

Front Page Headline in the Newberg Graphic, 10/30/2013

Predicting the future through his books

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Literature — Local author sets technological thrillers in the future, but they often become reality

It started with a high school typing class. “I wanted to get into a class with some gals,” said John Trudel, a local author.

Photo by: GARY ALLEN - *Predicting the future -- John Trudel, who describes himself as a 'thriller guy,' has recently released his third novel, 'Soft Target,' exploring technological conflict set in the future.*

From there, those skills launched what would be a lengthy career in technology, and eventually his own consulting firm.

“If you’re a smart consultant you don’t walk up to IBM and say, ‘Here I am,’ you let them come to you,” Trudel said. “So I started writing.”

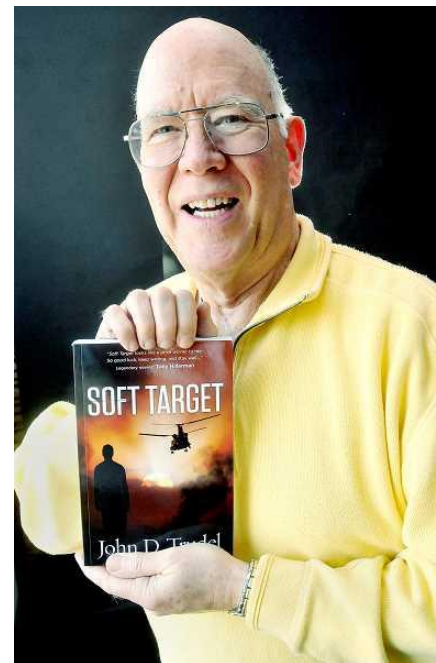
He wrote non-fiction works as well as technical articles for magazines.

“Along the way I met interesting people, I saw fascinating things, but I couldn’t talk about it” due to confidentially agreements and security, he said. “I kept coming up with stories and I gotta write about this stuff.”

Now his third novel, ***Soft Target***, which follows a scientist and a Marine working to ensure government survival in case of a weapons attack, has been published.

“I try to have realistic characters,” he said. “A lot of thrillers have superheroes that are invincible, I have realistic people kind of struggling to figure things out.”

He sets his pieces around conflict, a few years in the future.



“But what keeps happening is reality keeps crashing into my novels,” he said. “What happened last time, **Privacy Wars** wound up predicting both the NSA and IRS scandals.”

He said you have to be careful when writing about these kinds of issues.

“I don’t want to end up living in the Moscow airport,” Trudel said, alluding to the fate of former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

He said people ask him how he could predict things like the National Security Administration recording people’s phone calls.

“You can see the trends, you can see it coming,” he said. “But it’s always a little different when it happens.”

Yet, he thoroughly enjoys being an author.

“I try to be uplifting in my stories; for a thriller guy it’s kind of weird,” he said.

So unusual, that after searching for contests to submit his work, he was asked to join a romance writers group (RWA).

“They’re the biggest group and extremely savvy as far as what’s going on in the industry,” he said.

For now, he’s focusing on the release of **Soft Target**, as well as the next two books he has lined up, which includes next year’s release of **Raven’s Run**.