



Cartoons and Characters

POL GALVEZ



POL, PM is pleased to run your work in its pages as part of our **Cartoons and Characters** series. Do you have any formal schooling in commercial art?

"Well, I studied cartooning at UP and then I took up fine arts at UST."

When did you go into the cartooning business?

"In 1960. I joined the **Manila Daily Bulletin** as editorial cartoonist."

You're the only cartoonist in the paper?

"Yes. Incidentally, I am the first Filipino cartoonist to join the **Bulletin** since 1900."

What kind of artwork do you do for your paper?

"In addition to the editorial cartoon, I also do **Sanoy**, a daily comic strip, plus a caricature column for VIPs. I also do layout work and illustrations for **Panorama** magazine."

Sanoy strikes me as a lost soul who seems to be in a perpetual state of bewilderment. Did you conceive him that way?

"Well, yes. **Sanoy** is actually an evocation of Chaplin the tramp, although my character as you have noticed is not a hobo. But **Sanoy** is essentially poor, not only materially but in his perception and attitudes. He tries hard to do well but somehow always fails. This makes for a funny if sympathetic character."

And believable, too. We have many **Sanoy**s around us.

"I agree. There is a **Sanoy** somehow in many of us."

What has **Sanoy** given you in addition to the distinction of being its creator?

"Well, it gave me first prize in cartooning at the 4th **SPIC-NPC** art competition."

Incidentally, what other awards have you won?

"Let's see. I won first prize in the caricature contest during the 6th **SPIC-NPC** art contest, second prize in editorial cartoon on the same competition, and fourth prize in the editorial cartoon contest of the **Manila Overseas Press Club**."

Are you currently an officer of the Society of Philippine Illustrators and Cartoonists?

"Yes. I am the second vice president. I was director of **SPIC** last year."

I must say that your caricatures capture not only the features but also the personality of your subjects.

"Thank you. I always strive to get the inner man in my subjects. I'm lucky if I am able to capture their temperament."

For my last question, what in your opinion is the role of the editorial cartoonist in journalism?

"He plays a tremendous role for his commentaries could be as effective and searing as hard-hitting editorials. He, too, is moulder of population opinion, and thus must exercise a great deal of responsibility in his craft. The works of **Izon**, **Gat** and **Malang**, for example, are highly respected and followed by thousands of Filipino readers."

What about the works of **Pol Galvez**?

"I don't know. What do you think?" **PM**