

Lifestyle

MIG is now a writer. His new advice column appears on Page 1 of Lifestyle.



**Esther
Henning**

The 'intelligentia' may disagree with me but I really feel that over the years the "funnies" with their cartoon characters have played a major role in shaping our outlooks as adults.

Wise beyond her years and totally incorruptible, Little Orphan Annie was, for example, a paragon of virtue. Her never-failing optimism in the face of adversity was matched only by that of her

An addition to Annie and Dennis

dog Sandy, whose "arf, arf" was far more expressive than mere words, and whose understanding and brilliance was second only to that of the Littlest Hobo!

But Annie gave us hope. She was living proof that things would, indeed, be better tomorrow.

Dennis the Menace was something else again. His antics, while innocent enough in concept, proved only in the doing to be his undoing! But he made us aware that our responsibilities as adults were not so fixed and rigid that they couldn't be shaken up a little without toppling completely.

And now we have MIG. Mig is a child of our times. He was conceived in the mind of Sudbury's own Bernie Poulin and came into the world on March 14, 1979 in the pages of Northern Life.

Mig portrays what Bernie calls "the essential nature of children". Children, says Bernie, are not naive and they are not innocent. They know what is going on and they want 'up front' answers; they dislike

any "beating around the bush." (Come to think of it, so do I!)

Mig has a way of getting right to the heart of the matter: "How come when I blow up I'm bad...when you blow up you have a headache!" And "If you can't stand being a mother...why d'ja have me?"

There are 86 cartoons by Bernard Aime Poulin in his new book MIG; many have appeared in Northern Life, others are brand new. Publisher Michael Atkins wrote the foreword, saying, in essence: "I like Mig. You will too."

MIG is on sale now for just \$2.95, just in time for you to give a copy to someone you love for Christmas. Get your copy at Cole's Bookstore in the New Sudbury Shopping Centre this Saturday (Nov. 28) between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Bernie will personally autograph it for you!

There'll be balloons for the kids and a depot for letters to Mig; (Yes, Mig does get fan mail; indeed, many of Bernie's cartoons are inspired by letters from

'Migs' or their parents.)

By the way, Bernie is a portrait artist of considerable stature, with works on display in more than 200 private and corporate collections throughout the world and his exhibitions are invariably sell-out events. He is also a writer, as evidenced by the following 'acknowledgements' included in MIG:

"To...all the children who have contributed their wisdom. To...Michael Atkins, for his faith, respect and support. To...Norm Tollinsky who, on March 14, 1979, agreed that, just maybe, the world was ready for Mig. To...Sudbury, a city whose warmth is unsurpassed. To...my little brother Marc, who accepted, without complaint, that I have been so busy this past year. And most of all, to...Marie-Paule, my wife, and to my daughters Elaine and Valerie, who love me just the way I am. Thank you...I love you all."

To Bernard Aime Poulin...thank you... we all love you!