

# Bill Murray

**Class year:** 1950

**Major:** Political Science

**Current Profession:** Retired

What a difference 60+ years make.

It is encouraging to realize the changes in campus culture now compared to Colorado College when I was at the school post-WW II in the class of 1950.

There were no "students of color" back then. The number of Jewish students on campus was 21 according to my Jewish roommate Ted Green. Today I understand there are some 200 of Jewish faith, 100 practicing, by unofficial word from one of the current CC students.

An editorial in *The Tiger*, student newspaper of that past era, challenged the administration that no student of color had ever lived in a dorm on campus. The dean of men responded, privately with the editor, that no one of color had ever wanted to live in a CC dorm.

The drive-in on Cache La Poudre made certain if one came with a minority member, it was obvious you were not wanted. Service, if given, included excessive salt. Downtown Colorado Springs movie houses had a "whites" only policy for main floor seating. This saw that all people of color, including the few Asian students on campus, were sent to the balcony. Motels signs went to "No Vacancy" if one drove in with people of color. The same was true in Denver.

It is remembered that Colorado is one of four states to have a Klansman as governor and one of the few to have a Klan dominated legislature. Yes, this was in the '20s, but at the beginning of WW II, Colorado refused to re-elect Governor Carr based on his welcoming of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to a relocation camp in southeast Colorado.

Colorado has a way to go in acceptance and appreciation of diversity. Colorado College can help lead the state toward inclusivity.

Yours on the upward trail,

Bill Murray '50, P '77, P '80