

ORAL HISTORY TAPE INDEX

Zagoras, Maro K., Class of 1989
Senior Class President, 1989

Why Maro Zagoras chose to attend Colorado College

- Her parents told her to go to the state she most wanted to live in
- Colorado was that state
- CC was "obviously the best school in the state"
- Also, Liz Moodie, class of 1987, influenced Maro's decision
 - Liz was a resident assistant (RA) in Mathias
 - She became senior class vice president
 - She was the sister of Maro's close friend in Lake Forest where Maro lived
 - Maro came to visit Liz
 - Followed in her footsteps throughout her collegiate career, working with the same organizations
 - Maro later became senior class president

Why Maro became senior class president

- People now note with surprise that Maro is senior class president
- She doesn't think it is such a surprise
- She knew from the first day of Freshmen Olympics that she wanted to be senior class president
 - That day, the senior class president was the first to speak
 - He got up and said, "Hello, I'm the senior class president here at Colorado College; welcome to freshmen olympics"
 - Maro looked up and thought, "I want to be that man some day"
 - Her second day of school, she decided to pursue that goal
 - "That's what I wanted and that's what I got"

First impressions of Colorado College

- The guys had long hair
- There was a tone of pseudo-liberalism that she didn't realize was pseudo at that point
- There were a lot of "granola" type people
- They wore tie dyed shirts
- She recalls the green grass of the quad
- All the new faces at the end of summer

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Students at Colorado College

- She was intimidated at first
- Felt that CC was a school full of precocious students
- She was very gregarious, probably the most outgoing freshman other than Bryan Rosenberger
- Bryan died her sophomore year from a heart attack
- She met everyone the first week
- She knew to do that
- The more students she met, the more she realized CC was a school full of high-quality, precocious students
- She was intimidated by the girl she sat next to [at orientation] who was valedictorian of her high school
- Maro began to wonder how she had gotten into CC
- The longer she talked with students, the more she found out that a lot of them weren't really just 500 SAT people
- They were people who had something extra
 - Rescue workers during the summer
 - Started camps for handicapped children
 - She knows of one student who saved someone from hypothermia on a Noles' trip
- Maro believes her essay helped her gain admittance to CC
 - She wrote about her brother, a schizophrenic
 - Essay discussed the reality of dealing with a mentally ill person, with a lifestyle of suicide

Faculty impressions

- Like most first year students, she was in awe of faculty
- At the same time, she was taken aback by their informality
- Felt that they were knowledgeable but not pretentious
- Professors would ask students what **they** thought about a certain text
- At first, Maro would think, "What do **I** know about this book?"
- Professors often gave the impression that students had enlightened them about something in the text
- Maro was particularly impressed by sociology professor Jeff Livesay and philosophy professor Judy Genova
 - "Jeff Livesay is going to go down in history with me. He's like a Judy Genova...a person who I feel has never ever sold out"
- Maro took Jeff Livesay's course, Inequality
- First day of class Jeff asked students to write down parents' income
- Average income was \$100,000
- Read the book World of Pain, about labor unions and labor movements, labor conditions
 - Not about England in the late 1800's but **now**

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- Students in class were pensive
- They would sit back and say, "Oh, I think it's terrible"
- Jeff would force them to look at themselves
- He would shock them
- Some students took offense at that; they thought he was too harsh
- "He was really doing us a service because people weren't aware of the disparity between their liberalness and the fact that they were 'Reagan babies' [economically advantaged]"

