

Schtick Handling

MICHAEL GELBART

Who: Michael Gelbart, host, writer, and co-producer of *Comedy Clinic* and *Make It Funny* on tvradio.com and writer of the two latest Gemini award shows.

Appears: As the headliner at Yuk Yuk's Superclub from July 11-16 and this fall in his own episode of *Comedy Now* on CTV and The Comedy Network.

A COMIC'S LIFE

What do you like about being a comedian?

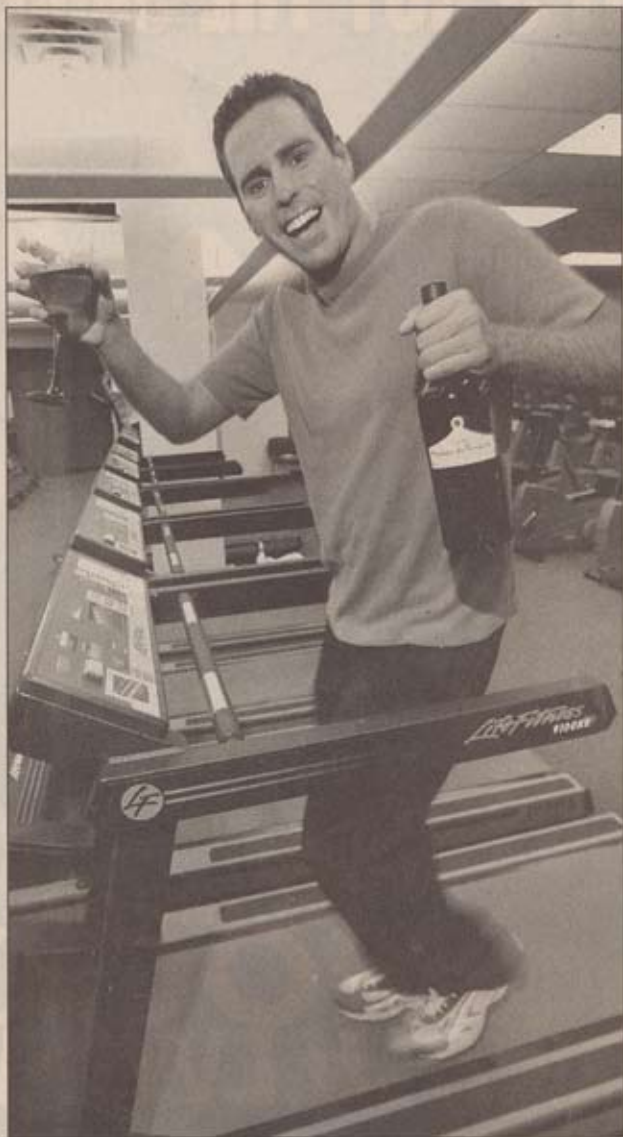
Well, it's one of the few jobs where people actually come to watch you work. Sometimes I even get friends free tickets. But then they feel they owe me and invite me to watch them work. One time I watched a friend of mine cut meat. I could tell he was nervous having me there because when someone started heckling him, he lost a thumb. I told him nobody noticed, but I doubt he'll ever get off "new butcher's night."

You've also been working on some Internet shows. Do you go on line much?

The thing about the Internet is that no matter what site you go on, you are always just a stone's throw away from porn. If you look up Bob Hope, for example, suddenly it's "click here to see Bob Hope naked." Gross! He's 97 years old! Hopefully, the pictures are from when he was 80 or something.

You been called one of the city's more eligible bachelors. Been dating much lately?

I have, and I think that I'm ready to have a more



JOHN MAHLER/TORONTO STAR

serious relationship without any of the ridiculous power struggles. I just hope I can find a woman who feels the same, or at least pretends to for a few months. My favourite is when you've had an argument with the person you're involved with and they say "well, I told a friend of mine what hap-

pened and they agree with me" and you're like "wait a minute. You mean someone who knows you, doesn't know me, has heard only one side of the story, and has a subconscious desire for us not to be together has sided with you?"

Hmmm... that gives me pause.