

People and Events

SMB Wind Ensemble

THIS newly formed ensemble is directed by Noel Buan, a conductor of Banda 31, Sta. Maria, Bulacan and former tuba player of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under Maestro Oscar Yatico and currently playing Tuba at the Fil-Am Symphony Orchestra (FASO) under Maestro Bob Schroder. The ensemble originally began with 8 members within his immediate family and relatives and was invited to monthly Sta. Maria, Bulacan vigil meetings to play religious hymns such as *Ave Maria*. After continuous practices and small gigs, Noel began to expand the size of his band. He first asked his sister Ning Manahan, a talented vocalist that will be performing a solo at the upcoming concert, to teach her two young and talented sons how to play percussion instruments. From there, a handful of friends and family joined in through word of mouth and constant networking and the band has yet to be complete. The group now performs at occasions such as Filipino Town Fiestas playing many requested songs and marches.

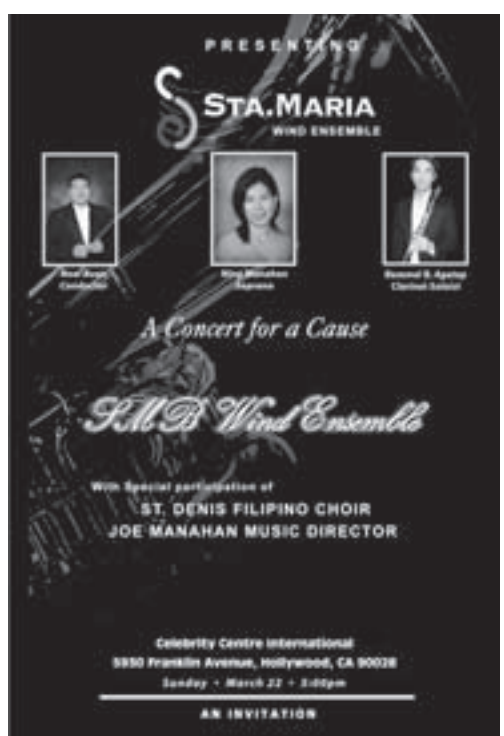
The SMB Wind Ensemble now puts their Music at a professional level. They had their first concert back in December 2006 and received a tremendous appreciation from the audience. At the concert, they invited trumpet soloist Edwin De Leon, one of the best trumpet players in the Philippines who now plays in the US Army Band. Guest soprano Luningning Manahan, a graduate from the UP conservatory of music, also performed a Kundiman song *Mutya ng Pasig*.

On March 22, the 35 strong SMB wind ensemble will perform again at the Celebrity Center Garden Pavilion Hall in Hollywood, CA, performing a variety of music such as Classical Overtures, Kundiman and Popular music. Solo acts will feature principal clarinetist Rommel Agatep who will perform *Carnival De Venice* and returning guest Soprano, Luningning Manahan who will sing one of Francisco Santiago's compositions, *Pakiusap*. Lastly, the concert will feature the St. Denis Filipino Choir under the direction of Joe Manahan.

The concert welcomes every one of all ages as a vast variety of music will be played for your entertainment, all proceeds of this concert will contribute towards scholarships for students who are less fortunate in the Philippines. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated and your help will make a tremendous effect on the lives of many.

For tickets please call (714) 329-4422 or (562) 858-5188. The concert will be held on March 22, 2009 at 5pm at the Celebrity Centre, Garden Pavilion Hall on 5930 Franklin Ave., Hollywood, CA. 90020.

For directions, please call (323) 960-3100.



Drifter steals show at the Hot Air Balloon Fiesta



Lance Feliciano

LANCE FELICIANO, the only Filipino to be issued a competition license by the United States' Formula D Series—a championship for professional drift drivers, drew a huge crowd during the 14th Philippine Hot Air Balloon Fiesta in Clark Airfield, Pampanga recently.