Pseudo-liberalism at Colorado College

- So many students wear the tie-dyes and "do all this stuff"
- They are children who grew up in the Reagan years
- They have the liberal arts mind and the liberal morals but they're alienated from the fact that they also grew up with the upper [class] Reaganistic pocket book
- CC student attitudes are reflected in their writing checks for ten cents
- Maro thinks this annoys business people in Colorado Springs
- It's not intentional; CC students are unaware
- For example, even in Poor Richards, a 'granola' restaurant on Tejon, students don't quite fit in
 - At Poor Richards, workers are part of the youth culture of the 1960's and early 70's
 - These are the true granolas:
 - People who recycle, are conservationists and politically active individuals
 - They are erudite in political literature
 - They are active; they join clubs, write congressmen
 - They are intelligent, knowledgeable
 - Believe in fighting for clean air
 - Don't put on facades, don't wear makeup, don't buy into harmful societal attitudes
- CC students go into Poor Richards thinking they're liberal
- They think "I'm wearing earth tones today; I'm liberal"
- They're boisterous
- Other patrons are quietly reading and CC students are loud
- They don't mean to be unaware
- When you think about how much students mellow out between their freshman and senior year, this boisterousness becomes obvious
- Maro believes that your first and second year can be a student's boisterous years

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Changes in political climate on campus in Maro's four years at CC

- Seniors would say [the campus] keeps getting more conservative
- As senior class president, Maro has spoken with seniors
- Freshmen see themselves as kind of liberal
- Seniors perceive incoming freshmen as conservative, left-brain individuals
- Maro believes the campus has gotten even more pseudo-liberal
 - "It's hard; when you're a freshman, you look at all these things the seniors are doing"
 - "When you become a senior, **you're** doing them and you don't give yourselves as much credit"

Apartheid/divestment issue on campus

- People did so much
- Trustees booted them and said, "No, we're not going to divest"
- In the sixties, people would have kept fighting
- She doesn't blame it on the divestors
- "They worked their asses off; they worked **so** hard, but there weren't enough of them"
- The movement wasn't strong enough
- "You've got all these people in the dorms saying, "Yes, we should really divest"
- Few of them contribute to the movement
- Few of them make posters, attend educational events on campus
- That is where Jeff Livesay would say, "You guys!"
- He would tell people to bring opinions and lifestyles together to really live according to moral beliefs
 - Judy Genova is another example of that
 - She told a trustee member who said something derogatory about women to "Fuck off"
 - "**That's** what should be taught here; CC students think these wonderful things, but how many are willing to stand up for them?"

Bureaucracy at CC

- As senior class president, Maro has to be diplomatic
- If President Riley says something offensive, she has to think of a diplomatic way to say she doesn't agree with him
- Another student could just say, "You're screwed, President Riley"
- "The more political you get on this campus, the more you

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have to shut your mouth, in some ways, to get things done"

- If you're a true diplomat, you can say something negative in a positive way
- You can say, "You know, President Riley, I think the Whistle Stop program on campus was a very good initiative"
- Rather than saying that Whistle Stop isn't working, you can say that we need to follow through with it
 - Whistle Stop is a program where everyone is issued a whistle their first year
 - You blow it only when you're being attacked or harassed or need help
 - Supposedly the whole CC community will run out of the dorms to help you
 - It happened a couple of times Maro's first year
 - The system worked very well

President Gresham Riley

- He was described recently as an emperor
- What does that imply?
- Maro imagines an emperor sitting up on a big chair
- Everyone climbs toward the top, but no one can reach it
- He's unreachable; he knows about five or six seniors out of the senior class
 - One is myself, one is CCCA president
 - Others might be people like Jeff Strain who started a program for the students to get to know Gresham
 - In the end, the students weren't interested
 - Poor reflection on students
- He really doesn't know the student body very well
- He makes this college function in that he's the major fundraiser
- He's behind the scenes
- He's the money maker
- He's certainly not a personality
- Maro has heard him speak a lot
- His speeches are very methodical
- In contrast, Max Taylor is a wonderful speaker
- So is Laurel McLeod

Administration

- Maro works for and likes the administrators a great deal
- "They are incredible people, incredible facilitators"
- Max Taylor is "fantastic"
 - He does so many things for the school

