

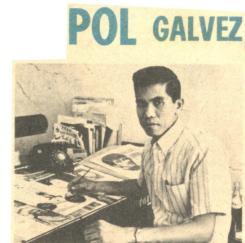




## **Cartoons and Characters**



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P OL, 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."

Sancy 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 Sanoys 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