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## Before gym, tanning and laundry: Jersey Shore cast open up hilarious family albums

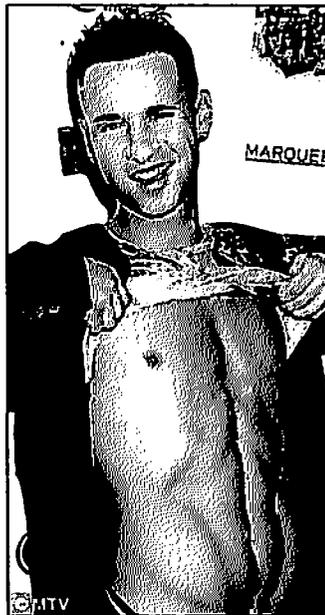
By DAILY MAIL REPORTER  
 UPDATED: 02:34 EST, 23 July 2010

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The 'guidos' and 'guidettes' of the Jersey Shore have opened up their teen photo albums and revealed their lives before GTL.

While he now flashes his toned abs at any given opportunity, Mike 'The Situation' Sorrentino reveals pictures of himself as a fresh faced youth who was desperate to look sharp in a suit and tie.

Another shot shows him - and all three of his siblings - wearing turtle-neck jumpers in a family portrait.



This is The Situation: Mike Sorrentino wasn't always so eager to flaunt his pocs

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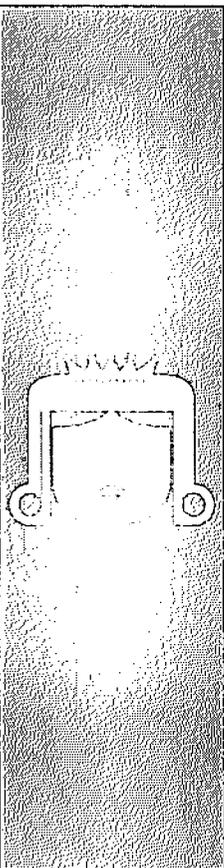
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► Katie stays Holmes: Actress cancels first red carpet appearance since Tom Cruise split





Neck and neck: The Situation poses with his very co-ordinated family

Fellow castmate J-Woww - real name is Jenni Farley - talks about her life in high school this Saturday on MTV's series When I Was 17.

'Me, at 17, was not the most popular. It was weird in my high school. I didn't really fit in any clique,' she says in the episode.

'I kind of bounced around. I really didn't fit in. I wasn't comfortable there.'

She says that she worked hard to graduate high school a year earlier.



Oh wow! Jenni 'J-Woww' Farley revealed what she looked like before she had breast implants



Was due to attend Diddy Feet Foundation gala



▶ Not bad for 39! Birthday girl Kate Beckinsale slips into a pair of leather trousers... as daughter Lily debuts purple hair Family celebration



▶ New leading man, Amanda? Seyfried 'dating Dexter star Desmond Harrington' Last linked to Lovelace star James Franco



▶ Well you hardly wear anything anyway! Lady Gaga tweets 'naked' picture of herself reclining on an armchair Well, she was born this way...



▶ She's smokin'! Lady Gaga slips into suspenders Was draped in a dead white wolf for silver screen debut Machele Kills



▶ Girls just want to have fun! Lady Gaga shares pictures from THAT slumber party with Lindsay Lohan (and they both look a little bleary-eyed)



▶ Where's she been hiding those? Zooey Deschanel highlights her curves in a supportive dress Normally one for demure smock dresses



▶ Go Rick!, go Rick!! Host slips into leather skirt for return to talk show The 43-year-old has been away for eight years



▶ London welcomes First Lady of fashion Michelle Obama as she dons ANOTHER patriotic outfit in support of Team USA Stealing the limelight!

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**Pales in comparison: The reality TV star didn't always tan**

'I was just like, "I got to leave early. I got to do what I can to start my life",' she recalled.

J-Woww continues: 'I only had two classes left in my senior year, so I doubled up in 11th grade and left school a year early. High school just wasn't for me. I just couldn't wait to get out.'

She also chats about another high school hobby, bowling.

'When I was 17, my best friend Trina got me into bowling,' she said.