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- Got yearbooks free for seniors to maintain that tradition
- Initiating senior "fireside chats" at which seniors will praise or denounce CC
- Wonderful speaker
- Interested, gives time to students
- Very accessible
- Laurel McLeod
 - She gets a bad rap because she does so much of the discipline on campus
 - She's very sensitive
 - We had suicide on campus past week, the fourth in six months
 - She didn't talk about it unfeelingly
 - She's very human

Suicides on Campus

- Dixie Goodenough
- Tom Waxman
- Others
- Laurel McLeod thinks CC is "past due"
- All other colleges and universities have had suicides
- Inevitable when you have this many people and the stress of college
- Epidemic component
 - One suicide signifies to another person that this suicidal person crossed over the line
 - They were not only able to think about it, but also to take the action
- Maro thinks this is a particularly substantive issue

Political Science Department

- Damian Fernandez was everyone's favorite when he was here
 - Erudite, intelligent, up on material
 - Took off his shoes in class, ran around in stocking feet
 - Put a lot of information on the board
 - "We worked our asses off in his class"
 - He was very liberal, sought action, wanted to raise hell
- Tom Cronin is Maro's mentor
- "You can always look up to someone who spouts a lot, but it's the person who takes that philosophy and makes it into something active that you really respect"
- They are working together on Advisory Board on Leadership and Volunteerism with Max Taylor
 - Tom Cronin and Max Taylor started this board in 1988
 - Professor Cronin not only "spouts political

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- philosophies and getting involved in the world, he does it"
- He's an "action man"
 - Doesn't just sit around and be bureaucratic, push papers and make up agendas
 - At the first meeting of the advisory board, he said, "Let's do it"
 - He then talked to trustee McCue at the president's dinner and got \$45,000 from the El Pomar Foundation to start a community service center at CC

Community Service Center

- Maro was Circle K president her sophomore year
- Circle K is community service organization on campus, sponsored by the Kiwanas
- Kiwanas are like Rotarians
- Circle K did a lot Maro's sophomore year
- Could have done even more with greater support
- Sponsored party at the Beta house where admission was two cans of food
- Betas took that on; at all parties since then, there have been canned food drives
- Maro thinks this is an "incredible legacy"
- Circle K felt good about that, but felt it needed more support
- Thus emerged the idea for a community service center
 - Center will be across from the bookstore in Worner
 - High profile operation
 - Volunteers need some high profile
 - Resource center for campus volunteers to contact community services in the Colorado Springs community to aid
 - Center will disseminate information: books, videos
 - Community service organizations on campus will have their meetings there
 - Billboard for publicity
 - Staff member who will document opportunities in Colo. Spgs. for volunteerism
 - Counselor on hand to boost morale of volunteers who often have hard days, e.g. at an elderly home when someone is cranky
 - Counselor could help see people through the good and the bad
 - Center would increase volunteerism on campus

Sectors on campus

- There are a lot of different causes on campus

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- People get fractionalized into various groups
 - Community service sector on campus
 - Circle K, KEEP (Caring for Elderly People), Young Life, etc.
 - ENACT: conservation group, etc.
- Different causes should unite
- Campus would have a real power unit then
- There is a lot of overlap among members of different groups
- For example, an active individual might be on the newspaper, in one of the community service organizations, in ENACT and one more group
- If a student does community service, they'll join one organization, but not all four
- They want to cover all their bases
- A lot of students who could be active aren't
- There are always going to be the few "hyperactive" people leading a lot of organizations

