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32nd Annual Pow wow

The experience I had at the 32nd Annual Pow wow at BYU March 29 was definably one of the most impactful real moments of true heritage. The journey started just going to BYU and in the heart of Provo was quite quaint. As we arrived before the Grand Entry I had to look at all the amazing jewelry and handmade crafts from a peace pipe sculpted in the shape of a horse. I did receive a beautiful jade necklace for my birthday from my sweetheart. The beading work was amazing on every item at every booth; all the details in the crafts were such beautiful pieces of art. Before I spent too much money I did make out well two necklaces, earrings, braided bracelets and a pottery flute for my niece.

The Grand Entry now starting a little late, but I laughed because we are always expecting things to be on time but just like we were taught in class is the Native people's do not follow time. But it was very interesting being able to observe all the performers getting ready for their performances. I sat close to a middle age native man. He was striking handsome with his looks but his dress and headdress was one of my favorites. His main colors were black a beautiful teal, a lime green lining on the feathers. His head dress was I think the largest at the ceremony. It was also decorated with the same colors but had the large feathers and on the ends was horse hair tied at the ends it was really astonishing.

The ceremony has now begun and what I found interesting but I also felt an odd shame is when the ROTC started the ceremony. Then the Native American Marines presided, than the Native people followed. It felt inappropriate to have the Native people's following behind a military

presence especially at this type of an event. However, once that passed and they started introducing each group starting with the Golden Age and as they started dancing the elder's presence affected me the most. There was a very striking older man his presence radiated to the people you could tell he has an amazingly pure spirit. The women followed the elder men as they sang; the beauty and grace in each step taken brought a tear to my eyes.

The emotional experience was extremely deep for me. Reminds me of what I wished I had as I feel disconnected from my heritage. But as each set generations of men and women and children dance, through the beating drums that was felt through your bones. This is a great representation of how this culture is a strong people who were raped and pillage to see how they have overcome the sadness of what we see in the history of this country. This truly exemplifies the people from the rest and how I have now been able to experience a POW wow and see the beautiful culture and tradition that are sacred and honored with such grace. That I felt truly honored to be accepted to be able to attend such a beautiful piece of their life.

The tiny tots were adorable and a young beautiful girl danced so beautiful in her light green shawl with hummingbirds decorated all on her outfit. Overall I would suggest that everyone should attend something that is non native to them. We need to step outside our technological world and really retain the beauty of our people and cultures. The prayer that was spoken I felt that moment we were all blessed in the presence of such an amazing person such as Gary Red Elkridge. We enjoyed this experience it was our date night and it was a lot of fun and very different. I will find myself definitely attending another one.