la S. Messa tutte le mattine alle 7.30 alla chiesa parrocchiale S. Antonio. Nella medesima chiesa, domenica 7 novembre ha celebrato la Messa domenicale delle 10 per l' Associazione Trevisaninel Mondo, presenti in gran numero con il gonfalone.

La presenza, la disponibilita' e l' affabilita' di Mons. Pagotto e' stata molto gradita dalla Congregazione dei Servi di Maria, sacerdoti che svolgono il loro ministero in parrocchia di Sant'. Antonio di Ottawa. La sera precedente, sabato 6 novembre, Mons. Pagotto aveva portato un accento particolare alle festivitа' dell' Autunno Trevisano, che l' Associazione Trevisani nel Mondo, Sezione di Ottawa, organizza ogni anno. Quest' anno le celebrazioni si sono svolte al Centro comunitario di Villa Marconi. Nella Cappella della casa di cura e di riposo adiacente al Centro, Mons. Pagotto ha concelebbrato la S. Messa con P. Fiore e ha poi partecipato alla cena sociale. La Presidente dell' Ass. Trevisani nel Mondo, Delia G. dal Grande, ha presentato Mons. Pagotto, invitandolo a rivolgere la parola la folto pubblico presente in sala. Egli ha poi benedetto il cibo e i presenti.

Durente la sua visita in Canada Mons. Pagotto, persona di grande esperienza sociale, e' stato ricevuto dal Nunzio Apostolico del Canada, che lo ha poi invitato a colazione insieme al cugino Elio.

Come ha avuto modo di esprimere in diverse occasioni, Mons. Pagotto ha potuto rendersi conto del grande contributo che il genio e la laborosita' degli italiani hanno portato alla societa' canadese.



Mons. Pagotto con Gemma il marito Agostino, Elio, Isabella e Franco nipotina e figlio di Gemma ed Agostino.

Possiamo sen'altro affermare che la visita di Mons. Guerrino Pagotto e' stata una missione di grande conforto per le famiglie colpite dal lutto per la scomparsa improvvisa del tanto amato Rizzieri Bellai e che, con la visita ai famigliari e alla comunitа' Trevisana ed italo-canadese di Ottawa egli restera' nella memoria per lungo tempo.

Arrivederci, monsignor Guerrino!

Italian Resolutions

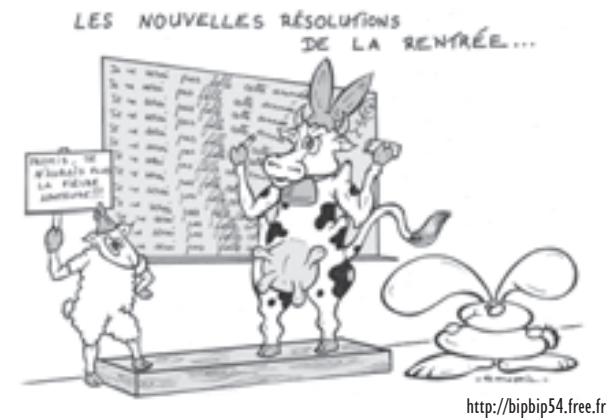
By Renato Rizzuti

The wisdom of Italian proverbs can be used to formulate New Year's resolutions that can be used by all.

The proverb, "Chi dorme non piglia pesci" translates as, "Whoever sleeps does not catch fish." This simply means that early risers can be more productive than those that oversleep. You don't have to live in a fishing community to make use of this proverb! By simply waking up half an hour to an hour before you usually do, you can make your day longer. The common lament that is heard in our fast paced world is, "There are not enough hours in the day." The resolution can be stated as, "This year, I will start my day earlier." Surely we can all use more time in the morning before heading out to our daily work or activities. For one thing, precious "bathroom time" can be made longer. This means more "toilet time" for the guys and more "makeup mirror time" for the gals! Time for that invigorating second cup of coffee can also be enjoyed. If you arrive a bit earlier at work, you can actually start being productive sooner. This gives you time to shake the Ottawa snow off of your boots, get a coffee and log on to your computer. Generally speaking, you can reduce the stress of the "mad morning rush" if you adopt this resolution. Give it a try!

"Scopa nuova scopa bene" translates as "A new broom sweeps well." This can be taken literally and Italian mothers have been known to use brooms both for sweeping and as instruments of "threatened discipline." I suppose the more modern version would be "A new vacuum

cleaner really sucks!" The important point of the proverb is that the "sweeping" action can have a cleansing effect both on a physical level and a psychological level. The "new broom" can be considered your new attitude and approach to "sweeping" things out. So your resolution can be stated as, "This year, I will resolve to continually clear out clutter." This theme is constantly being repeated on those TV home improvement shows.



