

Pennsylvania Pageants

"Profiles of Excellence"

Michael's Beginnings

January 2020 Issue

Happy New Year's to all. With a new year, comes a new beginning; and we hope all of our readers accomplish the goals you've set for yourselves. We start 2020 with spotlighting Michael Dutzer, co-owner and promoter of the [Miss Gay America](#) and [Mr Gay America](#) pageantry systems; of which many projects made by Pennsylvania Pageants, receive inspiration. To understand Michael's impact in furthering LGBT initiatives, we'll first look at how it all started for him.

The year 1969 introduced the world to Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the three astronauts who went up in the Apollo 11 spacecraft. History will forever record Neil and Buzz as the first humans to make the first boot prints on the surface of the moon. The year 1969 was also the year the first Boeing 747 jumbo jet made its debut. Another debut, was that of "*the epitome of the American muscle car,*" the Pontiac Firebird Trans Am. In that same year, the first ever Woodstock Music Festival took place in a small dairy farm in Bethel, New York; all while in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, the year 1969 also welcomed the birth of Michael Anthony Dutzer.

Michael was raised in a small Pennsylvania borough, named McAdoo, in Schuylkill County. As of 2019, McAdoo had a population of 2,242 residents. Situated about five miles south of Hazelton, McAdoo straddles the divide between the Delaware and Susquehanna waterways. McAdoo (sometimes unofficially referred to as Sailor's Hill, and more recently, Pleasant Hill) first came to be, when Polish immigrants working for the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company; grew tired of living in company houses, located in the Audenried and Honey Brook of that time, and so, land was set aside for them. By the year 1895, the village-like community grew into a sprawling population of almost 3,000 residents, and was incorporated McAdoo borough on July 10, 1896. McAdoo is named after a former U.S. Senator and Postmaster General, William G. McAdoo. The

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name McAdoo originates from Anglo-Saxon times and in the Anglo-Saxon language, it means “War Love.”

Although Michael Dutzer is not known for starting wars, nor his love for them; he does welcome the spirit of competition and unity at the annual Miss Gay America pageant and the Mr Gay America contest; along with all of their state and regional preliminaries. Michael’s love for the art of female illusion inspired him to experiment for a period, performing under his drag persona, [Lucy Starr](#). However, Michael shares that *“right now, Lucy is on a long vacation.”*

Michael is a graduate of Marian Catholic High School in Tamaqua, Pa. He attended Luzerne Community College, and later on, Trenton State College, now known as The College of New Jersey. Michael’s extensive background includes: industrial arts photography, portraits, sports, events, catalog, and travel. He’s also worked in marketing for Warner Brothers Records, and in IT testing and management for Micro Systems in Columbia, Maryland. Michael is the president of [Mad Angel Entertainment](#), the parent company of various other companies including [All About Balloons](#); a national event balloon company, where he functions as its chief operating officer. Since 2011, the year they got married, Michael and husband [Rob Mansman](#), also own and run two dental practices; the [Pediatric Dental Center of Frederick Maryland](#) and [Smile Frederick Orthodontics](#). Michael works as the marketing director for both practices, and Rob is a pediatric dentist with almost two decades in his field.



From the beginning, Michael Dutzer was destined for extraordinary achievements. He and his husband Rob Mansman, purchased the Miss Gay America pageantry system in 2016. Since then, they’ve worked to further elevate the system to new levels that include charity work through their Excellence Foundation, partnerships with [Palmisano Productions](#) in various projects, and [3 Queens Productions](#) in their work at Hamburger Mary’s in St Louis. Michael and Rob are also co-owners of that Hamburger Mary’s franchise; the permanent home of both Gay America national pageant systems.

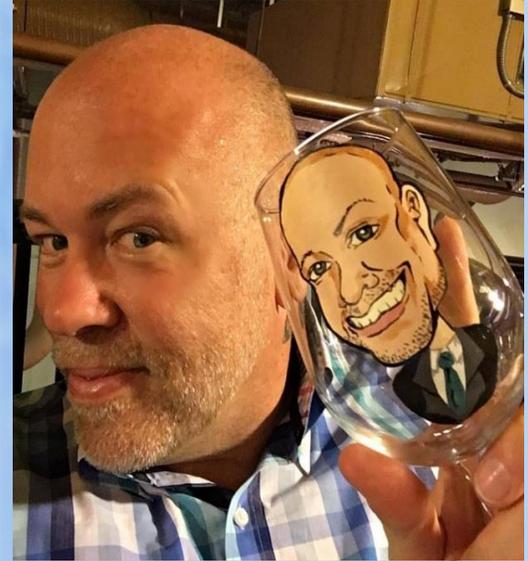
Additionally, Michael is credited as an associate producer in the mini-series [Insomnia](#) (2019). He’s also working on future pictures. With so much on his plate, it is surprising that Michael finds time for anything else.

