## Doctor voices malpractice issues in thriller



A LETHAL DOSE

By Gene Rontal
Sterlinghouse Publisher, \$1195 paperback

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills ear, nose and throat doctor Gene Rontal has a new thriller featuring Dr. Ben Dailey, another car, nose and throat man with a penchant for getting himself into deadly situations.

Rontal introduced balley in Sterile Justice a couple years ago. Dailey has had a rough few years what with malpractics suits, loss of his medical license and criminal charges. He's back in practice but continues to serve as an expert witness for an insurance company that gave him work when no one else would.

His testimony at a malpractice trial

seems a cinch to get another doctor and the insurance company out from under a wrongful death suit, until the doctor mysteriously accepts blame. The insurance company wants Dailey to investigate and find out what changed the doctor's mind. Dailey's investigation leads him down several dark roads. It seems the doctor he exonerated was into the kinky sex scene. Dailey's inquiries set off alarm bells and a trail of death. Meanwhile, Dailey's live-in girlfriend becomes deadly ill and falls into a coma. She's been infected with a botulian. Dailey sets off on a dangerous mission to find out where the botulin originated and its antitoxin. He also begins to wonder if his gumshoe work has put his lover in jeopardy.

Rontal writes in a nice, brezy style.

gumshoe work has put his lover in jeopardy. Rontal writes in a nice, breezy style.

His first person voice is appropriate as Dailey is a projection of his creator. Dailey is a good guy but a little hesitant about commitment. He's a former UM jock with friends from his football days, including a burly Detroit cop. (UM fans will especially savor the outcome of the mystery). He winds down by playing a little jazz in a Detroit club. Rontal uses his character to voice his own concerns about frivolous malpractice suits and excessive awards, shady lawyers (and shady doctors), her role of expert witnesses and the pitfalls. His also does a good job of making his specialty interesting. Rontal has a special interest in voice, he has worked with many celebrities, and his ideas on voice imprinting and treatment are always a feature of the mystery. Rontal said he's been developing his character to change and grow through

thing as well as be entertained, romans aid.

This is a good series with the special element of being set in metro Detroit. It is interesting to note that the sleazier parts of the story are set in Toledo and Manhattan not the Motor City.

Rontal is already deep into his next Dr. Daily book, The Gene Pool, which will deal with a serial killer and the issue of shortion.

will deal with a serial killer and the issue of abortion.

Rontal has scheduled several book signings at Barnes & Noble bookstores throughout the area. He will be at the West Bloomfield store 7:10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28; the Ann Arbor store 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8; the Rochester store, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9; and the Toledo store 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12.

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Memorable moments from Cinderella, such as her arrival to the ball, can be seen in Disney on ice, Princess Classics at The Palace.

DISHEY

FROM PAGE BI disappear.
"It's a big jigsaw puzzle.

Every time you move some-thing it affects the rest of cas-tle," said Mark Freddes, of Feld Entertainment. The performers will skate to hits like the Little Mermaid's Under the Sea and Aladdin's Whole New World.

Tom Dickson, named chore-ographer of the year by the Professional Skaters Professional Skaters
Association, and his wife
Catarina Lindgren, a former
Olympian on the Sweden team
collaborated to make a show
fun for kids and impressive to
parents. Jill Trenary and Lu
Chen are among the champion

skaters.
Gowns sparkle in the ballroom scenes. Even Beltes plain
white apron is made of flowing
Victorian bed netting. It's all
flowing material, glitter, rich
pastels and sequins that little
girls love. And for the boys.
Disney's male heroes like
Aladdin and Prince Charming
will make appearances – as will
their sidekicks.

## PCAC

FROM PAGE BI

Red Wings, and art. Carrie Wheeler's painting of sun-kissed oranges would make a colorful addition to any kitchen, as would a large ceramic bowl by Ruth Price. Bidders are sure to be congre-gating around Jim Quinlan's sailboat painting, as they did

gating around Jim Quinlans sailboat painting, as they did last year.

"We'll take scaled bids if they can't attend the dinner auction, Jennifer Tobin said. This is the Canton resident's last event as arts council executive director. She's leaving to accept the same position at the new Canton Performing Arts Center, scheduled to open in fall 2004.

"It's a great opportunity to preview the art. The evening of the auction, they don't get a chance to scrutinize the items. We'll also have items for bid that they can take home that night or they can take home that night or they can assign a proxy bidder to bid for them at the dinner auction. It's a fun time to talk with other people about what they're going to wear.

Diane Harrison say a liner guests should dress comfortable. They won't want to it still

Diane Harrison says dinner guests should dress comfortably. They won't want to sit still when The Gold Tones start spinning songs from the 1970s. The evening's opening act is sure to set toes tapping as well.



Plymouth Salem High School Principal and drummer Jerry Ostoin performs
1970s tunes at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's dinner auction with his go Boys and Bongettes.

Plymouth Salem High School Principal Jerry Ostoin and his Bongo Boys and Bongettes per-form classics by the Roiling

form classles by the Rolling Stones, Elin John, Jimmy Buffet and Pink Floyd. "We thought the 70s would be a fun theme," said Harrison, chairpeason for the dinner auc-tion. 'Last year's even, (which miscal \$42,000), was successful because it was a lot more relaxed with the denim and dlamonds theme. This year, I'm

really excited because
Schoolcraft College cullinary
department is providing tortes
for each table that will serve as
the centerpiece and dessert.
"I'm especially excited about
highlighting their talents,"
added Stella Greene, intertin
executive director.
Event proceeds are for education and exhibition programming.

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## MISHURA

her singing at the Jewish Community Center. Singing dates were few and far between. Bookings at DePalman's Ristorante in Livonia led to concerts with the Livonia and Dearborn sym-phonics. Her big break came when Neem's Jarvi, music director of the Detroit Symphony Corbestra, Look Symphony Orchestra, took note of her talent. After per-forming Tchalkovsky's Snow Maiden with the DSO, Mishura sang with the Michigan Opera Theatre and later debuted at the Met as Carmen. She was then sought

out by international opera companies who wanted to spotlight her in their produc-tions. She's sung with operas everywhere from Washington, D.C., to Cologne, Geneva and Vernna.

D.C., to Cologne, Geneva and Verona.

Mishura admits it was difficult being on the road last year. She had only a couple of breaks, but singing is what she loves. She's definitely not ready to slow down. Mishura has debuts scheduled in Munich and Berlin, and has a contract with the Met to sing principal roles through 2005.

"It's the typical American refuges tory," add Mishura." It took a while. People were extremely supportive."
To show her appreciation for her new home, Mishura is mak-

ing a rare appearance on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Detroit Institute of Arts as part of the Pro Musica series. On the

of the Pro Musica series. On the program are the mezzo sopranos favorito Russian songs and operatic arias accompanied by 
planist Kevin Bylsma.

"I chose songs I adore. Hove 
Tchalkovsly and Mishura. 
The music is pretty popular 
with American audiences so I 
brings me in closer contact 
with them. Rachmaninoff is 
such a passionate composer. 
These are beautiful songs."

Know of an interesting story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to Ichomin® oe.