



CARTOONS & CHARACTERS

LARRY ALCALA

By A.R. NAVARRO

ONE of the most prolific among our better-known cartoonists today is LAURO (Larry) ALCALA.

Since his first comic strip appeared in 1945 in the pioneer comic book *Captain Philippines*, Larry Alcala has published approximately 6,000 pages of cartoons consisting of about 50,100 frames. If his works were compiled and bound, Larry should be able to present about 20 volumes of 300 pages each volume.

At *Weekly Nation* where he works as art director, Larry regularly puts out the comic page "Mang Ambo" and, jointly with

Er. Flores, "This Business Of Living."

Graphic Arts Service Publications is currently carrying Larry Alcala's series: "Project 13," "Congressman Kalog," "Kalam-bogesyons," and "Barrio Pogspak." *Craft Publications* carries "Loverboy" weekly while *Pilipino Komiks, Inc.* publishes "Trese Medya."

For 16 years, *Ace Publications* had regularly carried Larry Alcala's "Kalabog En Bosyo" and "Tipin." Both comic strips have been temporarily suspended.

Larry's first comic strip which

run for more than two years was "Islaw Palitaw" (see illustrations).

At the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts and Architecture where he is an assistant professor, Lauro Alcala teaches advertising and editorial design.

How can a man do all these things and still find time for his family and also play "pekua" (domino)?

Larry wakes up at five in the morning to jog for an hour around the U.P. Village where he has built a home for his wife (the former Guadalupe Valdez) and his three children.

After breakfast, he dresses up and at nine, he is at his drawing board at *Nation*. He goes home for lunch and from two until seven he meets his classes in U.P.

From 9:00 p.m. until midnight he does his regular comic strips. Sometimes, he puts the finishing touches to his drawings before jogging the following day.

Larry's week-ends are for his family and for fun. "He is the most wonderful guy I have ever known," says Mrs. Alcala about Larry.

In recognition of his artistic skill, Lauro (Larry) Alcala has received the following awards: "MOPC-SPIC Award of Excellence In Cartooning" (1962), "SPIC First Prize Award In Illustration," (1963), and "SPIC First Prize Award in Humorous Cartoon" (1965). PM

