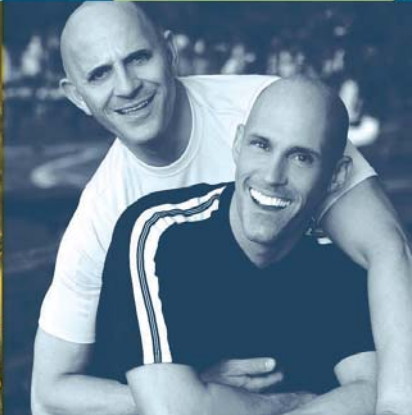


# wire



**WIRE'S  
PERSON  
OF THE  
YEAR**

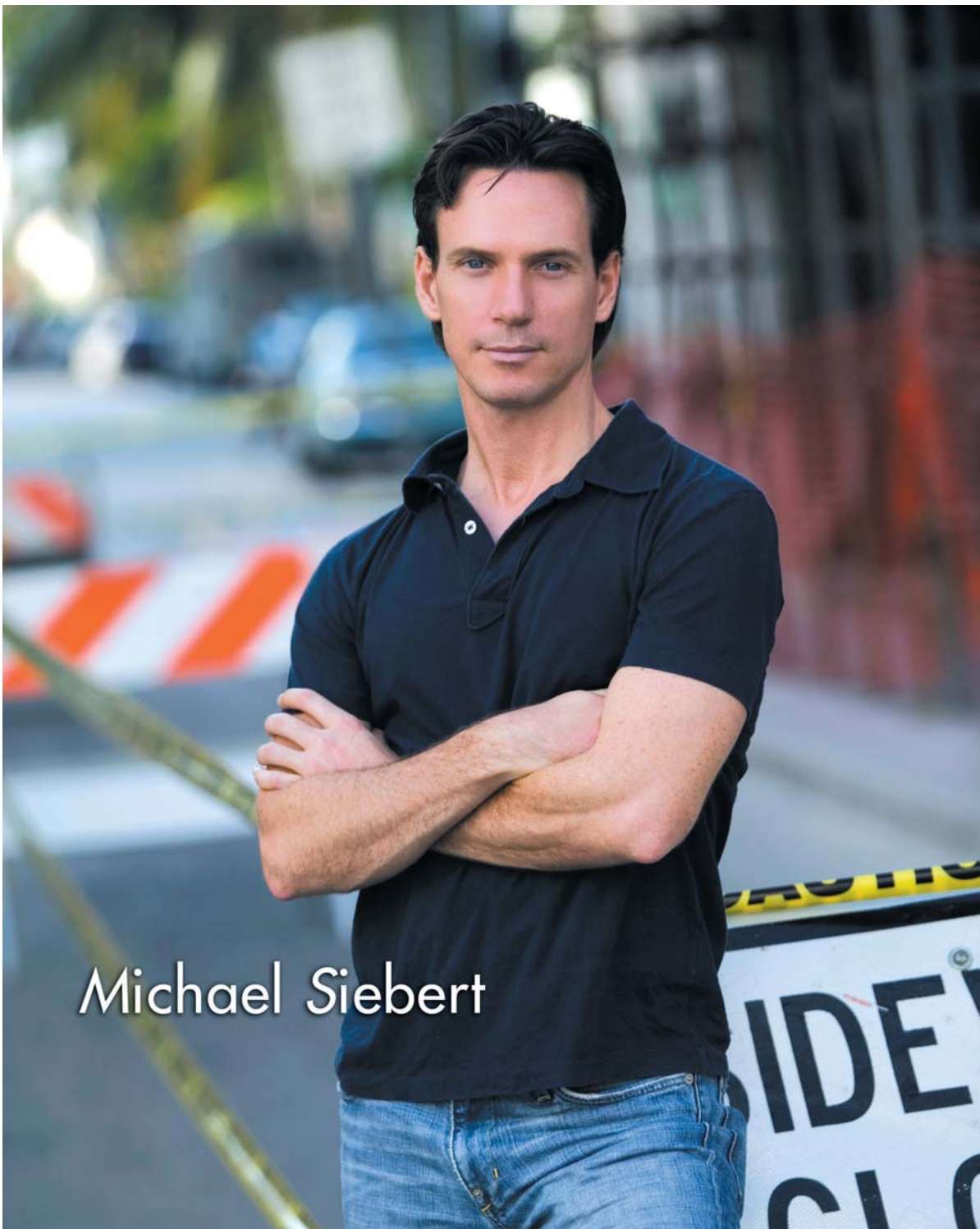


THE LONGEST RUNNING WEEKLY ON SOUTH BEACH

#52

12/29/05

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## Michael Siebert

Photo: Dale Stine

When *Wire* did its Health, Beauty & Fitness issue back in October, one of the outstanding people we featured was Dr. Michael Siebert. We even jokingly referred to him as *Wire's* Humanitarian of the Year. That's what we're basically, and quite seriously, doing now by giving him the recognition he deserves not only as a local optometrist but as a worldwide traveler volunteering his time and skills to help people "see."

He's taken care of thousands and thousands of needy children and adults all over the globe, especially in countries like Bolivia, Honduras, and Cambodia. What's so special about him is that Michael integrates holistic health, nutritional counseling, and even spirituality into his professional eye care. "One's eyes are not separate from the rest of the body," he explained. He always goes beyond what's expected – the person means

more to him than anything else.

Michael has mainly traveled with two groups: Gift of Sight (GOS) and Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH). This past year he did three missions with GOS, most recently, Cambodia in August. There are six or seven doctors on each mission who generally see about 3,000-4,000 patients per day. In Cambodia, they examined 28,250 people!

Locally, Michael works closely with The Heiken Children's Vision Fund. Three to four days per week, he visits a local school and helps provide free eye care and glasses to children who cannot afford to see an eye doctor. They have a mobile unit that is decked out with all the latest equipment. The see about 20 kids a day.

In addition to the normal array of services that he offers at his Washington Avenue and 14th Street office (1354 Washington, 305.672.8513), he also specializes in laser vision correction, which is the rave today.

And by the way, Michael is a very approachable, fun, interesting person to engage in a conversation wherever you might see him – sometimes over at his favorite hangout, the Palace on 12th Street and Ocean Drive!

So, if you need eye care, Michael's the man to call – plus his eyes are so mesmerizing, too! He's truly an example and role model we can all learn from. What a truly amazing human being! We wish you the best Michael and support you in all you do!