



SPOTLIGHT

Buongiorno, Baltimore!

The city's Columbus Day Parade marks its 115th anniversary.

BY STEVE FINK

There are two reasons Baltimore's Italian Americans are proud of their city's Columbus Day Parade (October 8). The first is its longevity: First held in 1890, many believe it to be the oldest of its type in the nation. To understand the second, we asked honorary parade grand marshal and former Mayor (1967-1971) Thomas D'Alesandro, *pictured*. "We're trying to convey to the general public not just the pride in our nation and American citizenship," says D'Alesandro, now happily retired, "but also the pride in our Italian-American heritage. There's always been the 'which explorer was really here first?' debate, but the development of America came after Columbus, and we're proud of that."