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American heritage filled with atrocities vs. Native Americans

To the editor:

A friend of mine commented that upon seeing the IDB movie Soldier Blue, he wondered how such a disgusting movie could be presented to the public. I had to smile at this, realizing how sheltered our minds have been protected from the truth, and how today's civilization still clings to the great American myth.

I can picture the Indian chief Spotted Wolf (the story, by the way, is based on truth) lying on the ground disemboweled and mutilated. Perhaps ten feet away from him is the peace medal that was given to him by the United States. Now his village lies burned, his people killed. I can also picture a survivor of the U.S. Army's doings, looking over the carnage and simply wondering, "Why?"

Remember Thomas Jefferson's famous work "The Declaration of Independence? In it was included a list of crimes committed by the King of England. Suppose this lone Indian should follow Jefferson's style. The list against the European invaders (and I mean us, my friends, and our ancestors) might go like this:

You have made false promises to us, pretending to come in peace, when slaughter was in your hearts.

You claim religious values drove you to our country, yet you have forsaken them in order to conquer us.

You have tortured our men, mutilated them, scalped them.

You have lied, cheated, stolen, and infested with pestilence.

You have destroyed our land, our lives, our heritage.

Yes, "Americans," let us be proud of our great religious heritage. After all, we've committed enough dastardly atrocities to formate it! And then sit back and wonder why Wounded Knees take place, efforts of a proud people simply to regain what is theirs. Let's face it, "Americans," our forefathers were scum of the type of Adolf Hitler and Genghis Khan, and unless we start doing something to make amends to those who own the stolen land we are living on, we will be remembered as the same.

Art Dostie