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Sunday, January 6, 2008

## Ethnic depictions never fair

### President Giuliani? Fuhgeddaboudit!

**Anna L. Griffin**

Some Italian-Americans are a little upset with Rudy Giuliani.

His ethnic-based antics have earned him the title "Uncle Tomasso" from one activist who compares America's mayor "goomba" goofing around to blacks who act like "Uncle Toms."

As both sets of my grandparents came from Italy, I think I am qualified to speak on this issue.

Enough already!

For certain, it's uncomfortable to think about the Italian mob connection. But it's there, people; it's part of our history and there's nothing we can do to change that.

Yes, Italian-Americans, like every other ethnic group that came here, have contributed great things to our society. Perhaps there are too many good things to mention.

No one likes to be seen as "two dimensional" and unfortunately, audience members don't often give a great deal of thought to what they are watching at home or in a movie theater. I can honestly say there were times when I was also offended by these stereotypical depictions of Italian-Americans. But I feel the best way I can counteract these stereotypes is to be a productive citizen of this country.

I don't think we have to worry about Rudy's run for the president too much, if the latest polls are any indication.

After that, we can just fuhgeddaboudit.

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Thirty-six new graduates of Mount Wachusett Community College's Practical Nurse program celebrated their academic achievements during a traditional pinning ceremony at the Gardner campus recently.

**Dr. Colin Blake**, an anesthesiologist at Heywood Hospital in Gardner, presented a lighthearted look at the hours of study and preparation that go into obtaining a degree in the medical field, and also addressed the seriousness of the nursing profession.

"Those of you who have, through hard work and perseverance, come to this place tonight deserve our respect and congratulations, and you have them without reservation," Dr. Blake said.

"Take this moment to look back with pride on an accomplishment that so very few have the skill or determination to reach. The skills, the knowledge, the experience required, is hard-won, yes, but is a pearl beyond price because it



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means that you are one of the special few that make lives better in vital ways each and every day. At the end of every day, you can hold up your head with pride and say, 'I did good today,' which is a rare gift."

During the ceremony, each graduate, dressed in a traditional nurse uniform, was welcomed into the profession by having the college's nursing pin fastened to her or his lapel by a fellow nurse — a family member, friend or faculty member. The nursing pin symbolizes the medal of excellence Florence Nightingale presented to the women who nursed the wounded of the Crimean War. The traditional ceremony also included the lighting of a candle and the recitation of the Nightingale Nurse's Pledge.

"Through your year's experience in school, you have seen that nursing today is experiencing many changes," MWCC director of nursing **Nancy Duphily** told the graduates. "The crisis of the nursing shortage has focused attention on the profession as never before. As a nurse of the future, you are now charged with the responsibilities of improving practice environments, making decisions regarding standards of care, and continually educating yourself to maintain the quality of care you deliver," she said.

MWCC's December 2007 graduates in the Gardner Practical Nursing program from this region are: Athol: **Massiel Colon**, and **Nicole Stoddard**, Baldwinville; **Suzanne Geyster** and **Jamie Siart**, Fitchburg; **Jenny Pierre**, Gardner; **Kelly Connolly**, **Shannon Daly**, **Jacqueline Gallant**, **Charlene Gleason**, **Shawna Jovanovic** and **Christophe Samsia**, Leominster; **Joyce Appah**, **Phyllis Asamoah-Pratt** and **Kristin Shaw**, Lunenburg; **Deborah Hansen**, Phillipston; **Jessica Casiano**, **Priscilla Ryan**, Royalston; **Angela Maguire**, Templeton; and Townsend, **Rachel Baro**.

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The Boys & Girls Club of North Central Massachusetts is seeking \$50 donations from individuals and organizations to sponsor a word in its annual Adult Spelling Bee. Twenty teams of five members each compete in the annual event at Weston Auditorium on the campus of Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg.

This year's event is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. Awards are given for the best spelling team and for best costumed. When a word is pronounced for a team to spell, the word-sponsor's name will be read off.

To participate, send a check with "word" in the memo section to the B&GC of North Central MA, Box 6454, Fitchburg State College, 160 Pearl St., Fitchburg, MA 01420. Sponsor as many words as you like!

The club operates a clubhouse in Leominster and Fitchburg, providing more than 200 kids a day with a safe place to play and learn after school.

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Join **Deborah Penta**, chief executive officer of PENTA Communications and founder of FLIC, the Female Leadership Interest Council, for a presentation of "Marketing Yourself for Success." The program will discuss personal and professional growth strategies and will help attendees understand how to identify barriers that may prevent them from being their best. Participants can learn how to package themselves for the roles in their lives, and how to become successful without losing themselves in the process. Participants may also discover ways of creating the lives they want and learn how to create small miracles to enhance it.

The program will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the National Plastics Center, 212 Lancaster St., Route 117, in Leominster. An RSVP is requested, by e-mail to [getek@massweb.org](mailto:getek@massweb.org).

Know someone special? Planning a special event? We'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Montachusett People, c/o the Montachusett T&G, 27 Monument Square, Leominster, MA 01453 or give us a call at (978) 840-0071. Items can also be sent via fax to (978) 840-0069 or by e-mail to [agriffin@telegram.com](mailto:agriffin@telegram.com).



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