

Artscene

Young author releases first novel Fire & Steel

By Dominik Kurek
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Life-long Oakville resident Jeff Minucci has just published his first novel, which is set in a post-apocalyptic world and offers a critique of present-day humanity's social and political choices.

The novel, *Fire & Steel*, will be released on May 14 through the Barnes & Noble store chain as well as through online retailers.

"I feel satisfaction but I'm also very nervous because I have little marketing support," the 21-year-old said of his first publication. "I've been trying to approach newspapers to write reviews for it but I've been running into the same problems as when I was querying agents."

When Minucci was first seeking publication he was hoping to get support from a literary agent. However, never having been published he had no luck finding anyone willing to take his project on.

"In the end I started looking at some of the few small presses," the University of Toronto Mississauga student said. "I knew I wouldn't get the same kind of marketing or publicity but at least I would get quality editing and I would have a good quality book and it would be something people could appreciate."

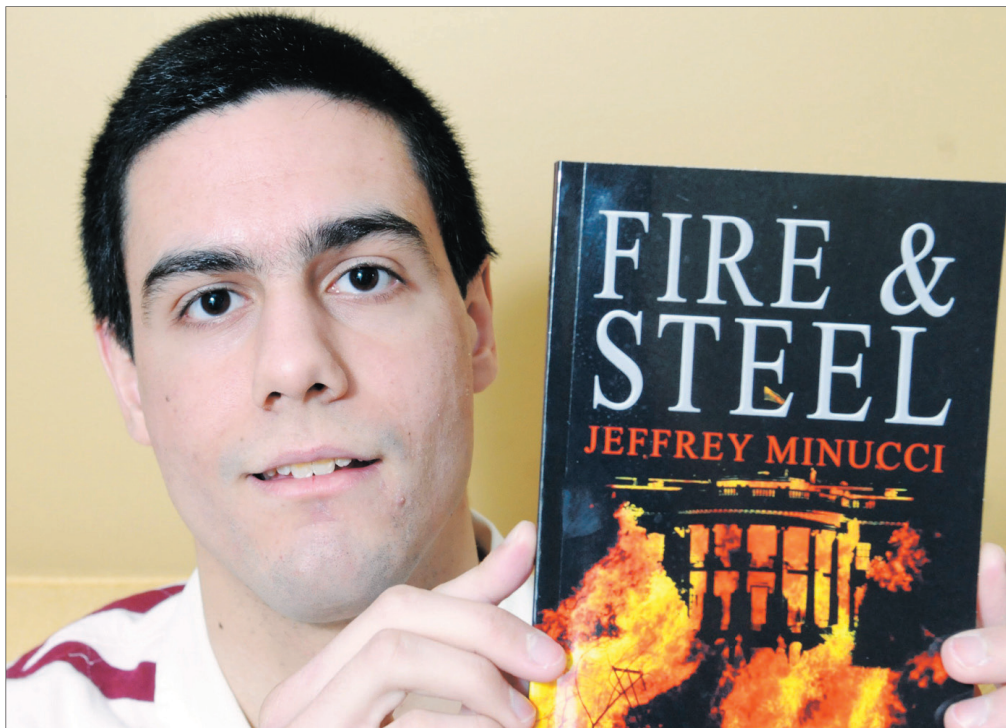
He landed a deal with American Book Publishing, a small U.S.-based press.

The MacLachlan College graduate wrote the novel after having been inspired by the work of one of his favourite authors.

"George Orwell is one of my favourite authors. I was originally inspired by *1984*. At first I got the theme and the atmosphere from that but from there I started writing it and it got a trajectory of its own," Minucci said.

The novel takes place in a post-apocalyptic earth where most of the world is a smoldering ruin. However, there is one city that is advanced and prosperous and there are

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MICHAEL IVANIN / OAKVILLE BEAVER

THE FIRST: Oakville's Jeff Minucci holds up his first published novel *Fire & Steel*.

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