

# THE BUTLER CENTER

## NEWSLETTER



### TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AT CC

As Colorado Springs mourns and remembers the anniversary of the tragic shooting at Club Q, which happened the day before Trans Day of Remembrance in 2022, this important day takes on a poignant new meaning in the COS community. The Butler Center's Queer and Trans Peer Mentor, Ren Coryell offers a heartfelt and timely reflection on what this day means to them and the CC community.

**By Ren Coryell:**

This year has felt especially hard for me and my loved ones within the trans community. We've been hit with a slew of anti-trans laws banning medical care, drag performances, and some even criminalizing gender nonconformity as a whole. And it has been abundantly clear that these laws aren't meant to protect "the children," and they certainly aren't there to protect the trans community.

Photo (pg 1): Community gathers at Arcadia Park to for TDOR. Mike Duran  
 (pg 2): People embrace at a vigil for Club Q. Mathew Staver.

## TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AT CC CONT.



Those laws are meant to exterminate us. Politicians spread anti-queer hate knowing that their words will propagate violence, especially towards those most vulnerable within the community whose lives are already devalued by a white dominated, ableist society. And if our lives aren't taken by violence at the hands of others, they are taken by our own. A little bit ago, I remember sitting down with a group of my queer friends and I learned that none of us thought we would make it to 30. Even reflecting on this now makes my heart twist in my chest.

This year, the Queer and Trans Collective hosted a lunch for the Trans Day of Remembrance, a day to honor trans lives lost due to anti-trans violence or suicide. This day had been heavy on my mind for weeks leading up to it, thinking not only about all those who already died, but also who we have yet to lose. But, being in community with other trans people and those who support trans people during that lunch lifted that weight. On Trans Day of Remembrance, we honor trans lives lost. But the other bright souls in that room reminded me that there are trans lives to be honored right now. Yes, there's a lot to fear. But there's also so much to love, and I have so much love for all of the beautiful strong trans people in my life who uplift and inspire just by being their wonderful authentic selves. Within them I see hope of what the world could be.

In 2023, 88% of trans victims were people of color. 54% were Black transgender women. 73% were killed with a gun. 47% of victims with a known killer were killed by a romantic partner, friend, or family member. 50% were deadnamed or misgendered by authorities or the press.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### **Jordan Bates**

He/Him - MAT Major

#### **What are you studying and what do you want to do after CC?**

MAT stands for Master of Arts in Teaching. This past semester I was focused on elementary education, and next semester I hope to pivot to high school, since the kind of work I want to do after CC is college access-oriented.

#### **What is one interest you have outside of school?**

My biggest passions outside of school are music and baking. I've played varying instruments in a few of CC's music ensembles, and I hope to continue playing viola in community orchestras for the rest of my life.

#### **What does ADEI work mean to you or why did you get into this?**

I got into ADEI work pretty naturally, just by applying to jobs that spoke to my heart. I didn't consciously realize I was drawn to ADEI work until I started having conversations with my mentees, who were so passionate and so fun, and my supervisors, who gave me language and really introduced me to this world.

#### **What is one cause you're passionate about?**

A cause I'm incredibly passionate about that I don't hear people talk about much is social & emotional education for elementary school students. I believe that if we enabled children to have a generative relationship with their own emotions, the world would be a better place in general.

#### **What is one fun fact people might not expect about you?**

I almost went to culinary school instead of CC! The Culinary Institute of America was calling my name.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

6

### **Bisexuality and Bierasure - Out of the Closet Workshop**

Dec 6th, 12:30 pm. WES Room - Worner

Join the marvelous Deka Jordyn Spears for a discussion of the often overlooked bisexual identity and the issues of bierasure. Open to faculty, students, and staff.

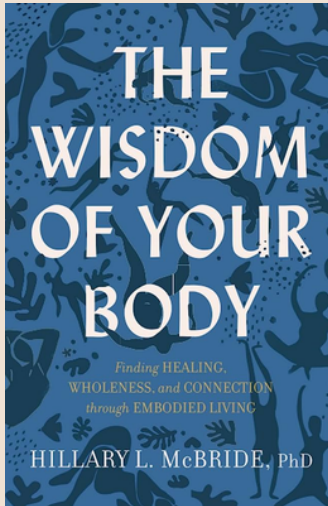
## LOOK FOR MORE EVENTS AFTER THE BREAK!