<http://bipbip54.free.fr>

Also called expert comes in and advises to clear out clutter by getting three big boxes marked: "trash" and "donate" and "keep." This system can be used to clean out your garage, your home office or any room of your house. The problem is that people become emotionally attached to certain things. I was somewhat taken aback when I was watching one of those shows and the lady that was cleaning out her closet started crying on the expert's shoulder! The reason was be-

cause the lady was in the process of getting rid of all her bulky sweaters which she used as sort of "psychological security blankets" to hide her weight problem. She got over it and moved on to a new phase in her life with a clutter free place and a new wardrobe.

Psychologists and "New Age" thinkers both agree that it is very wise to remove physical objects in your home that produce a "negative vibe" for you. Some things are obvious like getting rid of that portrait of your despicable ex-wife out of the living room!

People keep piles of stuff for "sentimental" reasons. As time goes by, "sentiments" change. You simply feel differently about things than you did in the past. Perhaps it is time to throw out that birthday card from your first boyfriend because it is no longer "relevant" for you. Grab that broom and make a clean sweep!

"Meglio un uovo oggi che una gallina domani" translates as "Better an egg today than a chicken tomorrow." This means that you should take the small gifts or opportunities that life has to offer in the present instead of waiting for something bigger in the future. The problem is that "something bigger" may never materialize in the future, so it is much better to take the smaller thing because it is a sure thing. The resolution can be stated as, "This year I will 'seize the day'

by taking and relishing what the day has to offer instead of waiting for the bigger thing in the future." Some of my colleagues in the acting community use the opposite of this as an excuse for not being hired for a small acting part. They console themselves by saying, "I guess they really thought I was good so they did not give me the small part now because they are saving me for a bigger part later on." Right! I say that it is better to get the smaller pay cheque right away rather than bet on the unsure larger cheque later!

"Chi pecora si fa, il lupo se la mangia" translates as "Those who make themselves sheep will be eaten by the wolf." If you do not stand up for yourself, you will be "eaten" by more aggressive people. Do not be a "sheep!" Empower yourself by being strong and confident. This resolution can be stated as. "This year, I will always stand up for my rights and express the power of my unique individuality instead of being overpowered by and blindly following, other people." Let's face it, in today's business world there is no place for people that weakly go, "Baa, baa." The "wolves will plow over and devour these people. The principle can also be applied in social situations. The "wallflower" at the dance will remain without a partner while the more outgoing people will be dancing up a storm! So pump up your power and go for what life has to offer!

The wisdom of Italian proverbs can be used to formulate some great resolutions. Use this wisdom to help you make your resolutions and make this New Year a great year!

Trans-Atlantic

Half of urban Italy sick of city life

Agenzia Giornalistic Italia (AGI)

One Italian out of two suffers from "city-sickness", a discomfort deriving from living in a big urban centre. The most under stress of downtown life are adults with a low level of school education.

Naples is the city suffering most, followed by Bari, Palermo and Rome.

These are, briefly summarized, the results of a study carried out by IPR Marketing on behalf of Legambiente and the newspaper "Il Sole 24 Ore", on the stress of life in cities.

The study was presented in Pisa during a convention on the report "Ecosistema Urbano 2005" with the participation, amongst others, of Roberto Della Seta, National President of Legambiente, Altero Matteoli, Minister of the Environment, Ermete Realacci, Honorary President of Legambiente and Paolo Costa, delegate of the Ulivo (left wing) elected in Pisa.

Fifty-one per cent of inhabitants interviewed in big Italian cities (Milan, Turin, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Bari, Palermo and Cagliari) declared feeling very or sufficiently stressful living in a city. Nearly 58 per cent talked about increasing stress levels during the last three to four years. One out of four respondents have thought about moving. Those suffering most are men (54 per cent declares to be very or sufficiently under stress, compared to 49 per cent of women), adults (54 per cent compared to 53 per cent of young people and 48 per cent of elderly people) and people with a low level of school education (52 per cent of those with inferior education compared to 49 per cent of those with university degrees).

People are more afraid of traffic than of terrorism, more concerned about queues in public offices than about petty crime. Eighty per cent of inhabitants in big Italian cities are afraid of and suffer from never-ending traffic jams. Only 40 per cent declared to be worried about the risk of terrorist attacks. Queues in public offices (a suffering for 68 per cent of the interviewed) cause more anxiety than petty crime (62 per cent); pollution (61 per cent) and noise (59 per cent) are more decisive than loneliness (25 per cent).