**Tough stuff: He may not have had the bulging biceps back then, but clearly Pauly D had the same attitude**



about family as he spends day with sister Jazmyn  
Took four-year-old sister to the mall



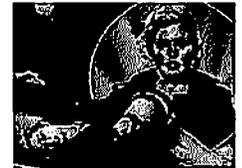
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Home he shared with wife Robyn until their bitter divorce



► Madonna in grovelling backpedal after depicting French far-right politician with swastika on her forehead  
Made public apology



► Don't slip a disk! Madonna writhes around on the floor in her underwear  
Performed Je T'Aime in Paris



► Penelope's neckline Cruz-os south: Actress' satin bra peeps out in wardrobe malfunction  
Visited her sister-in-law in Madrid



► Getting in line already, Katy? Single Miss Porry eyes up cover boy R-Patz on bikini break  
Well, he might be a single man soon Katy!



► How am I looking... Rihanna shows off her curves in a red swimsuit  
Had fun as she tried out different poses



► The best musical choice for a Shore girl! Pregnant Snooki and fiancé Jonni enjoy date night watching Jersey Boys  
Certainly dressed up!



► Just a cosy lunch for three: David Beckham dines out with Victoria and Harper



Wheel love: Pauly D was a real motorbike enthusiast



Flower power: He shows off his romantic side on a school date

'It was just something to do. You weren't old enough to go out and drink and have a good time. I was actually really good.'

Paul 'Pauly D' DeVecchio also features in the special, who turns out to be a motorbike enthusiast and something of a romantic.

The new Jersey Shore season begins July 29 at 10pm ET/PT on MTV.

When I Was 17 airs on Saturday at 11am on MTV.



Ahead of Downing Street meeting with British Prime Minister



▶ Taking the plunge Jessica Alba shows off her svelte figure in a low cut clinging dress The 31-year-old was a class act in Manhattan



▶ Not so sweet and innocent: How Kristen Stewart 'took Rupert Sanders's young daughter for ice cream TWO months ago' While promoting her film



▶ Time for a change? Amber Rose ditches the peroxide for a darker hair colour as she soaks up the sun in Hollywood Hung out poolside



▶ Cover your eyes, Milay: Shirtless flirt Liam Hemsworth passionately kisses co-star Teresa Palmer in new film stills For 'Love and Honor'



▶ Bringing the soXy Factor! Britney Spears steps out in tiny shorts and slinky sequins as her outfits appear to get even racier



▶ Sweet Home California: Reese Witherspoon opens the doors to the luxurious Ojai house where she wed Jim Toth Take a look inside the ranch



▶ 'I want to keep it personal': Dylan McDermott refuses to answer questions about mother's death Killed 45 years ago



▶ She's back! Felsty Pink returns from maternity break throwing red wine at love interest But it's only in new music video

▶ In the nudo! Melissa



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All grown up: J-Woww, The Situation and Pauly D with the rest of the Jersey Shore cast earlier this month

George co-ordinates her dress with bag, shoes and skin tone as she steps out bare-faced  
Out in California



Hilary Duff learns the art of deflecting body attention by accessorising with bright scarf  
Has struggled to shift baby weight



Giving her man the day off! Chris Hemsworth's wife Elsa Pataky takes daughter India for a stroll  
So cute



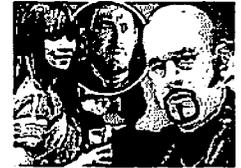
Move over, Angelina Jolie! A new home wrecker is on the prowl  
At least Kristen Stewart has a good reason for her trademark glums, writes JAN MOIR



'It's a lot of fuss about nothing': Rupert Sanders' father dismisses his son's affair with Kriston  
Said director's relationship will survive



Tom, is that you? Hanks is barely recognizable in trailer for sci-fi drama Cloud Atlas  
Co-stars include Halle Berry and Hugh Grant



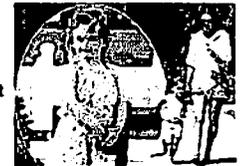
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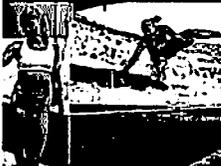
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Little one turned on the charm, smiling and posing for camera



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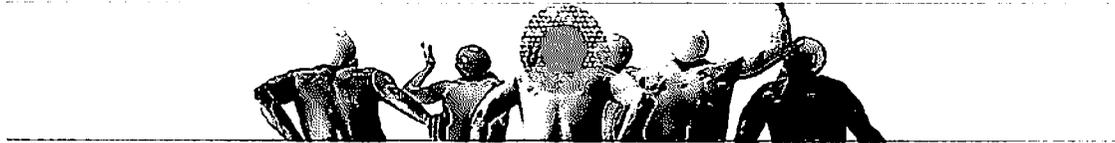
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# Arts Beat