Cutler Hall after snow. Photo Credit to Lonnie Timmons III.

## WEEKLY PAIRINGS - MEDIA RECOMENDATIONS

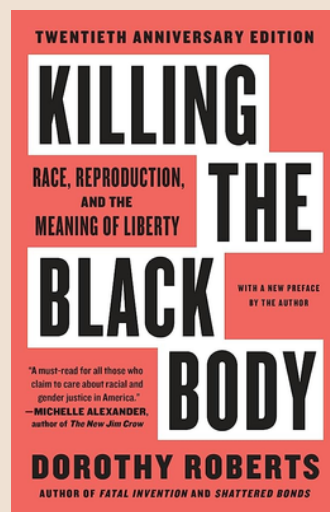
### For the Holidays: Bodies, Autonomy, Gender, and Race



The holiday season can bring forward a lot of our own insecurities about our bodies, our diets, etc. Hillary McBride's *The Wisdom of the Body* explores how media, colonialism, and gender norms have all alienated us from our bodies.

McBride's work has been called the "woke" version of the massively popular *The Body Keeps the Score*. Through an ED, race, and gender-informed lens, McBride details how embodiment and reconnecting with our own bodies can be transformative and healing.

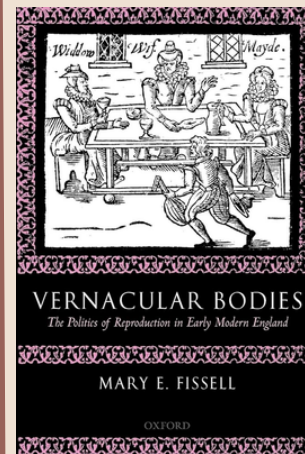
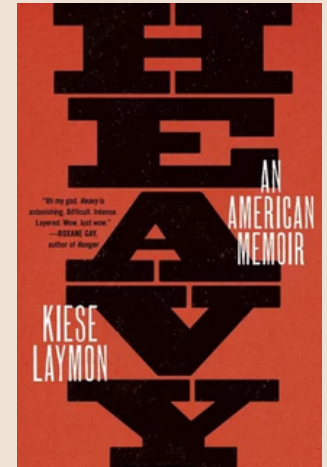
Dorothy Roberts's *Killing the Black Body* tackles the harmful stereotypes of black women and mothers portrayed in the media and explores the long-standing abuse of black women's bodies. From their forced role it reproducing slave owner's wealth to the



forced sterilization of black women in the 1970s and into the modern day where conversations around reproduction still flood our politics and media. This book is a must-read for those interested in the perspectives of Black motherhood or the intersections of race and gender. It is also a crucial read for anyone interested in the modern reproductive rights debate.

for a more narrative recommendation, pick up the Kirkus finalist book, *Heavy: An American Memoir*, by Kiese Laymon. The NYT called this book "Gorgeous [and] gutting." Laymon presents an authentic story of his own life and challenges as a Black southern American.

He writes about his struggles with sexual violence, anorexia, obesity, and sexuality, as well as his complex relationships with his mother and grandmother. *Heavy* is a vulnerable, comical, and haunting exploration of identity and the Black American dream, that ultimately asks - how many of us truly know how to love?



Mary Fissel, historian and midwife, presents a stunning depiction on changing imaginings of the female body in Early Modern England. Before the scientific revolution, our understanding of the body, anatomy, and reproduction were more reflective of societal ideals than actual

With this in mind, Fissel explores how perceptions of women's bodies as dirty versus clean or miraculous versus lowly changed in the Reformation with the church's movement away from Mary. She also looked at how the importance of hereditary inheritance influenced perceptions of reproduction and sexuality during the English Civil War. Fissel examines how this chaotic time in history shaped the understanding of the body and the modern implications of these ideas.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Irina Amouzou, alongside Advocate for Immigrant Justice members, leads a discussion for the Antiracism Book Club (*We are Not Dreamers*).

Get your copy today and join us for further discussions in Block 5!

