As the individual over Media Relations and a spokesperson for GSUSA, Josh Ackley has promoted GSUSA’s Healthy Media Campaign\(^1\) which encourages “positive images of women and girls” and which outlines “a blueprint for promoting positive and healthy media images.”\(^2\) The GSUSA website states, “Girl Scouts’ research tells us that girls are very influenced by what they see in the media, and that it can have a significant impact on their self-esteem, body image, and leadership aspirations.”\(^3\)

Joshua Ackley was a founder and member of the homopunk band “The Dead Betties,” formed in Brooklyn, New York in 2002. His stage name was Josh Starr.\(^4\) Now defunct, The Dead Betties was best known for their “intense, angular songwriting, live sound explorations, explosive performances, and scathing lyrical challenges to mainstream social norms.”\(^5\) The band is profiled in the book *Homocore: The Loud and Raucous Rise of Queer Rock.*\(^6\)

Ackley was the lead singer of The Dead Betties. Publicity photos for the band show him dressed in women’s clothing. The band’s song titles include: Laid, Hit the Bottle, Nightmare Sequence, *Hellevator,* Terror...
Teacher, Demoralizer, George’s Mr. Right, Slim Fast and Heroin, *Sick Days are for Sex*, *This is My Brain on Drugs*, *Cock Rock*, and *The Suicide of Britney Spears*.  

A number of the band’s videos and songs are still available on the Dead Betties My Space page, as well as through a number of online music and video websites. The music videos featuring The Dead Betties include an apparently naked Joshua Ackley *masturbating in a pile of newspapers* and a *woman who is strangled in an elevator shaft* while Mr. Ackley sings the lyrics to the song—initially somber, then smiling as the woman is murdered.  

Blood is prominently featured in several of The Dead Betties’ music videos.

Joshua has been quoted or mentioned in a number of articles including in an article about “gay guys” and how they are fans of Courtney Love and in a report on a monthly “Queers, Beers, and Rears” party. In his media relations role for GSUSA, Joshua contributes to the official GSUSA blog.

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4. [http://www.parisamericanhighschool.com/class_profile.cfm?member_id=199618](http://www.parisamericanhighschool.com/class_profile.cfm?member_id=199618)
8. George’s Mr. Right, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXijqMVJRwY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXijqMVJRwY)