

North makes 'house call' thriller

By DENISE GRONES
Sun Staff Writer

DR. DARDEN NORTH has made a house call to the world of publishing.

North, an obstetrician and gynecologist with Jackson Healthcare for Women has released his first novel *House Call*, a murder mystery.

HOUSE Call is scheduled for release in October. He is already working on the second book.

"I toyed with writing a book for several years," North said.

He wrote the first few chapters of *House Call* about nine or 10 years ago.

"In the last few years I focused on getting it done."

North said he always felt deep down, he had some talent.

"I thought I could do it and wanted to see if I could. My wife was very encouraging and my mother, who was an English teacher for many years encouraged me, so I felt like I could do it."

Reading other Mississippi authors also gave him the courage to pursue writing.

"I started collecting first editions written by Mississippi authors and that's one reason why I got interested in writing. If they could do it, maybe I could too."

"I've read almost all the major Mississippi authors."

THE MEDICAL THRILLER is full of colorful characters set in a modern day Mississippi.

"It could easily take place anywhere. I am hoping people like that. I am also hoping the overtones of societal issues with the good and bad people in the story will pique readers interest," he said.

The 360 page novel will have readers looking for the connection between two deaths: a young female nurse found diced up in her bathtub and a well known older physician who drowned after falling from his deer stand.

Taylor Richards, a nurse, is central to the theme.

"Readers will know exactly what happened to her on the first page," he said.

A young ob-gyn and an older ob-gyn are also main characters.

"You have to write about something that you know about it," he said laughing about the ob-gyn characters.

North said some people have said it may interesting to know a nice guy could write something so gruesome.

North said he enjoys putting together plots and characters.

"I really enjoy the creation aspect of putting something like that together," he said.

While working on his second novel, he said it seems easier.

"I've heard other authors saying writing is a growing process. Your

talent and abilities grow the more you write."

On the second book, he's done research about different things. He knows the ending, but has to find the middle, he said.

"Right now some of the minor characters and the towns from the first book are mentioned."

North said he would like his books to allude to another one in some way.

He finds time to write whenever he can.

"Sometimes, I'll take my laptop with me when I'm on call," he said.

IN ORDER TO PURSUE his writing dreams, North tackled technology by learning how to type and becoming savvy with the computer.

He also began researching ways to get published.

North met people who guided him and read many of the how to get published books.

He also began participating in the local Southern Writers Group and he attended the 2005 Oxford Conference for the Book.

"A year ago spring break, I had the first draft. I had an agent friend that I started with. Then I kind of networked in talking with other people who had been writing. I went to the Southern Writers Group, bought all the books on how to get published and to find an agent," he said.

He submitted his idea to different publishing companies.

He also got rejection letters.

"They got nicer and nicer," he said.

A friend who knew about publishing said they'd never heard of anyone getting an agent that way, so he went the self publishing route.

"Once I was convinced the book had merit and I had enough people tell me it was good, I looked into the avenue of self publishing."

The book is being published through Ponder House Press. The Gibbes Company in Jackson, which designed the book, is doing the advertising and publicity for the book.

North said he had an array of people read the manuscript to get reactions and suggestions.

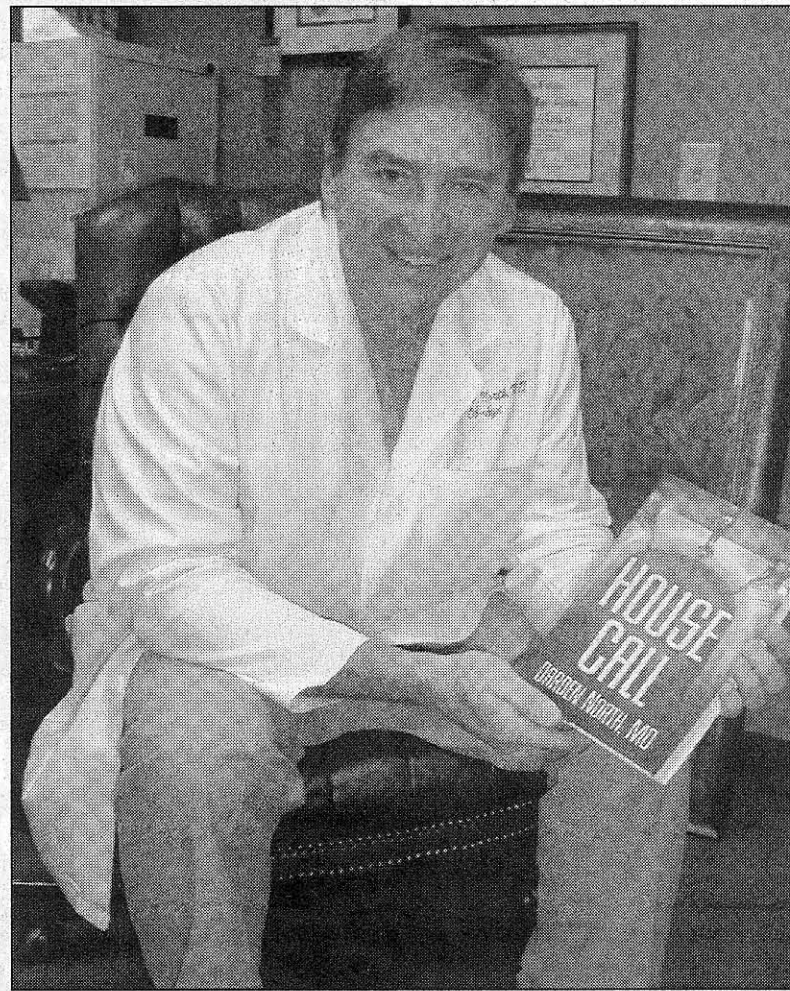
He had doctors, nurses, business men, housewives, doctors, insurance salesmen, golfers and more read the book.

After listening to suggestions, he said he never changed the story line, but he did add more about certain characters and take out some medical terminology that not everyone would be interested in.

"Everyone had something different to say."

"I revised, revised, revised," he said.

"A person representing the printing company said it almost reads like a screenplay. She said if I ever sell the rights to the book to keep the screenplay rights," he said.



Dr. Darden North