

Island Sun

SANIBEL & CAPTIVA ISLANDS, FLORIDA

64 Book Review

ISLAND SUN - MARCH 12, 2004

Book Signing Of *The Objector*

by Priscilla Friedersdorf

Combining his knowledge of local lore, the law and the pastimes of boating and fishing, author John D. Mills has written a new murder mystery *The Objector*. Detective Doug Shearer is the main character in the third of Mills' highly entertaining literary romps through the seamy, steamy environs of southwest Florida. Mills will sign and discuss his most recent novel in the series based on the colorful Detective Shearer at the Sanibel Island Bookshop on Tuesday, March 16 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Detective Shearer and his girlfriend, Chana, are fishing from his boat at dawn in the Captiva Pass when the breaking light of the April morning reveals a man's nude body weighed down with cement blocks. Mills writes with a polished but easy-going style that illustrates both the beauty of coastal southwest Florida and the dry wit and humor of Shearer, a detective with the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Shearer says of crime, "If you didn't laugh about it, you'd go crazy dealing

with the brutality."

Chana recognizes the victim as a recent participant in the Cabbage Key Invitational Snook Tournament; a man nick-named "The Objector," a Sanibel lawyer who has enriched himself, "...by objecting to class action settlements" and whose "blackmail strategies are legendary."

Mills constructs the perfect crime novel; a mystery, a liberal dash of sex, local lore, scene setting descriptive passages and a victim who "had it coming" from almost everyone who ever met him.

Mills demonstrates a mastery of the ability to construct dialogue that involves the reader with the characters while expertly furthering the excitement of the plot.

The two previous books written by Mills and based on Detective Doug Shearer are *Reasonable and Necessary* and *The Manatee Murders*. Mills is a lawyer in Fort Myers and his profiles of those involved in the legal profession and related law enforcement activities are both sly and witty. The reader wonders, "Do I know this person?"

The Sanibel Island Bookshop is located at 1711 Periwinkle Way. For further information about the upcoming book signing call 472-5223.*

