

I was interested in the history of Proud Indigenous People for Education (PIPE). I wanted to see what it was like back in the 70s and what student organizing looked like back then. I was really impressed by the high level of planning and coordination that a fairly small group of students was able to pull off. Through looking at the various event flyers I found, memos sent out by the club, and the handwritten meeting minutes, I found that the students in PIPE were very ambitious and dedicated. I would see the same names repeating across several years and records of dozens of different meetings. The organization also did a really good job of networking both within the Macalester community and outside. The powwow organized by PIPE is probably the best showcase of the organization's capabilities. There was a well planned out schedule with dancers competing across multiple categories. There was a beautiful pamphlet with information about the different types of dances and the history of powwows. PIPE teamed up with several other student organizations, administration, and the campus diversity office. They also had connections with plenty of Twin Cities Native organizations and local businesses. It became abundantly clear to me how dedicated PIPE students must have had to have been in order to put together such a large event. It's really cool to look back and see that incredible organizing has always been around, and it's an important reminder that we should always think bigger as students because other people have pulled off great things before us.