

Time is of the essence in local author's book

Marshfield resident Michael Foy releases first novel

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A man staggers to consciousness after falling from his horse in the Old West of 1868. Soon after waking, he is attacked by a gang of Native Americans, and through the struggle he discovers that he's adept with a six shooter. As convenient as this knowledge is, the man finds his slowly returning memory is full of less useful, more confusing ideas about technology that will not exist until 20th century.

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Marshfield author
Michael Foy

Marshfield author Michael Foy gives few other details than these on his new novel *Future Perfect* (ZoomBook Press), which arrived in bookstores last week.

"It's chalk full of twists and surprises," Foy said of the book. "The initial twist is when [the book's protagonist] pieces together his identity and his purpose. He starts to remember things like airplanes and telephones and things that can't exist at that time, so he begins to suspect that he's traveled back in time."

A former engineer, it's not surprising that Foy's book is mostly science fiction, but the author said the novel also

contains the elements of both a western and a mystery. An early review by award-winning mystery writer G. Miki Hayden praises the book.

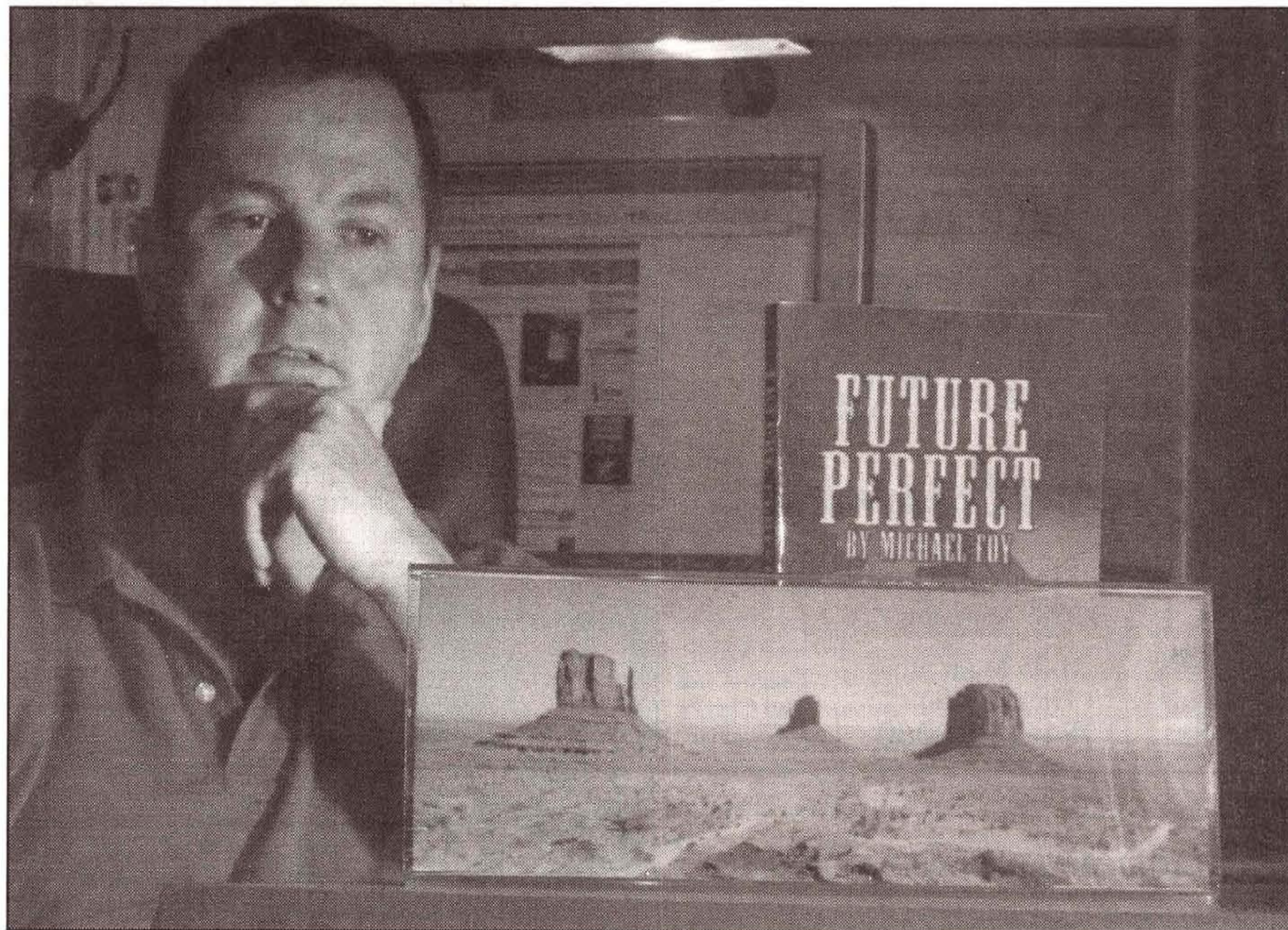
"The novel works on the level of an intricate brainteaser and on the level of sheer moment-to-moment intelligent entertainment," Hayden writes.