Relationship between CC and Colorado Springs community

- It's getting better
- The symposium on intimacy was a wonderful idea
 - Good subject matter, good for CC/Colo.Spgs. relations
 - It was a real invitation to the Colo. Spgs. community to step into CC for a change
 - Not sure the symposium drew members from all sectors of the community
 - Maro saw mainly people who live on Wood Ave. at the events, people who already have ties to CC
 - Would love to see symposium continue
 - Makes such a statement about CC: that students don't need to be tested to be interested
 - No suggestions for future symposiums but it must talk about something that affects everyone: psychological/interpersonal relationships
- CC/Colo. Spgs. relations still very tense
 - Maro thinks the Cascade crosswalks incite some of this tension
 - There are "granolas" here at CC, wearing suede boots
 - They're wearing a lot of money
 - Not only do they stop cars trying to get to their destinations
 - "We're stopping them, which is saying who's more important here"
 - We parade wealth in front of them
 - It's to the detriment of the CC community and the Colo. Spgs. community
 - Difference between CC students and community people

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- in socio-economic status is too much
- Not as bad as USC where students have to be fenced in

Financial Aid at CC

- Poor students at CC get the worst of both worlds
- They don't fit into this world where a lot of people drive Saabs
- Some Boettcher scholars that Maro knows, for instance, don't fit in
- Nor do they fit into the Colo. Spgs. community because they are stereotyped as being rich CC students
- Further exacerbated by the fact that many wealthy students dress poorly
 - An attempt to seem more in touch with the real world
 - For example, students buy new jeans, rip them up and dye them
- CC students have their heart in the right place but their background has often already tainted them
- Cultural conditioning is hard to change
- A lot of wealthy students, after taking a challenging course like Jeff Livesay's, go to therapy to help them deal with the realization that they are economically privileged in the face of poverty in the U.S.
- Maro is one of those students
 - By her sophomore year, she was doing practically every organization on campus
 - She was feeding the homeless, had "adopted" an Ethiopian child, etc.
 - She went home and broke down
 - Asked "Why me? Why do I have what I have?"
 - Jeff Livesay and others show students inequality in this world
 - Students are forced to confront disparities
 - In order to stabilize her, Maro's therapist told her she wasn't responsible, the opposite of what Jeff might say
 - In other cases, therapists tell students, "Okay, it's true; what are you going to do about it?"
 - You can live a moral life, become a lawyer with your CC education
 - You don't have to make \$40,000 with a corporate firm
 - You could be an environmental lawyer
 - CC students are exposed to extremes; they learn about a liberal arts education, learn about committed

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- individuals such as Jeff Livesay
- Then they go home to filet mignon
- They have to reconcile these extremes; it's one of the most incredible learning experiences to be had at CC
- A minority of students articulate these inconsistencies, but the majority have felt them
- It's difficult to realize inequality; many students won't let you know they're aware of their economic privilege
- Many won't really think about what Jeff L. is saying in an Inequality class
- Those people fare pretty well

Pivotal classes at CC

- Inequality with Jeff Livesay
- Freedom & Authority with Gilbert Johns and Doug Fox
 - Wonderful class; 2nd and 3rd blocks Maro's 1st year
 - Went to Gilbert John's house, read Galileo in his living room while eating cheese and drinking wine
 - Class read all day
 - Students were treated as adults; everyone rose to the occasion and they engaged in intellectual symposium
- Introduction to Geology
 - "I hated it"
 - She worked very hard every day
 - Got an A, but she had taken it Pass/Fail
 - Learned why to take a class at CC: to **learn**
 - It was similar to Freedom & Authority in that students were treated as adults
 - Class took a field trip and at the end of four days together on a bus, everyone was "stinky, smelly"
 - Whole class ended up naked in hot springs, including the professor
 - They passed around illegal substances every once in a while, or beer
 - According to the alumni Maro has talked to, a lot more of that went on in the past
 - It was an incredible learning experience
 - There was a lot of peer pressure to be "natural" and go naked
 - Class learned a lot from that
 - Drinking or smoking with your professors is a great learning experience
 - They show their humanness

Recollections of a senior class president

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- Maro feels that she has been able to make the difference between a good senior year for the senior class and a great senior year
- Senior class went to Lake Powell, had tie-dye parties, picnics, Friday Afternoon Clubs
 - FACs are gatherings, cocktail parties for college students
- Got John Nichols to speak at graduation