Along with his husband Rob, Michael works tirelessly on new and creative ideas for the pageantry systems; all while continuing to maintain the system’s exceptional, yet original, standards of excellence and professionalism. Since its inception in 1972,



Miss Gay America has maintained its status as the premier system of gay pageantry and female illusion. The term *"Symbol of Excellence"* is not just a catchy title, but a motto, that all title bearers must live by and uphold, in their day-to-day lives and in every interaction. It requires title holders, as ambassadors, to maintain the high standards of the *America* system.

Long before his involvement in drag shows and pageants, and while living in Washington D.C. around the early 1990's, Michael attended the Capital Pride Parade march. Ironically, he was interviewed by a CNN TV reporter, not realizing that his parents might be watching CNN that day. Michael now recalls it as a *"funny story,"* but says; his mom Mary, called later that day. His roommate answered the phone, and told Michael's mother that not only was Michael out attending the gay parade, but also, that he *"was out."* His roommate had no idea it was Michael's mother on the phone. Luckily, for years, Mary already had her suspicions about Michael's sexuality. Although there were some initial tears, Michael's mother, and also his sister Lynda, were fine with it. Michael discussed his upbringing in an interview



with [Cronkite New Arizona PBS](#), where he talked about always having the desire to be accepted by his father. He discussed the difficulties in wanting nontraditional things for that time, such as wanting to be a cheerleader, instead of joining the football team. He discussed being bullied for his views in high school, and the importance of having *"a network of support for gay, lesbian, and transgender kids,"* further emphasizing that *"it's terrifying to come out and be rejected by loved ones."*

Michael admits that although most of his friends knew and accepted him when he came out, some whom he thought were friends, backed away. Michael explains that

"obviously true friends loved and supported me regardless." He recalls that it was terrifying for him to come out. He feared losing his family, especially since Michael was so close to his mother and sister; but says that in order to find the courage, it also helped him to come out when he moved away from home. The small country-like community of McAdoo had little in regards to an LGBT lifestyle, and so moving to a city, where he met other people who became his family away from home; helped Michael *"be at peace and comfortable"* with who he was, and subsequently aided his coming out to his family.

We asked Michael on advice he can give to anyone struggling to come out. Michael says that although it's easier nowadays to come out, because our lifestyles are so much more easily accepted; he



understands that it can still be very difficult for some people to come out to their families. He offers these words: *“it’s so much better not having to hide things, and that relief...of being able to love the person you want...means so much.”*

Today Michael uses his status as a public figure in the world of pageantry, to help others through various charities and volunteer work. Michael says that it’s always good to give back to the community. He believes that it is rewarding to help others. He adds that: *“owning a medical practice, you have opportunities to give back to people who are in need all the time.”* Each year, Rob and Michael’s dentistry businesses provide an annual scholarship to a high school senior; that helps them in their quest to attend college. Their pageant systems provide volunteer work in local soup kitchens and warehouses, fundraising, and going out into the community to interact with people. Michael believes that *“if more people reached out to help others, they would look at people differently, and maybe think twice about how we treat each other, as people.”* Rob and Michael’s nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization, the [MGA Excellence Foundation](#), focuses its efforts on helping to inspire LGBT, especially youths; by mentoring them through experiences, which help them tackle the everyday challenges that come with being LGBT. Many of those challenges are seen not only in school and home settings, but also on Social Media.



Michael and Social Media

We asked Michael on his thoughts about Social Media. Michael admits that he used to be all over Social Media, but has taken a step back from it. He adds that he likes seeing what friends and family are doing, and he shares his life with them. But Michael adds that Social Media: *“has become too political and negative. People judge everything you say or do. It gives people a place to bully and trash others, while hiding behind a keyboard.”* Michael readily admits that he would delete those people if it were not for his businesses. Michael’s favorite Social Media site is Instagram. There, he says, *“it’s more of a visual, and seems less negative than others.”* Michael scrolls through and like the pictures.

