



I Sing the Body Pre-Electric

A few years ago, medical science gave all of us a brave new opportunity: **full-body scans**.

These George Jetson roadmaps would review everything of relevance to your body and give a rundown of the pluses and minuses. These scans are growing in popularity.

What's not to like? Why not settle into your recliner with flow-charts, read-outs and pictographs of that most personal of terrains? Who wouldn't enjoy a roster of their own body's foibles, failures and successes?

Well, me, for one. Given the opportunity, I would pass on the electronic pokes and proddings.

Part of my response—antediluvian, I'm sure—comes from having been to more than my share of auto mechanics. In that sphere, increased analysis has only led to increased bills, and its accompanying guilt trip, which I do not need with my doctor: "Sure, you could ignore this small knee problem, but then you might ruin the entire chassis." You get the picture.

More important, though, increased analysis may lead to more uncertainty. A battery of tests with inconclusive results is followed by two sure things: more tests—and higher blood pressure.

Despite my own preconceptions, the subject of this month's cover story fascinates me. There is nothing more personal than the human body, and yet the advent of **personalized medicine** is only now upon us. The possibility that we might each tailor medical approaches to ourselves—as we've done with our finances for years—is an exciting one.


But personalized medicine comes with a web of concerns both legal and ethical, even beyond my own primitive anxiety. And to dissect that web, we turned to **Gary Marchant**. His story begins on page 12.

From looking forward, we look back.

This month I spoke with a few people who **love history**, legal and otherwise. On page 39, you can read my conversation with State Archivist **Melanie Sturgeon**, Maricopa County Associate Clerk **Carol Schreiber** and attorney **Jennifer Greene**. We spoke about a new way that court cases can be deemed "historic," which would provide protection to original case files and associated items. In that process, lawyers have a role.

The conversation was great, but it was marked by a fifth "voice": the near-constant rattle and whirl of microfilm machines. And that is ironic. For though those machines have been a great help in preserving history, they fail to capture everything, which these women are committed to do. Microfilm does not preserve original items of evidence, photographs, maps—or the crunchy translucent sweetness of original pleadings. That is what deeming cases historic will help preserve.

To recall the difference between the real and the facsimile, after our conversation I spent some time with boxes from two trials—the Winnie Ruth Judd murder trial and that of Ernesto Miranda. Donning a pair of white cotton gloves was a small price to pay to revel in the very tactile items from two landmark cases.

Read the Q & A and see how you can help save some more of Arizona's history. 



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