- Senior class went to the CC cabin
- Spent Friday night
- 50-70 people showed up
- Maro was parking cars
- When she went up the hill to the cabin, she found 50 or 60 people gathered around a campfire singing along with Sand Sheff and MJ Walker [two campus folk musicians]
- The deejay they hired left because it wasn't a rowdy enough party
- She was impressed by the students; they were singing John Denver songs and putting their arms around each other
- "C'mon, in this day and age?"
- Woody Stevens stood up and gave a toast to the senior class
- All Maro's dreams of senior class unity were realized in those 70 people who were enjoying the mountains, the fire, the lights
- "It was so CC"
- Today someone said to me, "Enjoy this beautiful day"
- Maro doesn't think students at Northwestern or other schools are as in tune with beautiful days
- Part of it is the mountains
 - In Jeff Noblett's geology class, she learned about the force that pushed the mountains up
 - One ominous day when the clouds were around the mountains, she looked up and felt really insignificant
 - Comparing the mountains to the sometimes trivial nature of everyday life, she asked, "Is this exam really that important?"
 - Mountains of Colorado, because of their magnitude and presence are inspiring to many people
 - Maro looks at the mountains every day
 - "CC really is nestled at the foot of Pike's Peak"
 - It's the perfect backdrop

Greatest challenges Maro has faced

- Being a resident assistant (RA) her sophomore year

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- Maro knew she would be chosen to be an RA as she was knowledgeable about the school, an enthusiastic leader
- She was the "RA type"
- Being an RA was difficult because incoming freshmen expected her to know everything
 - Remembers one of her wingies approaching her in the bathroom to say that her period was late
 - Asked Maro why that was
 - Maro gave a pretentious RA response about it being due to the stress of going to college and relating to new people
 - She learned that it's not what you know, but what they think you know
 - As an RA, Maro was responsible for doing discipline
 - CC gives you the responsibility as an RA for keeping the wing quiet
 - She wasn't terrific as a disciplinarian
 - Difficult because there is a fine line between being a friend and a disciplinarian
 - Difficult to be babysitter for your peers
 - Being an RA taught Maro to anticipate problems and to make decisions
 - She learned to anticipate all the toilet paper running out over the weekend
- She was faced with a real world dilemma
- Individual had broken his leg and had just gotten out of surgery
- He went to big fraternity party
- He had done so many drugs that he had gone completely white
- His friends came to Maro because she was the "coolest" RA and asked her what to do
- She said they should call an ambulance
- Friends were worried that because it was a drug-related condition, there might be legal complications
- Maro called ambulance, circumvented the "proper RA channels"
- Once you call the hospital, they call CC and officers come here
- If anything had leaked out to the administration, the fraternity would have been closed down, everything would have been amuck
- She told the student that he must tell the medical people that his condition was a chemical, drug-induced reaction
- He was worried that the school would find out
- Maro promised not to tell the school if he promised to tell the doctors the truth about his condition

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- Difficult situation, judgement call for her as an RA
- Situation worked out
- "You really have to assess the situation and do what is right; right doesn't always mean following the rules"
- Sometimes you have to go out on a limb

Drugs on campus

- Serious problem in that students don't know how potent the substances they're dealing with really are
- Student experimentation is usually with best friends: casual, informal, not perceived as real world drug use
- Students don't realize that drugs are illegal
- There are a lot of wealthy people who can spend money on cocaine
- Marijuana is most used on campus; not that bad as a drug
- Those who climb the drug hierarchy are in the most danger
- Every fraternity on campus has its drug :
 - Kappa Sigs are beer drinkers
 - Fijis are the cocaine snorters
 - Phi Delts are beer drinkers and hard alcohol users
 - Sigma Chis do pot and cocaine and some mushrooms
 - Betas do everything, most accomplished in drug world
 - Betas have the highest GPA of all frats
- Maro believes that drug use is complicated by speakers who come to campus and say that shrooms aren't such a bad thing