You can keep up with Michael on Social Media at the following sites:



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/michael.dutzer>





Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mdutzer>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mdutzer/>



Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mdutzer>



Linked-In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mdutzer>



IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4231976/>



World Wide Web: <https://MichaelDutzer.com>

<https://MadAngelEntertainment.com>

<https://GayAmericaPageants.com>



Michael's Philosophy in Life

We asked Michael about his personal philosophy in life. Michael is drawn towards two of his favorite quotes. The first, by author J.K. Rowling: *"it is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously, that you might as well not have lived at all; in which case, you have failed by default."* The message in this quote is evident; live your life, and remember that we learn through our setbacks, and many times more, from our failures at attempting something. Sometimes taking risks lead to greater rewards. In Michael's case, we can see that taking some risks in running pageants and businesses, has clearly made him successful at it.

Michael's second favorite quote is by poet Dr. Maya Angelou: *"nothing works, unless you do."* The words of this inspiring and powerful poet teaches us that we must learn to work for what we want in life...in order to see our arduous



Picture of author J.K. Rowling (2019)
best known for the "Harry Potter" book series

Click picture for more quotes



Picture of poet Dr. Maya Angelou
(birthname Marguerite Ann Johnson, deceased in 2014) best known for her wisdom and poetry

Click picture for more quotes

labor, bear any fruit. Michael embodies the image of hard work and dedication in all that he does. His attention to detail is personified in the structure of the pageantry system, and the continuous need to reevaluate what works, and change what doesn't work. One notable change in the America system, was the elimination of *Solo Talent*, and its additional task of preparation for that category. Most would undoubtedly agree, that removing this hindrance, has allowed contestants to focus on the more important parts of the pageantry contest: evening gown, talent, and the overall consistency in presentation, throughout the pageant. Overall, most would say that the change has also provided for a more organized and smooth contest, as compared to prior years.

This highlights some personal strengths Michael self-identifies. The ability to be organized is one trait that is extremely important to possess, for successfully running businesses and for putting together a great pageant. Michael prides himself in being very organized. He says: *"I'm very detail oriented in general...everything has its place."* He admits that being timely is important as well; and that he hates being late for anything. When he's running late, Michael says that he experiences anxiety attacks, and so to him, punctuality is key. Michael also values his ability to be kind to others. He adds: *"I just try to be a good person. I value my kindness the most. I think we need more kind and caring people in the world. I also try to be fair and honest, and try to avoid negativity...which is not always easy."*

As for areas to improve, Michael believes that there is always room for improvement. He says that he is always reading, and loves to explore and do new things. Michael

emphasizes that: *"every experience we have in life is a learning experience."* Recognizing the need to evaluate who he is and who he wants to evolve into, Michael says that he would love to work on being more focused. He admits to being easily distracted, and would love to learn to hone that focus....but he adds: *"multitasking isn't always a bad thing."*

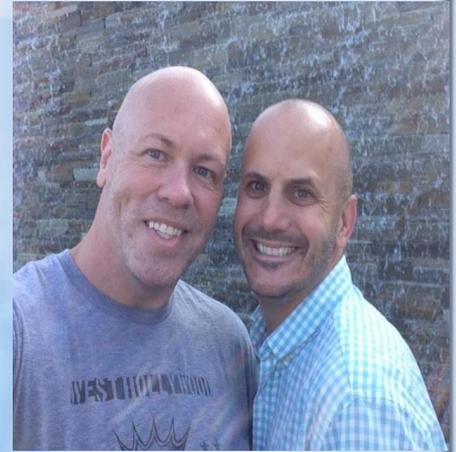
Michael also says that he wants to improve on being more compassionate. He says that sometimes he thinks things through too logically, and forgets to be more compassionate. He adds: *"I always have to have a reason for why things are, and forget that people are sometimes angry, sad, or upset at a specific reason."* Compassion is also a trait Michael values in

others. Living in a world where advancements in technology has given easier opportunity to voice thoughts and feelings, has also caused a heightened and stressing climate, on issues such as marriage equality, abortion, religious views, and politics...to name a few. However, even when we disagree as to the direction of our future, or the context of our fundamental values; we must ensure that we remain compassionate and understanding to different viewpoints, and respect them, even if we don't always like or agree with them. This is something Michael appears to excel at, both in his professional and personal life.

