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**BOOK**

**SIGNING**

Mike Pace will be signing copies of "Dead Light" from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at The Annapolis Bookstore, 35 Maryland Ave. For more information on Pace, go to [mikepacebooks.com](http://mikepacebooks.com).

By Theresa

Wnslow, Staff

Mike Pace didn't get the idea for his devilish thriller from his time on the county school board.

Nor did he draw on his career as a lawyer to write the book.

The idea for "Dead Light" grew out of a screenplay inspired by reports of the

first attempts at subliminal advertising.

The plot revolves around something called "Lucifer's Light," which sets off a string of student suicides in a Maryland college town. A sheriff teams up with a big city detective to investigate.

Pace doesn't think he has a dark side, just an active imagination and love for thrillers. "I like to grab (readers) by the throat and pull them in," he said. "At the end of the book, hopefully they'll think they had a fun ride."

Two other books are almost done: "Red Island," about stranded cruise passengers forced to play a series of deadly games; and "One to Go," in which a father turns to crime to save his daughter. The books aren't related, though the protagonists are from the same family.

Pace likes working on multiple projects because it keeps his writing fresh. Plus, an idea that may not work in one book might fit in another.

"Dead Light" was released by Tuscon, Ariz.-based Sapphire Star Publishing at the end of March.

"It's one of the best books I've read," said Kathy Steinitz of Dunkirk, who usually prefers historical romances. "I'm a Mike Pace groupie. I can't wait for the next one to come out." Steinitz said she began the book on a Saturday morning and couldn't put it down the entire weekend. "I didn't get anything (else) done," she said.

He writes every day. He doesn't have a page quota, but always tries to produce something. Pace dabbled in writing before, winning a local playwriting contest and penning screenplays, but nothing on this scale.

His friend, Don Martin of Edgewater, is impressed and looking forward to the next books. "If they're as good as ("Dead Light"), I don't have a problem buying them." Martin said the book constantly surprised him. Every time he thought the investigators had the mystery solved, something "came out of left field and kept you going."