Arts Leisure

'The Guardian' weaves love story with thriller

"The Guardian" by Nicholas Sparks is a romance, and a thriller, with a Great Dane named Singler. Twanted the love story to be central, it's hard in a thriller' said Sparks who will be in Ann Arbor Thesday promoting his newest book. T've read 1,000 thrillers, but this was like inventing the wheel as far as structuring it right."

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The Guardian, he says, is a modern dyn Greek tragedy. There's always a tragedy in my novels, said Singer. Readers laugh, get angry, frustrated, enjoy and feel the process of falling in love, and they want to cy. Julie Barenson was a throwaway whose life changed witen she met Jim at a diner in Daytona. He helped her get a full-time job at a diner in Daytona. He helped her get a full-time job at his Aunt Mabel's beauty salon at his Aunt Mabel's beauty salon at his Aunt Mabel's beauty salon and the same says after his death, she gots a surprised level of a brain tumor a few weeks after their fourth anniversary leaving Julie, then 2s, a widow. On Christmas Ew. 40 days after his death, she gots a surprised level — a Great Dane puppy with a note from Jim promising to be ber guardian angel.

Fast forward four years, Julie, now 29, begins dating again. But who should she pick?
Richard Franklin is a consultant on a bridge project in the college-educated, handsome, sophisticated, and alkes her to the "Phantom of the Opera" and on a hot-air balloon ride in one weekend. But while she can't put her finger on it, something about Richard makes her unexay.

Mike Harris was Jim's best friend, and comforted Julie when he died. An all-around her her died when he died. An all-around her her died was the service of the public was a surprised from the service of the public was surprised beat friend. An all-around her her died was the service of the public was surprised was surprised beat friend and comforted Julie when he died. An all-around her her died was the public was a surprised was surpr

when he died. An all-around nice guy, he's more comfortable

AUTHOR IN TOWN

What: Best-selling author Nicholas Sparks will be signing copies of his newest book, "The Guardian" (Warner Books, April 8, 2003, \$24.95) When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, April

Where: Borders Books & Music 3527 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor

in jeans than suits, and can "fix practically anything." Mike and his brother Henry own a garage in town. An artist at heart, Mike plays the guitar and writes song lyries. He's in love with Julie but

afraid to ask her out. Swansboro's a small town

afraid to ask her out.
Swansboro's a small town
where everyone knows everyone clae's business. But will
they be able to protect Julie
when her like turns into a
nightmane? You'll have to read
the book to find out.
The Guardian' is Sparks'
seventh novel, actually ninth if
you count the two that didn't
specified, actually ninth if
you count the two that didn't
specified in the provided of the specified of the
Two they first novel when I
nas 150 nose if I could do it. Sparks
said. 'I never edited it or read it a
second time. Then I plaumed to go
to law school, but I didn't get in, so
I went on with my life.

He majored in business
finance at Notre Dame and
graduated with high honors in
1988. A year later he married
Catherine, the woman he met
on spring break in 1988, and on spring break in 1988, and started a family. Sparks worked a variety of jobs, and took up

a variety of jobs, and took up writing again. He wrote a sec-ond novel that was also rejected. His first successful novel, "The Notebook," published in 1996, took six months to write. He spent



other six months editing it

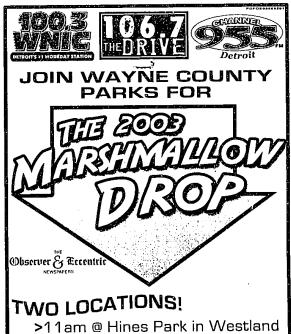
another six months editing it before sending out the first draft. Message in a Bottle' followed in 1998, 'A Walk To Remember,' 1999, 'The Rescue,' 2000, 'A Bend in the Road,' 2001, and 'Nights in Rodanthe.' The movie version of 'Message in a Bottle' was released in 1999 and 'A Walk To Remember,' in January 2002. The film version for 'The Notebook' will be released this year, and film rights to 'A Dend in the Road' and 'Nights in Rodanthe' have been sold.' The Rescue' is being adapted into a TV series. North Carolina has been his home since 1992, and is the setting for his novels. 'I live there and try to keep certain elements the same,' he said. As a writer of dramatic fiction, he's drawn to small towns where everyone knows everyone's business and there are no secrets. Places where family, church and belief in commu-

one's business and there are in secrets. Places where family, church, and belief in community are important. Of course, you can't overlook beaches, wild horses, and sunsets which are romantic and also found in North Carolina. His next book, 'The Weddling,' is about love and renewal. Look for it this fall.

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Bestselling author Nicholas Sparks will be in Ann Arbor on Tuesday to discuss his newest book, 'The Guardian.'



> 9am @ Elizabeth Park in Trenton

Wayne County Parks are proud to present the 2003 Marshmallow Drop! The Marshmallow Drop is an annual event for

families in around Wayne County. A helicopter flies over an open field and drops 10,000 marshmallows on to the field. The

children pick up a marshmallow and turn it in for a prize. This event is a fun and safe Easter event for children of all ages!