We asked Michael about his thoughts on marriage equality and the plight of our transgender brethren. Michael states that on gay marriage, we've come so far already.



He wants people to know that *“it’s like any two people who get married...you love, fight, pay bills, go to work, and raise families.”* And as for issues affecting transgender persons, Michael says, that he feels: *“all people should be treated equally. Unfortunately, politics and religion are the biggest challenges in the world...when it comes to acceptance of all people, they BOTH create boundaries for acceptance.* Michael adds that if he were in position of power in the country, or in the world; education would be the start. Michael believes that people put up walls or boundaries when they don’t know something or someone. And adds: *“WE HAVE TO EDUCATE PEOPLE, in order to break down the indoctrination of political or religious views.”*



Although he doesn’t like talking about political or religious views, Michael does share that he is a Democrat. He believes that we are in a very turbulent time in politics, and that more than ever, it affects people’s happiness, but that it also is making people more harmful towards each other; *“both Democratic and Republican...no one gets a pass on that statement.”* However, Michael says that the way in which he settles his differences with people’s opposing political views...is to VOTE. Michael admits that politics is the main reason he’s taken a step back from Social Media. *“It seems like a 24-hour a day news cycle, and I need more in my life other than politics.”* He explains: *“That doesn’t mean it’s not important to me, but like I said, I VOTE; and I will encourage others to do the same. I just can’t let it consume my life or personally affect my outlook on life.”*



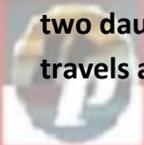
As for religion, Michaels admits he’s not religious or spiritual; but a Humanist. Although in most conversations, he prefers to avoid discussion about religion, Michael says that by living life as a Humanist, he feels that as people, *“we control our actions and morals”...and that, “we have a responsibility to each other and to the earth, to be good people. I think everyone should practice what they want.”* Michael personally believes that, *in general*, he’s found religion to be harmful, *“but that is not all-inclusive.”* And further

explains that *“there are good people out there and religious organizations that do good.”*

Michael further advises everyone to be kind, believing that kindness is the key to success in all relationships. As for relationships, we delve into Michael’s home life to learn more about him.

Michael’s Home Life

At home, Michael says he enjoys spending quality time with his husband Rob and their five Chihuahuas Riley, Anja, Alex, Sóley, and Nessa. They also enjoy traveling to visit Rob’s two daughters Ava and Ella, and travelling wherever else possible; although some of their travels are for business. One of Michael’s favorite destinations is Key West, Florida. His



favorite time of the year is Summer; Michael admitting, that he loves the warm weather, especially as he gets older.

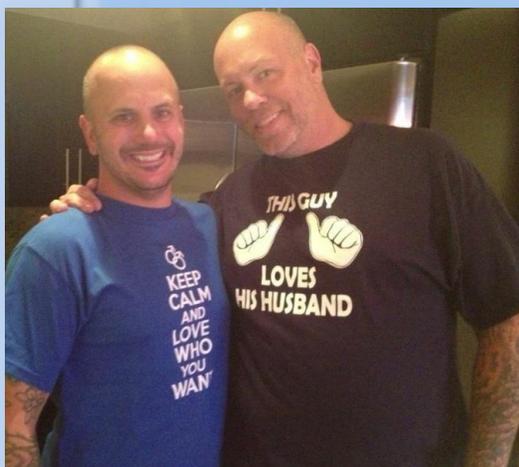
As for TV, Michael says that although he doesn't have a television idol, he admires Ellen DeGeneres because, from what he can tell, she is a kind human being, who cares deeply about people, and wants to positively change things. Although Michael admits that he hates blood and gore, he loves movies with horror and suspense. He says he's a very jumpy person, but adds that *"there's something about those kinds of movies that makes your heart race and gets your adrenaline pumping."*

Despite loving many variations of music, Michael says he loves pop and dance music the most. He says the energy level of those genres; lifts him up when Michael needs it. His favorite music artist of all time is the enigmatic Elton John. Michael says that Elton's music *"stirs up all emotions...his life story is great...he still loves music, and truly appreciates his fans."*

Due to his admittedly short attention span, Michael says he's not a big book reader. Instead, he likes reading the news a lot, and loves to look up random information. He loves keeping up with emerging technologies by reading tech magazines; his favorite magazine being *Wired*; and also enjoys any material that focuses on business.

