



# A Dozen or So Ways (NOT) to Meet Your Italian Neighbors

(or, Hey, Toto, We're Not in Kansas Anymore!) ©The American University of Rome 2006

- Flick cigarettes and ashes from your window or balcony
- Hang out on your terrace talking loudly (or even softly, but at 3 am when you could hear a pin drop)
  - Drag furniture across the floor without lifting it
- Watch a DVD in your bedroom—which happens to be right above/under/next to your neighbors' bedroom
  - Ignore the quiet hours laws
  - Hang out in the stairwell, smoking, drinking and, well, just hanging out
  - Forget that, in the "real" world, the weekend doesn't start on Thursdays
- Bring home strangers who couldn't care less about your neighbors, nor your reputation with the neighbors
  - Leave your trash bags in the building entrance or stairs
    - Return to your building, drunk and noisy
    - Leave your building, drunk and noisy
    - Stay home for the night, drunk and noisy
- Neglect to tell your visitors which apartment you're in so that they buzz everyone in your building until they find you
  - Greet your best friend who's visiting from home by screaming your hellos in the stairwell
    - Wear hard-soled shoes inside your apartment
  - Forget to close the elevator doors properly so that no one else can use it
  - Pile into the elevator with too many people, so that it breaks and the neighbors not only can't use it, they have to pay an expensive technician to fix it
    - Talk loudly in the stairwells or other public areas of your building
      - Let doors slam behind you
  - Not dispose of your trash properly and promptly, so that you attract bugs into your building
    - Answer your door wearing only a towel
- Use the informal "ciao" instead of the preferred and respectful "buon giorno", "buona sera", or "salve"