ITALIAN AMERICAN HUMAN RELATIONS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Board of Directors

August 7, 2001

Late Night With Conan O'Brien
30 Rockefeller Plaza
Room 901W
New York, NY 10112

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

How Sad! On Friday, August 3, 2001, you senselessly correlated the beautiful Italian name of a newborn boy with the "Godfather" movies in the pursuit of quick-wit humor.

The Italian-American community wonders why, in the spirit of joy in the birth of a healthy, innocent boy of Italian descent with such a wonderful sounding name, you would not choose to think of Michelangelo, Bocelli, Fermi, Puccini, Verdi, or perhaps Como, or DiMaggio. We also wonder if you would have asked if the father watched episodes of "Amos & Andy" before naming the child if the family was African-American.

We don't expect an apology, (although one is deserving). Folks in show business are consistent in their belief that Italians in America over react to the thousands of insensitivities broadcast about them in the name of entertainment and advertising. What we do expect, Mr. O'Brien, is that in your search for "spontaneous humor" on a nightly basis, you bear in mind the numerous positive contributions twenty million Italian-Americans made to this country's history, which afford you the opportunity to go on the air nightly. We expect no more, and certainly, no less.

Louis H. Rago
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