Naples, according to the outcome of the study, is the capital of stress. In fact, three out of four citizens (74 per cent) claimed to be under stress. To follow Bari (61 per cent), Rome and Palermo (54 per cent) and Milan (52 per cent). Those suffering the least from city life are Venetians: only one out of three stated to be under high or sufficient stress, followed by Cagliari (32 per cent) and Turin (34 per cent).

The desire to escape from the city is directly connected to discomfort. In Naples nearly 1 out of 2 inhabitants considers escape (44 per cent), compared to Palermo where it is one out of three (33 per cent).



Venice is a busy city, but residents in the coastal city are the least stressed of all Italian urbanites.

Finally, inhabitants of Naples and Rome are those mostly terrorised by traffic (86 per cent) and smog (72 per cent and 70 per cent respectively). They are mostly suffering from queues and delays in public offices (79 per cent in Rome and 78 per cent in Naples).

Neapolitans, as we know from news reports, are those most concerned about petty crime (80 per cent), followed by the inhabitants of Turin (74 per cent), who also fear terrorist attacks (52 per cent). Milan is the city with loneliness at the first place of fears (30 per cent).

Italy opens first refuge for divorced fathers

The Independent.UK
By Peter Popham in Rome

Italy is the country of "mammismo", the hegemony of the dominating mamma. Many children are shackled to their mothers by a virtual umbilicus that can last a lifetime.

Father, on the other hand, often has only a bit part in the family drama. And when the family falls apart, he can find himself with all the financial burden, but no emotional role at all.

But as separations and divorces surge, accounting for a quarter of all unions, Italian fathers are fighting back. The celebrated operatic tenor Andrea Bocelli, who separated two years ago from his wife Enrica, with whom he had two boys, is spearheading a campaign to change the law to give divorced fathers the right to have a role in their children's upbringing. "It's incredible that we are debating the right of children to enjoy both their parents," he says.

And in another step forward, fathers financially crippled by maintenance payments are being offered accommodation in Italy's first ever "refuge" for divorced and separated dads. It opened this month in Bolzano, in the far north.

In 90 per cent of Italian divorces, custody of the children is awarded to the mother. If she has the children, she must also have the house, for which the ex-husband must continue to pay, as

well as covering the family's other expenses. Many fathers have nothing left over to provide for themselves, and this month Asdi, an organization dedicated to helping the divorced and separated, opened a house in Bolzano for fathers who find themselves homeless.

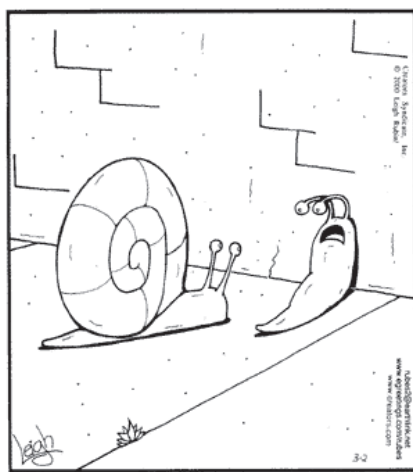
Separations can "leave the men with an economic burden that is frequently unsustainable," said Elio Cirimbelli of Asdi. "Many ex-husbands find it absolutely impossible to afford a decent home, a place where they can welcome their children."

The Bolzano house has five bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, plus a common living room and kitchen and two large terraces

where dads and kids can romp about. Rent is pegged at \$200 a month for residents, whose net income after handing over maintenance to the former partner must not exceed \$650.

While it may rescue fathers from desperate straits, it will bring challenges of its own: cooking, shopping and cleaning will all be done collectively.

Most Italians live with their families during their student years, so for many of those coming to the refuge it will be their first taste of communal living.



"Things have been kind of rough since the divorce. As you can see, my ex got the house."

