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## STELLA'S COLUMN

WITH STELLA FOSTER

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### Let it go, Daley

**D**EAR MAYOR DALEY, I KNOW how enthusiastic you have been over the possibility of bringing the 2016 Olympics to this great city, but I would rather you direct that same kind of enthusiasm to the serious problems that are currently plaguing our Windy City and beyond.

Does it make a lot of sense for Chicago leaders to be so concerned about acquiring the 2016 Olympics while Chicago and the rest of the country are facing a tremendous financial crisis?

This city has a host of problems, including all the flooding that happened over the weekend and people losing their jobs, homes and their basic standard of living, combined with the fact that this city is confronted with a financial debt in the hundreds of millions. Also, the city's infrastructure is decaying, and the possibility of CTA fare increases and service cuts is hanging over our heads. So, Mr. Mayor, I hate to say it, but the heck with the 2016 Olympics for now. Folks are trying to survive and keep their heads above water just to see 2009.

**THE DEVASTATION** from Hurricane Ike has left millions of people without power, gas and a place to live. Makes you wonder what is up with Mother Nature.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY Richard Devine**, Mayor Daley, former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris, Cook County Judge Arthur Hill and former state executive inspector general Zaldwaynaka Scott will be honored at a reception at the Gallery Guichard on Thursday. The evening is hosted by the local National Black Prosecutors Association that is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

**THE ALZHEIMER'S** Association Greater Illinois Chapter in partnership with the Southside Dementia Consortium is hosting a free conference for family caregivers of people suffering from Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 20 at Kennedy-King College. The emcee is WFLD-Channel 32's Wanda Wells.

#### A STELLAR REMINDER:

The HistoryMakers will honor the career and life of the fabulous **Bartha Kitt** on Sept. 20 at Northwestern University Law School's Thorne Auditorium. Kitt will be interviewed by broadcaster **Gwen Ifill**, with the evening taped by PBS for airing in February. **Merrilee** will emcee. A reception will be held afterward at the Lockwood restaurant in the Palmer House. By the way, **Eartha Mae** will also be the first celeb to occupy the hotel's new and luxurious 11-room, 3,700-square-foot penthouse.

**DONALD J. TRUMP** and family will be in town Sept. 24 to top off the magnificent Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago.

**ORCHESTRA** leader/pianist **Stanley Paul** doing his one-man show "Songs & Stories of a Glamorous Era" at noon today



Mayor Daley



Richard Devine



Eartha Kitt



Donald Trump

at the Chicago Cultural Center. It is free to the public... so don't miss it!

**DEVELOPER NICK GOULETAS** and **Natal** are chairing the Mercy Hospital annual dinner gala Oct. 10 at the Chicago Hilton & Towers... **Marc Schuman's** 12th annual Eli's Cheesecake Festival at Eli's Cheesecake World (Forest Preserve & Montrose) Sept. 20 and 21.

**ST. SABINA** Catholic Church will be hosting an impressive list of VIPs and celebs next year for its speakers series: actor **Harry Belafonte**, the Reverends **Joseph Lowery** & **C.T. Vivian**, Jan. 23, singer **Patricia LaBelle**, Feb. 20; actor **Forest Whitaker**, March 6, and **Maya Angelou**, March 27.

**KUDOS TO** **Chartwells-Thompson** Hospitality for donating more than \$30,000 to assist 1,700 homeless students enrolled in Chicago's public schools.



Stanley Paul

**ON THE TOWN:** The Sox' **Ozzie Guillen** and the Tigers' **Carlos Guillen**, **Miguel Cabrera** and **Freddy Garza** dined at **Brazzaz** and, at a separate table, **Marty (McCormick Place) Mullarky**... The Bears' **Olin Kreutz**, **John St. Clair**, **John Tait**, **Roberto Garza**, **Patrick Mannely** and **Fred Miller** ate at **Morton's** in Northbrook... The Blue Jays' **B.J. Ryan** and **Mike North** dined on different evenings at **Hub 51**... TV's popular **Judge Greg Mathis** celebrating the 10th anniversary of his popular show with friends at **Tavern on Rush**... **Joan Jett** at **Frankie's Scalopine**... The Bears' **Kevin Jones** at **J Bar**.

**ILLINOIS** Senate President **Emil Jones** will be roasted and toasted at the **RealMen** Charities fund-raiser Dec. 13 at the South Shore Cultural Center.

**THE BIRTHDAY PEOPLE:** **Dawn Clark Netsch**, **Kathy Leventhal**, **Tamron Hall**, **Lauren Bacall**, and belated to former **Bear Otis Wilson** and **Dr. Susan Egwele**. On Wednesday: Former **Bear George Blanda**, and anniversary wishes to **Tommy King** and **Barbara**. Well, that's **Stella** in the city!  
*Comment at suntimes.com.*