

Former Sault Star reporter writes first novel under pen name

By **BRIAN KELLY**
The Sault Star

If John Cairns rubs a few people the wrong way, so be it.

The former Sault Star reporter, who now calls Hong Kong home, has penned his first work of fiction.

His thriller, *High Degree of Atrocity*, is set in his adopted city in 2009.

Writing under his pen name of Jay Scott Kanes, Cairns tracks the after-effects of the murder of two important figures during a street demonstration to oust the country's unpopular chief executive.

"I'm proud to create a book that qualifies as politically incorrect in this city where shoe-shining in Beijing preoccupies most of the political and economic leaders," he wrote in a recent e-mail.

"With the Chinese leaders being heavy-handed brutes, no one in a mainland province could write a similar book. Hence, I felt obliged to bash at my keyboard."

Cairns himself participated in a protest march for democracy on July 1.

"The battle for meaningful and responsive government remains steadily uphill," he said.

His book, published by AuthorHouse, is dedicated to the people of Hong Kong and other Asian countries who have been "too long denied the basic freedom of meaningful democracy."

The University of Prince Edward Island graduate, a Sault Star reporter from 1982 until 1987, joined the Hong

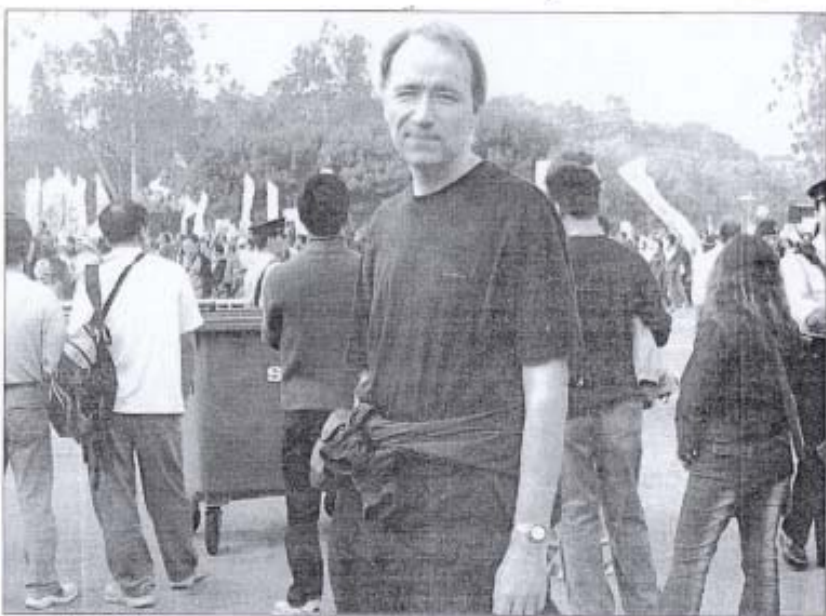


CAIRNS FAMILY PHOTO

JOHN CAIRNS in his office in Hong Kong and participating in the annual July 1 march for democracy in Hong Kong.

Kong Development Council in 1993 before deciding to write fiction full-time in late 2002.

"The book emerged less from personal experiences than from observations of Hong Kong, its quirks, prob-



lems and fears," said Cairns.

"Like many people accustomed to writing for a living, I've wanted to write a novel for longer than I can remember.

"Now I yearn to write more. The fic-

tion addiction digs deeper."

He spent a year writing *High Degree of Atrocity*. Three other manuscripts are under development.

His book can be ordered at www.jayscotkanes.com.

An electronic version of the novel costs \$4.95 US.

A print version is \$12.25 US plus shipping.

The book's ISBN number is 1-4184-2650-4.