Faculty drug use

- Some professors on campus smoke (marijuana) with students
- Maro knows of one who snorts cocaine
- Others drink, used to drink more before alcohol policy implemented
- Not very much drinking with students anymore
- Sad in a way because drinking alcohol with a professor "shows he's a real person, not so far above us"
- This is the kind of familiarity afforded by a small school
- CC is exceptional in that

Women professors on campus

- Maro recently participated in search for new professor in Political Science dept
- Three women and one man applied
- Man got the job
- Students on the committee, most of whom were women, were furious
- Felt they needed a woman role model in Poli Sci department
- One of the female students on search committee, who is very active in the Political Union on campus, had never

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- thought about being a college professor until they began interviewing for the position
- Maro thinks this is a "sorry statement"
 - Woman applicant from Boston was "fantastic"
 - Committee put her first on their list
 - Number one faculty choice also
 - She declined because library facilities are insufficient
 - Second on the list was man from Harvard
 - Precocious for his age, intelligent, erudite
 - Also condescending, unapproachable
 - "He couldn't relate to students at all"
 - Attitude was "Okay you little piglets..."
 - Maro is sorry to hear that he will be replacing Damian Fernandez
 - Maro did not see man in faculty presentation
 - Other women were not as strong candidates in that they weren't Harvard grads, but they related better to the students

Philosophy professor, Judy Genova

- Maro took Judy's course Philosophy of Feminism her first year
- "She [Judy] has been an incredible woman in my life"
- Maro writes to Judy at least bi-annually to say thank you for opening her eyes
- For example, Maro was nominated to Pi Gamma Mu honor society for social sciences
 - Received a letter written in non gender-inclusive language
 - She wrote back saying the letter did not apply to her as a woman
 - The committee replied that it did
 - She said, "NO, it doesn't. I'm the senior class president; if anything, the letter should refer to "her" class"
 - Maro wrote back a "terrible" letter in which she included a handout from Judy Genova's class documenting how masculine singular (man, he, his) is not neutral
- Bob Loevy, head of committee, wrote back apologies and changed the letter
- Maro demanded that the letter be written to include her, requested a copy of said letter, suggested a new letter be sent to all women students in Pi Gamma Mu
- Maro wrote to Judy and said thank you
- Felt she had worked very hard for her GPA and was

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- excluded from her own honor
- Women professors on campus are carrying such a load
- They need to be thanked for doing quadruple duty
- Another is Margi Duncombe in sociology

Political science department

- Professor Tim Fuller was very attentive to women student's needs and reflections on candidates during search process
- Maro thinks the absence of women in the department is reflection of many things:
 - It's hard to "break a new woman in"
 - They asked women in interviews how they would feel coming into a department of 40-60 year old conservative, white men
 - Women weren't really comfortable with that prospect either
 - The men in the department are looking for their reflection
 - The woman candidate from Boston was very able
 - However, the male candidate fit in with them better

Maro's future goals

- Obtain law degree and eventually become a congresswoman
- She worked for Congressman Porter two summers ago
- Thought to herself, "I can do this job"
- She wants to be political, has been political all her life
- She's done community service
 - Won several American Legion citizenship awards
- Future goals are where her life has pointed her in her time here
- If she could do anything, she would lead a human rights movement
 - Be a Martin Luther King, Jr. or someone like that
 - "Women have taken so many steps backwards; blacks have taken so many steps backwards"
 - Mexican, Native Americans, etc.
 - At some point, their voices will be heard
 - She wants to be one of those voices- "loud and clear"

Closing comments

- CC is the greatest school
- The block plan says it all:
 - We are different
 - We are not going by the book
 - We are a little off the beaten track
 - We are a little intense
 - We are capricious, innovative
 - And we're nestled at the foot of Pike's Peak

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- What more can you want?