

I live in Eastern Washington. The Bundy's misguided and atrocious take-over of a Federal visitor's center in Eastern Oregon has got me thinking on one of the most fundamental issues of the Book of Mormon, that Native Americans are somehow supposed to be connected to the awful God of the Old Testament through Israelite bloodlines, were cursed with dark skin (but now Seminary Teachers call it a "mark" not a "curse", but a rose by any other name still smells the same in my book), and that Christopher Columbus was a God-inspired hero and America is the Promised Land. No wonder Bundy is doing what he's doing; he's following the Book of Mormon! I am sorrowful because I believed in and helped with that awful racist part of Mormon culture, the Indian Placement program. I loved and revered Spencer W. Kimball during that time, and did what I was told to help the local Indians at our Richfield, UT, placement program, which included a dormitory of "Indians" as well as many placement students at individual homes in our town. What awful racists we were (and are, since we still haven't disavowed the Book of Mormon where the teachings originated), in spite of our recent "essay" on racism. We're still racist, and I say, "we" even though I'm completely out of Mormonism.