Feliciano, who was flagged-off by veteran touring car champion Kookie Ramirez and Riz Dalangin of BF Goodrich, performed a spectacular drifting exhibition on the runway of the Air Force

City, where he executed Scandinavian drifts, snappy transitions and tire burns to the delight of the amused crowd. He elicited gasps and squeals when he ran tight "doughnuts" (consecutive 360-degree turns) around selected members of the audience, including Kim Atienza, the host of *Umagang Kay Ganda* of ABS-CBN.

According to Feliciano, "Drifting involves precision and you need to have a well-tuned, perfectly conditioned, rear-wheel



drive car with a good suspension and tires that can stand the strain of drifting." He added, "You can go through a full set of tires in less than a day of competition, which is why it is important to have excellent rubber mounted on your wheels like BF Goodrich."

The 22-year-old Feliciano, who is supported by BF Goodrich, Whiz Oil, Spyder, Starbright Body Kits, Rapidé, Drift Mags, K92 Paint, Standox, Zee Car Suspension, LF Performance

and tsikot.com, is the only Filipino competing in the US Formula D series. He joined an elite circle of only 38 professional Formula D drivers when he won the requisite eight qualifying events in 2006 at the age of 19. Feliciano edged out 55 other drivers at the Irwindale Speedway and took home the championship plus a slot in the Nationals in Laughlin, Las Vegas. Feliciano continued to compete in 2007 and 2008, landing on the podium several times.

Thelma Garcia Buchholdt

PAGE A7 ◀

Voters, and she helped found the Boys and Girls Clubs of Alaska.

In the late 1960s, Thelma became involved in politics as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee of Young Democrats. In 1969, she was selected to attend a conference "On the Future of Alaska" held by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. George McGovern named her Alaska coordinator for his 1972 presidential campaign. She was appointed to the Alaska State Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights. In 1973, Thelma was elected the first woman president of the Filipino Community of Anchorage, serving two consecutive terms.

After her work on the McGovern campaign, in 1974 Thelma was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives as an Ad Hoc Democrat. She was subsequently re-elected to the Alaskan legislature in 1976, 1978, and 1980. Thelma was the first female Filipino American legislator in the United States of America and the first Filipino American elected to a United States legislative body by a constituency which was less than 3% Asian American and less than 1% Filipino American.

Thelma Buchholdt served on the House Finance Committee, later becoming vice-chair of the committee. She championed funding for the Spenard Community Recreation Center, the Dempsey-Anchorage Ice Arena, the Asian-Alaskan Cultural Center in Spenard,

the renovation of the Filipino Community Hall in Juneau and many local roads, trails and parks. Thelma also sponsored and won funding for an underwater survey of Alaska's bowhead whale population. She also won funding for the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

In 1980, Thelma was elected the first Asian-American president of the National Order of Women Legislators, and in 1994, she was appointed director of Alaska's Office of Equal Opportunity.

Thelma became an expert on the history of Filipinos in Alaska. She produced a 30-minute documentary film on the subject and wrote a 200-page book, "Filipinos in Alaska 1788-1958." Thelma was a three-term national president of the Filipino-American National Historical Society.

When their four children Titania, Chris, Hans, and Dylan were grown, Thelma and Jon enrolled in the District of Columbia School of Law, graduating in 1991. Both became members of the Alaska Bar Association.

When Thelma died of pancreatic cancer on November 5, 2007, she was the National President of the Filipino American National Historical Society, and had written and lectured widely about Alaska's Filipino communities. The history of the Filipino diaspora to America was important to Thelma. She wrote about history. But more significantly, Thelma Garcia Buchholdt made history.

To honor this great Filipino American, November 10, 2007 was proclaimed Thelma Buchholdt Day by Alaska Governor Sarah Palin.

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For more information, please call

Amelia Arichea at (818) 348-5809

Ludy Ganson at (818) 994-0561

Mila Tadina at (818) 635-2554