Foy, 47, has lived in Marshfield with his wife Sharon for nearly 20 years. He began the early stages of writing *Future Perfect* 13 years ago, taking two years to write the original manuscript, and then spending the remainder of the time tweaking and editing the book before shopping it to publishing houses. He went to Randolph-based ZoomBook Press after meeting someone in a Marshfield hardware store who had already published a book with the company.

"It's an incredibly difficult process," Foy said of getting his book published. "Twenty years ago it wouldn't have been that difficult. Now, because of all the consolidation with the publishing houses and extreme bottom line orientation of all of them, they're not looking for risky ventures anymore."

Growing up, Foy spent a lot of time bouncing back and forth between the Northeastern US and the British Isles, but his family finally settled in Milton when he was 13. Foy said he never particularly enjoyed reading or writing in school, and it wasn't until college at Northeastern University that he began to really pursue literature.

"I didn't even read recreationally that much in high school. I think it was a case that the books that were selected for us in the courses



STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Marshfield resident and author Michael Foy shows off a photo taken while visiting Monument Valley which served as the inspiration for his novel "Future Perfect."

didn't do it for me," Foy said.

But Foy always had a "pretty fertile" imagination, and around the time when he graduated from college he began writing short stories. After spending 13 years as an engineer, he followed a more literary career path and became a recruiter for the publishing industry. He wrote one other book, *False Gods*, which was optioned by a screenplay production house in Hollywood without being published as a book. But *False Gods* never made it to the big screen, and Foy said he lost some interest in the project and began focusing

more on *Future Perfect*.

If style is any indication, *Future Perfect* may succeed even with the most discerning readers. Foy said his book is full of twists and turns, and likened it to the work of author Dan Brown, who's latest offering *The Da Vinci Code* has spent over a year on or near the top of bestsellers' lists nationwide.

Not wanting to reveal the outcome of *Future Perfect's* twists, Foy would not give away much more of the plot, but he did mention a thematic line running through the book.

"There is a prevailing theme

that will be very obvious to people at the end, and it has to do with ecology, the environment," he said, but would not elaborate.

Hayden had this to say; "Anyone aware of how Russian nesting dolls work — with several figurines, each smaller one fitting into the next larger size — will see in them an analogy to the unusual and innovative structure of Foy's work ... that can only be understood in its entirety,

once complete."

Readers can prod Foy for some answers in person at several upcoming book signings and appearances. Foy will sign books at the River Bay Club in Quincy on Wednesday, July 28 at 7 p.m., and he has two upcoming radio appearances - on 95.9 FM WATD at 7:10 and 7:40 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, and on 1300 AM WJDA on Monday, Aug. 2 at 11 a.m.