Michael and his husband Rob met in 2009, via an online dating site, and instantly clicked. They've been married since January 14, 2011, and Michael's birthday is on January 7th. So we'd like to wish him and Rob a happy anniversary; and Michael a happy birthday. Michael boasts that what he loves most about Rob is that *"he isn't afraid to go on adventures and try new things."*

As we've mentioned earlier, Rob Mansman co-owns businesses with Michael Dutzer, including the Miss Gay America and Mr Gay America pageant systems. Rob is also an 8-year military veteran, now retired; who utilizes his specialized medical training in the Army, to provide dental services to pediatric populations. Both Rob and Michael gives back to the community through various charities, fundraisers, and volunteer work. Their mission is to help young LGBTQ reach their full potential; by providing them social resources to help them grow into strong and inspired members of our LGBTQ community.



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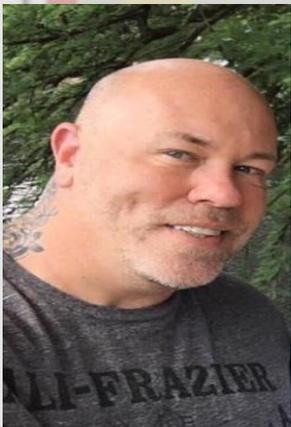
What's next for Michael?

Michael says he took interest in drag shows long ago, and since he's a person who loves to try new things, and dives in completely when he does; while in Key West, he became good friends with a drag performer named [Inga](#) at [Aqua Nightclub](#). Michael revealed to Inga that he wanted to perform in drag, and so, Inga taught him how to sew, make wigs, and put on makeup. Michael says he first revealed his drag persona to his husband Rob, and aside from the few *odd* looks during the initial makeup stages early in Michael's drag career, his husband has fully supported him in anything he did. After returning to his home in Maryland, Michael created his drag persona Lucy Starr, and asked his good friend [Sue Nami](#), to allow him to perform in one of her shows in Baltimore. At Grand Central Nightclub, the normally 6'3" Michael Dutzer, stepped onto the stage as Lucy Starr for the very first time. Michael described the experience to Cronkite News Arizona PBS like this: *"the first time you walk out and you're like 7 ½ feet tall in a dress; all of a sudden you're the big, blond girl who's bigger than life."* Michael says he had so much fun that night; he didn't care if people were laughing at him, or with him. He just knew that something made him feel good, he and let the audience relax and have a good time. To his delight, all of the employees from Michael and Rob's dental practice also attended, to see his first performance in drag...and they *LOVED* it. Michael performed for several years under his drag persona Lucy Starr, all while making important connections and friendships that, later on, would aid him in becoming successful in the pageant scene. Though he never competed for titles, because of his ability to organize and the love for entertainment, Michael focused his sights on promoting, producing, and directing drag shows. He and Rob were promoters of Miss Maryland USofA from 2014-2018. Their path in the world of pageants, eventually led them to the Miss Gay America system.



Michael says that in life, his mother Mary has always been his biggest inspiration in everything. *"She is a kind, loving person; very funny, and incredibly ambitious and hard working. She taught me to be kind and respectful to people. She introduced me to the world of theatre at a young age by taking me to Broadway shows in N.Y. Because of her, I'm not afraid to take chances in life. She encouraged me to be my own person."* Mary attends many of the shows and pageants to support what Michael does in the community.

Michael's inspiration for Lucy Starr came from many people; most notably Inga from Key West, Florida, and [Kris Knievil](#) from Boston, Massachusetts. With great pride, he says that today he gets to *"work with so many amazing people, all who have their life stories and accomplishments."* Michael says that he's always paying attention to [Sarah Tanno](#) for makeup artistry; and [Frederic Aspiras](#) for hair. He adds that they both work with many