The Culture at Large

January 21, 2010, 5:07 PM 71 Comments

## Gym. Tan. Laundry. Discuss.

By PATRICIA COHEN



The cast of the MTV reality series "Jersey Shore"

Consider it an antipasto for Thursday night's season finale of MTV's reality series "Jersey Shore." The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute at Queens College held a colloquium on "guido culture" on Thursday morning to discuss the uproar that has erupted over the show's depiction of the drinking, hot-tubbing, and brawling summer escapades of eight 20-somethings who proudly refer to themselves as "guidos" and "guidettes."

Some Italian-Americans consider "guido" to be a slur and have vehemently protested not only the show, but also the use of the term. But others, mostly younger Italian-Americans, use it affectionately to refer to a particular life style, no different than preppies, punks, Deadheads and rappers. Or as the show's Pauly D put it: "I was born and raised a Guido. It's just a life style, it's being Italian, it's representing, family, friends, tanning, gel, everything."

Among the overflow crowd of 100 or so people who showed up to discuss the pros and cons were scholars, elected officials, representatives of Italian-American organizations, Italian-American writers, Italy's deputy consul

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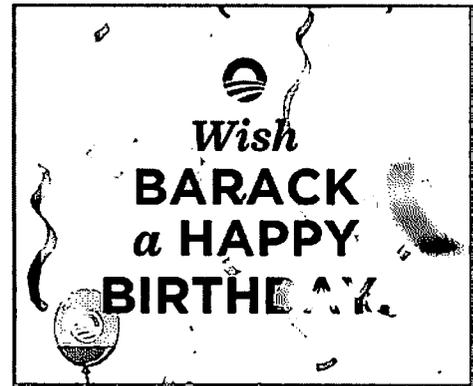
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general and a sprinkling of people who proudly called themselves guidos and guidettes.

The main speakers were Prof. Donald Tricarico, a sociologist and ethnographer from Queensborough Community College, and Johnny DeCarlo, a self-professed Guido, who owns Bonnie & Clyde's Catering in Lodi, N.J., and auditioned for "Jersey Shore."

Professor Tricarico has studied "guido" culture for nearly 20 years. Wearing wire-rimmed glasses, a sober gray suit and tie, he was the anti-MTV Guido, and visibly uncomfortable lecturing into a microphone before an audience. Yet it was clear that just as Jersey Shore denizens have their own lingo, so do academics — a scholarly version of "Yo, bro" and a fist pump. This "urban youth subculture," he said, is "associated with late capitalism," a second generation that "consumes commodified leisure styles," and has created "a bricolage of symbols."

In other words, "guidos" are a result of the rising fortunes of young Italian-Americans who, for the first time, had leisure time and money; they tried to carve out a niche for themselves in the popular culture.

As State Senator Diane J. Savino, who represents Staten Island and parts of Brooklyn, explained, "Guido' was never a pejorative." It grew out of the greaser look and became a way for Italian-Americans who did not fit the standard of beauty to take pride in their own heritage and define cool for themselves.

When she was growing up, everybody listened to rock; girls were supposed to be skinny with straight blond hair (like Marcia Brady on "The Brady Bunch"); guys wore ripped jeans, sneakers and straggly hair.

The 1977 film "Saturday Night Fever" was a turning point. "It changed the image for all of us," Ms. Savino said.

As Tony Manero, John Travolta wore a white suit, had slicked short hair, liked disco music and was hot. "It was a way we could develop our own standard of beauty," Ms. Savino added.

Indeed, Professor Tricarico called "Saturday Night Fever" the "origin myth" for "guidos." Think of Tony Manero as Adam.

Young Italian-Americans, he added, did what other minority groups before them have done — take a symbol of derision, own it, and redefine it their own way. Young blacks did that with the "n-word," much to the consternation of their elders, and gays did the same by proudly using the word "queer."

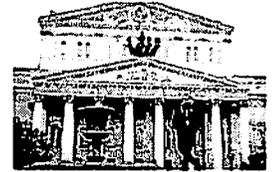
What Ms. Savino, and pretty much everyone else who spoke, objected to is the way "it's been exploited by MTV."

