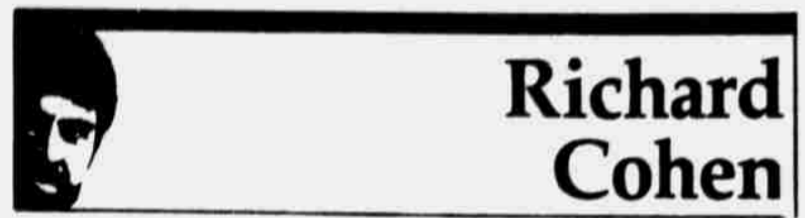


Leaders call victims either 'heroes' or 'villains'

In Paris, where almost anything is obtainable, I am looking at a book of documents taken from the American Embassy in Tehran and published by radical Iranian students. The cover of the book says "secret" and the title is *Israel Foreign Intelligence and Security Services*. It tells, among many other things, about a man named Wolfgang Lotz. He was an Israeli spy.

Lotz was recruited by the Israeli espionage service to fill a vacancy in Cairo. So thorough was his cover that he posed as a former Nazi, took riding lessons so he could



Richard Cohen

open a riding academy in Cairo, and even married a German woman. He was already married.

I bring up Lotz (who was caught by the Egyptians) in the context of the Iranian documents because it seems to me that if you happen to be on his side, the man is a hero. And it seems to me that the people who allowed the documents about Lotz to fall into the hands of the Iranian students, the employees of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, were not. Yet they have been treated as if they were.

It is the same with Gen. James Dozier, who spent 42 awful days as a prisoner of the Red Brigades in Italy. The general suffered and his imprisonment couldn't have been pleasant, but he has been treated as something he is not, or has not had the opportunity to be: a hero.

With both the Iranian hostages and Dozier, the notion of heroism has been stood on its head. They are not heroes, but instead victims.

Goodman . . .

Continued from Page 4

There are, of course, some flaws with this brilliant solution to the economic woes of the average American. Pre-marital agreements, for example. And love. The rich, you see, can still afford to marry for love. All too often, they have unpatriotically chosen to fall in love with each other.

- But not to worry. We are all rooting for a stronger America. Surely even the rich realize that the only place money really trickles down is over the sacrificial altar.

(c) 1982, The Boston Globe Newspaper Company/
Washington Post Writers Group

These words — heroes and victims — appear to have lost all meaning. When Dozier was first abducted, President Reagan called the kidnapers "cowards." That they were not. They might be reprehensible or crazy or politically stupid or many other things. But you cannot call people who plan and execute the kidnapping of an American general "cowards."

With Reagan and others, it seems that cowards are people you disagree with and heroes are people you agree with. Thus, the victims of the "cowards" become heroes when they are nothing of the sort. Both the hostages and Dozier just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In fact, there is some reason to believe that both Dozier and the hostages were negligent. Dozier, for instance, is the first to admit that he should have taken seriously the warnings that he might be kidnapped.

As for the Iranian hostages, the captured CIA documents and State Department cable traffic makes clear that the embassy in Tehran had ample warning that it might be seized by radical mobs. Just why, after all that, the embassy was virtually a library of material, ranging from secret to just plain embarrassing, is something no one has yet explained.



Editorials do not necessarily express the opinions of the Daily Nebraskan's publishers, the NU Board of Regents, the University of Nebraska and its employees or the student body.
USPS 144-080

Editor: Martha Murdock; Managing editor: Janice Pigaga; News editor: Kathy Stokebrand; Associate news editors: Patti Gallagher, Bob Glissmann; Editorial assistant: Pat Clark; Night news editor: Kate Kopischke; Assistant night news editor: Tom Hassing; Entertainment editor: Bob Crisler; Sports editor: Larry Sparks; Assistant sports editor: Cindy Gardner; Art director: Dave Luebke; Photography chief: D. Eric Kircher; Graphic designer: John G. Goecke.

Copy editors: Mary Ellen Behne, Leslie Kendrick, Sue MacDonald, Melinda Norris, Patty Pryor, Peggy Reichardt, Lori Siewert, Michela Thuman, Tricia Waters, Rob Wilborn.

Business manager: Anne Shank-Volk; Production manager: Kitty Policky; Advertising manager: Art K. Small; Assistant advertising manager: Jerry Scott.

Publications Board chairperson: Margy McCleery, 472-2454. Professional adviser: Don Walton, 473-7301.

The Daily Nebraskan is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters, except during vacation. Address: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb., 68588. Telephone: 472-2588.

All material in the Daily Nebraskan is covered by copyright. Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb., 68510. Annual subscription: \$20, semester subscription: \$11. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb., 68588.

It is, however, easier to explain why some victims become heroes and others become villains. It would be hard to imagine Ronald Reagan holding a Rose Garden ceremony for some welfare mother, born and raised in poverty, who managed not only to survive, but to have children herself. She is no less a victim than the Iranian hostage or Dozier, but her dependence on welfare is considered praiseworthy by neither the President nor most Americans.

There is something awry here. People who become victims through no fault of their own get talked about as if they were villains. People who become victims through some fault of their own or, at the very least, in the pursuit of some job, get talked about as if they were heroes. The upshot is that we tend to blame some people for their own misfortune and not hold others accountable for what might be their own mistakes. After all, someone ought to have to explain why we all know about Wolfgang Lotz, the Israeli spy.

And someone ought to have to account for why we know all that secret material fell into the hands of the Iranian militants. To a degree, we can thank the Iranians because the seized documents add to our knowledge of a critical period and fill in some gaps. But we can thank them even more for pointing out that someone was asleep at the State Department.

Still there is no accounting. Instead, the nation is asked to rejoice in a succession of reversals and mistakes in which victims become heroes and all mistakes are papered over. The truth is often otherwise. I am looking at a book supplied by Iranian students that says many interesting things. One of them, if only by inference, is that not all victims are heroes.

(c) 1982, The Washington Post Company

daily
nebraskan

CLASSIFIED

In diamonds, as in all things beautiful, there is an ideal.

If you are interested in purchasing a diamond - for yourself or as a gift - we invite you to come on to see our selection of Ideal Cut Diamonds. We will be pleased to answer your questions and to help you make the ideal choice that meets your special requirements.

SPECIAL STUDENT FINANCING AVAILABLE

Sartor Hamann

DOWNTOWN — GATEWAY
1150 "O" ENCLOSED MALL

Need New Wheels?

Become a plasma donor! \$10 is paid per donation and you can donate twice weekly (but please wait 72 hours between donations.)

That's up to \$100 a month! And that can help pay your car payments!

New donors bring this ad & receive an extra \$2.00 for your first donation

Call now for an appointment.
475-8645

University Plasma Center
1442 O Street
Open Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
federally licensed