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celebrities, but mostly, Lady Gaga; and says that she always looks amazing and has so many looks and styles. Sarah and Frederic work so hard to keep Lady Gaga current and different, and to Michael, *“that’s entertaining”* in its own way. *“With so many creative looks, it’s really incredible”* Michael adds. His favorite clothing designer is the [Tom James company](#), whom via Jason Porter, who fit and styled Michael, makes his suits for Miss Gay America. As for drag, Michael has always liked [Catia Lee Love](#)’s work, and loves what he’s been seeing from [Jeffrey Kelly](#). *“Both pay great attention to detail.”*

For obvious reasons, Michael says that his favorite systems are, of course, the Miss Gay America pageant and Mr Gay America contest. His favorite performance of his own was during Miss Gay America’s 2019 Revue Show, featuring [Deva Station](#), Miss Gay America 2018. Michael says that he and Deva did a duet of *“No More Tears”* from the Donna Summer Musical; having never before introduced Lucy Starr at Miss Gay America. Deva was raising money for a family that was in dire need; and everything about this performance was so special for Michael.

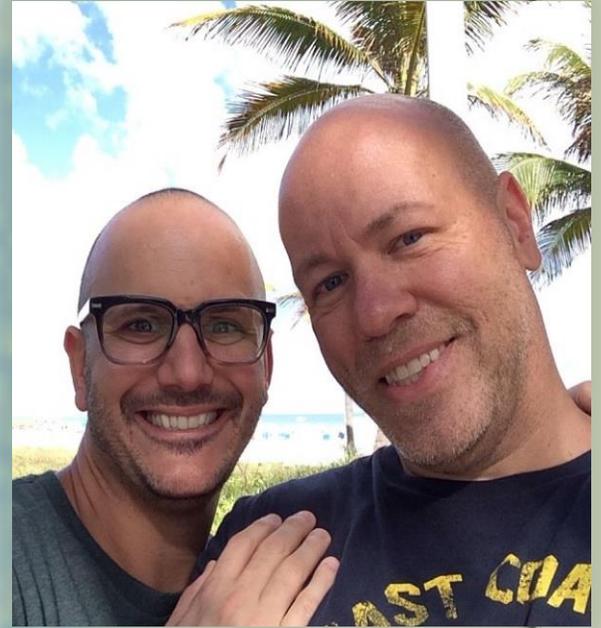
As for a favorite performance of others, Michael says there’s many...but recalls, Miss Gay America 2016 [Asia O’Hara](#)’s opening number at Miss Gay America 2017. Michael says *“it was the first large scale pageant for us [Michael and Rob], and when she took the stage, it was an emotional moment for me. We had a great year with Asia and were proud of the work she had done; and to see that production close out her year as MGA, brought on a sense of completion and accomplishment in this new chapter of our lives.”*

Michael would love to see pageantry continue to grow and strive. He says: *“RuPaul has brought drag so far for the performers, but I would like to see local performers and pageants have the same level of recognition. Drag is hard work...they deserve it.”* Michael advises those wanting to do drag *“just dive in and have fun with it, and let yourself be creative.”* For pageants, Michael adds: *“pageants are a great way to build oneself as a person, performer, and businessperson. You learn so much through competing and reigning, about yourself and other people. You grow each and every time you take that stage. It can be a life lesson for everyone involved promoting, competing, designing, and dancing.”*

And when asked what he wanted his fans to know about him, Michael humbly says that he doesn’t know whether he has fans or not, but that, he does what he does, because he loves the art form and loves to entertain people...*“with all the positive and negative; seeing someone smile at the end of a show is rewarding to me, whether I’m performing or producing the show.”*



Because of his commitment to pageantry and entertainment, as well as causes that inspire and benefit our ever-growing LGBT community, we can expect to see Michael continuing to promote and support the diversity that is our community; inspiring up-and-coming performers and advocates, to take on initiatives that further the progress we LGBT are ardently working towards. And who knows...someday soon, we may also be blessed with seeing Lucy Starr, back from her long vacation. We thank Michael for his immense contributions and his passion, and hope more people are as dedicated to LGBT causes...as he is.



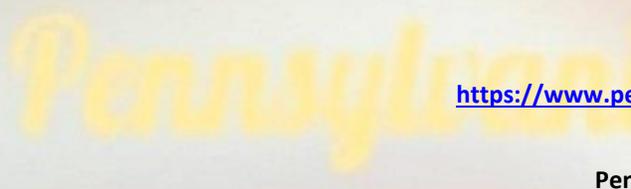
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