Joseph Sciamè, the president of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, said the problem was that no matter how many other positive depictions of Italians-Americans there are, "one showing of a program like 'Jersey Shore,' and that's what people think all Italian-Americans are like." His group as well as others — including the New Jersey Italian American Legislative Caucus, Unico National, the Order of the Sons of Italy in America, the National Italian-American Foundation, the Jersey Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Borough of Seaside Heights, N.J. (where the show was filmed) — have protested to MTV.

As another speaker said, "We have a responsibility to make sure people know



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National Endowment for the Humanities announces the 244 recipients of \$39 million in federal grants funding.

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### Erica Jong and Others Discuss What Women Really Want From 'Fifty Shades'

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Also, Amazon.com is building more warehouses near big cities as faster delivery appears to outweigh sales taxes; and Universal Music Group offers to sell Parlophone Records.

#### In Bid for EMI, Universal Music Group Considers Sale of Parlophone Records

Executives from BMG Rights Management were said to have met with Universal over a possible sale of the EMI label, Parlophone, which releases the music of Coldplay and Radiohead.

#### Boston's WGBH Buys Public Radio International

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that's not us."

Mr. DeCarlo, who is nearly 29, wore a black shirt, a black leather jacket, a large gold cross around his neck and a pinkie ring, and he spiked up his hair with gel. He is a freelance writer but is also interested in acting, so he auditioned for "Jersey Shore" and made it to the finals. He said as the process went along, it became clear that MTV was more interested in "shocking reality TV mayhem instead of a family culture."

To him, "guido" means family, food, wine, cigars, coffee, gold chains, Cadillacs and a dialect that gives "fuhgeddiboutit" some panache. Neither his style, nor his fondness for clubbing and music, means that "I'm looking for a fight," he said.

"A true guido is someone with dreams, aspirations and goals," he said. Tony Manero "was very flawed but you rooted for him because you knew he wanted to do something with his life."

The 1992 movie "My Cousin Vinny" is the perfect representation, Mr. DeCarlo said. In the film, Joe Pesci plays Vinny and wears a black leather jacket and a big gold chain, speaks in Brooklyn slang and has a "guidette" girlfriend. But it turns out he is very smart and a fantastic lawyer.

During question-and-answer time, Mario Fratti, a playwright who is probably best known for writing the book for the musical "Nine" (currently a movie), got up to speak. He was truly puzzled, he said in his accented English. He pointed out that the protagonist of the Fellini film "8 1/2," on which the musical "Nine" is based, is named Guido. "I kept the name for the musical and for the movie," he said. "Keeping the name Guido is a symbol of sophistication. It is a badge of honor in Italy."

How is it that it has become associated with something distasteful?

Later, Mr. Fratti confessed that he had not watched "Jersey Shore." "MTV — what is that? I've never seen it," he said.

When told he could watch the finale and a talkback with the cast later on Thursday, he slowly shook his head. "You are ruining my life."

So what do you think? Is "guido" a slur or a lifestyle choice? Should Italian-Americans be proud or embarrassed?

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BY KEN JOHNSON

, at the Museum of Modern Art, includes props from "Pec-weet's Playhouse." A different image of childhood presides over each of the seven chronologically laid-out sections of the exhibition "Century of the Child" at the Museum of Modern Art.

**Critic's Notebook: Evgeny Nikitin and Wagner's 'Flying Dutchman'**  
BY ZACHARY WOOLFE

The controversy surrounding the Russian singer Evgeny Nikitin's reputed swastika tattoo and his withdrawal from "The Flying Dutchman" in Bayreuth have profound implications for a festival that cannot and should not stop thinking about its past.

**Dinner at an Exhibition: Rat, Prepared Many Ways**  
BY MELENA RYZIK

For her exhibition at the Allegra LaViola Gallery, the artist Laura Ginn organized a dinner centered on the least-loved rodent.

**Critic's Notebook: NewFest of Gay-Themed Films at Lincoln Center**  
BY STEPHEN HOLDEN

For its 24th annual season, NewFest — which celebrates movies with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender material — is under the auspices of the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

**Movie Review: 'Killer Joe,' Directed by William Friedkin**  
BY MANOHLA DARGIS

"Killer Joe," written by Tracy Letts and directed by William Friedkin, finds Matthew McConaughey as a psycho among a family of ne'er-do-wells.

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Malik Bendjelloul, the director of "Searching for Sugar Man," discusses scenes from his documentary about the musician Rodriguez.
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