



◀ **Petpourri:** The best caged pets for kids and families. **E3**

**Sound Advice:** The wide range of radar detectors. **E6**

**Star Tribune Features: Top 5 in the nation**

From the national Society for Features Journalism (2016)

99 DAYS OF  
**SUMMER**

**DAY 52:** See a Cutting  
Edge Light Show

[MALLOFAMERICA.COM/EVENTS](http://MALLOFAMERICA.COM/EVENTS)

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016

★ **StarTribune**

STARTRIBUNE.COM/VARIETY • SECTION E

# VARIETY

## Bridging the gap

These books, chosen by Twin Cities writers of color, can help build understanding between our cultures.

By LAURIE HERTZEL • [lhertzel@startribune.com](mailto:lhertzel@startribune.com)

In “Citizen: An American Lyric,” poet and essayist Claudia Rankine tells stories of black men who have been pulled over by the police.

“Everywhere were flashes, a siren sounding and a stretched-out roar. Get on the ground. Get on the ground now,” she writes. “And you are not the guy and still you fit the description because there is only one guy who is always the guy fitting the description.”

And in his National Book Award-winning “Between the World and Me,” Ta-Nehisi Coates writes a letter to his son about the “racist violence that has been woven into American culture.”

How does one culture understand another culture? How *can* one culture understand another culture?

Books are one way.

Last week, Philando Castile, a black man in St. Paul, was killed by police during a traffic stop. In the wake of his death, Twin Cities writers, artists and teachers of color have suggestions for books that might help bridge the culture gap.

“What helps me process the events of the last couple of weeks is connecting this struggle to the larger history in the United States. My students and I find solace in James Baldwin’s ‘**The Fire Next Time.**’ It helps my students see that this isn’t a series of random events and if we look back far enough and recognize this history, then we can change it.”

VALERIE DÉUS

See **BOOKS** on E8 ►



AARON LAVINSKY • Star Tribune file

Claudia Rankine’s “Citizen: An American Lyric” includes stories of black men pulled over by police.

### STREETSCAPES



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARII • [rtsong-taatarii@startribune.com](mailto:rtsong-taatarii@startribune.com)

Tom Fisher, dean of the U of M’s School of Design, has written a new book, “Designing Our Way to a Better World.”

## Designing a better world

Longtime U of M design dean sees a key role for “design thinking” in improving our intangible systems.

By CLAUDE PECK • [claupe@startribune.com](mailto:claupe@startribune.com)

**T**om Fisher followed in the footsteps of his architect grandfather, sort of.

As an architecture student at Cornell University, he realized that he was more interested in writing than drafting plans for buildings, and his career turned toward urban design, theory, writing and teaching.

Fisher, who grew up in Cleveland and spent the early part of his career in New York, moved to the Twin Cities to become dean of the University of Minnesota College of Design, a job he held for 19 years. In 2015, he became director of the U’s Metropolitan Design Center.

For decades a leading voice in the world of design, Fisher seems to have sat on nearly every committee, commission and advisory board around, including ones that gave input to the new Guthrie Theater, I-35W bridge and U.S. Bank Stadium.

See **STREETSCAPES** on E8 ►

### TOM FISHER

**Born:** Cleveland.

**School:** BA in architecture from Cornell University, master’s in intellectual history from Case Western Reserve.

**Books written:** Nine.

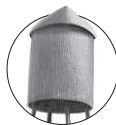
**Car:** Electric.

**Currently reading:** “Landscape as Urbanism,” by Charles Waldheim.

**Favorite 21st-century building in Twin Cities:** Garden mausoleum at Lakewood. Designed by Joan Soranno and John Cook of HGA.

**Least favorite 21st-century building in Twin Cities:** Walker Art Center addition by Herzog & de Meuron.

**Twin Cities vs. New York:** “The Twin Cities is much more open to new ideas. New York is a tough city for new ideas to get heard. Not here ... There’s an openness to ideas here that I have really valued.”



## STONE LAKE

By Richard Horberg  
*A Star Tribune serialized novel*

### Chapter 17

**The story so far:** Allen comforts Annette, and hears about her past.

Rehearsals for “A Night at an Inn” went badly, lots of horseplay and buffoonery, lots of irrelevant ad-libbing. The boys, although they appeared to think the play was awesome, treated it like a lark. Since it was so short and the speeches so brief, they had little interest in memorizing their lines.

To make matters worse, the sub-district basketball tournament had begun, and because Stone Lake had the largest gym in the area, all the games were to be played there. When rehearsal nights coincided with game nights, rehearsals had to be moved or cancelled. The boys preferred the latter. Since Stone Lake itself was in the tournament (and with a season’s record of 12 and 3 had a good chance to win it all), those cast members who were on the team, three of them, could hardly rehearse and play basketball at the same time.

Coach Worthington thought that there could be no question about that.

To Allen’s further dismay, he’d been informed that when the district tournament began he couldn’t even use the stage because temporary seats were to be erected there. Basketball in Stone Lake, he thought, must be more dramatic than drama.

Another complicating factor was that the sub-district one-act play contest was to be held in Benson, ten miles away. Which meant that his crew and cast would have to pack up and transport the stage sets, including the flats, on the afternoon of the performance. The trouble was that the flats were 10 feet high, too long to fit in Royal Knudson’s little pickup. Jimmy Kvist came up with the idea of cutting the flats in half and hinging them so that they could be folded up. Which, after a trip to the lumber yard to buy additional materials, worked well.

Allen had to ask Superintendent Magnuson for more money

“We’re hoping for a strong performance from Stone Lake,” Magnuson said, writing a check.

Allen, in spite of the bad rehearsals, said he thought the cast would compete well.

Privately, he had doubts. He woke up in the middle of the night worrying about it and wishing it was over. Yet, even though he thought of it often, he refused to ask Patty Porter for help. And since Evelyn Wilson, whose services as a dialogue coach he could have used,

See **STONE LAKE** on E3 ►

### DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR MALALA?

As part of Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai’s appearance at Target Center on July 26, she will answer three questions from young Star Tribune readers during her presentation. The three young people whose questions are chosen will receive two tickets to attend the event.

To submit a question for consideration, e-mail it to [tellus@startribune.com](mailto:tellus@startribune.com). Be sure to include your name and contact information. A panel will select the three winners, whose questions will be forwarded to Yousafzai. The deadline for the submissions is July 18.



Twentieth Century Fox

Tickets to Yousafzai’s lecture are available at [targetcenter.com](http://targetcenter.com) for \$33-\$153.

### Buy the ebook

The entire book “Stone Lake” can be purchased as an ebook at [Startribune.com/ebooks](http://Startribune.com/ebooks).