Minister says bridge should be named for Italian expats

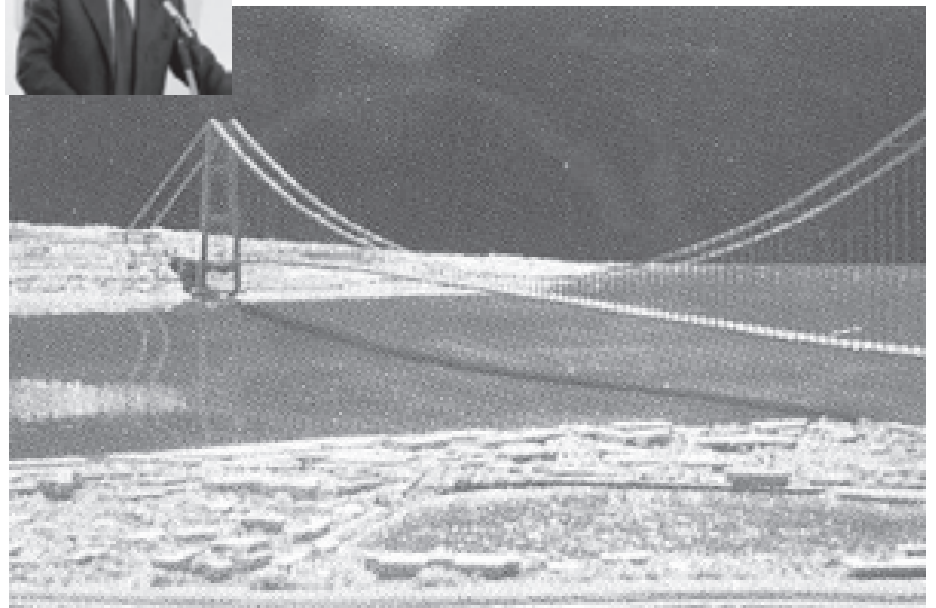
(AGI) - Rome, Italy, Dec. 16 - Infrastructure Minister Pietro Lunardi agrees with the proposal made by the Minister for Italians Abroad, Mirko Tremaglia, to name the Messina Strait bridge for Italians residing abroad.

"I think it is a beautiful tribute to the 60 million Italians who live abroad and love Italy more than us. Italians around the world are a great resource that are never evaluated enough.

Tremaglia has been great on insisting on this," said Lunardi.

Lunardi, moreover, confirmed that work on the bridge should open by the end of 2005 or the beginning of 2006.

"The general contractor will be chosen on April 20, 2005."



Pietro Lunardi would like to name the proposed bridge (below) over Messina Strait after people who "love Italy more than us."

Community Calendar/Eventi Comunitari

January/Gennaio

15, 17, 19, 22: Opera Lyra's The Old Maid and the Thief at Centrepoint Theatre. Sung in English.

16: Gara di briscola
Associazione Emiliana

18: Robert Grenier, O.C. Chief of Underwater Archaeology, Parks Canada will present a lecture in English.
"40 years under the sea"
8:00pm
Auditorium of the National Library and Archives 395 Wellington Street

21: 150th Anniversary of the Ottawa Police Service
Kick-off at City Hall featuring guest speakers and interactive displays.

23: Draw me an Opera
National Art Gallery 2pm
Free opera performances geared to young children

30: Opera Lyra Young Artists Programme Recitals
\$20 or \$50 for the series
National Gallery of Canada, 2:00pm
A pleasurable Sunday afternoon with participants of the Opera Lyra Ottawa Young Artists Programme in recital

February/Febbraio

6, 13, 20: L' Hockey su schermo gigante!
Venite a riscaldarvi guardando due film appassionanti al Museo Canadese delle Civiltazioni!
Histoire d' hiver e Shinny: The Hockey in All of Us.
Alle 13 in francese ed alle 15.30 in inglese
Biglietti gratuiti, (819) 776-7000.
Shinny: The Hockey in All of Us. E stato scritto e diretto da Davide Batistella ed ha vinto differenti premi. Un film da vedere!
Hockey on a big screen!
Come warm up and enjoy two interesting films at the Canadian Museum of Civilization!
Histoire d' hiver and Shinny: The Hockey in All of Us.
At 1pm in French and at 3:30 pm in English.
Free tickets (819) 776-7000
Shinny: The hockey in All of Us is an award winning film. It was written and directed by Davide Batistella. A must see film!
12: Carnevale Emiliano
Associazione Emiliana

19. Black and White Opera Soiree
National Arts Centre, 8:00pm
A favourite with critics and public alike, this joint fundraiser for Opera Lyra Ottawa and the National Arts Centre Orchestra features Canada's most talented singers, musicians and conductors performing opera's greatest hits!

27: Opera Lyra Young Artists Programme Recitals
National Gallery of Canada 2:00pm

March/Marzo

3: 3rd Annual Women's Filo
St. Anthony's Soccer Club
Info: Ivana Baldelli 830-7565
ivana.baldelli@ottawa.ca

5: Kidney Foundation fundraising dinner
Call Mario Frangioni at 230-7166

15: Ghost Writing? or Lying in Stone?: Can we believe Roman Building Inscriptions? presented by James Anderson, University of Georgia
8:00pm
Auditorium of the National Library and Archives 395 Wellington Street

20: Opera Lyra Young Artists Programme
National Gallery of Canada
This competition recital will be followed by the presentation of the Vivian Asfar Memorial Award for Vocal Excellence presented each year to a young member of the Opera Lyra Ottawa Young Artists Programme

April/Aprile

30: Ottawa Police Parliament Hill Evening
A black tie event on Parliament Hill to honour the Ottawa Police Service's 150th Anniversary



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The many faces of Tony Ieluzzi



More festive fun at Villa Marconi

