

Ferguson blue light special! Another black kid shot and time to grab my tire iron and go shopping!

Ok, if anyone ever actually reads any of my rants, which I really doubt, seeing this title, they might think me a bit racist. News flash, I have already admitted to being a racist in one of my earlier writings. And if you read that rant, you can stop being so judgmental, you self-righteous racist boor.

I am not condoning the action of any police officer that shoots an unarmed assailant. Nor even one that shoots 17 times, emptying his clip in the heat of the moment. That said, I know that I would keep pulling the trigger until my finger cramped, if someone was shooting at me, and I was lucky enough to be carrying a gun. In either case, I wasn't there; so do not know the mindset of either the shooter or the shootie.

I do understand that mistakes happen, and sometimes a totally innocent man is killed. And sometimes a public servant is a vicious freak that should be on the other side of the bars, not using his uniform, badge, and gun to fulfill his own sadistic needs. But I think that both of these are extremes, and not the gray area that we live in. We all know that there is a long list of dead police officers that didn't act quickly enough when faced with a quickly escalating situation. There is an equally long list of dead black youths that didn't realize that for whatever reason, be it racial fear, over zealous police tactics, or whatever, were not quick enough to lay down and cower and let the courts decide if their innocence or guilt.

Death is a bad result, in either situation. And I don't think there is a good solution, as yet.

What I do have a big problem with is the disparity in the community response to the two different, but similar, occurrences. If a cop, black or white, is killed doing his duty by either a black or white perpetrator, the people get angry, make some impassioned speeches, pass some ineffective ordinances banning guns, grieve the lost, and then move sadly on with their lives. If a black cop kills a black youth, it's pretty much the same response. But let a white cop kill a black youth under almost any circumstance, and all hell breaks loose. Riots, looting, and arson... all remedies are allowed and apparently encouraged.

What the hell is going on? Why does the death of a black youth at the hands of a white man, whether justified or not, open the door to such behavior? Is there such a deep seated hatred of whites by many in the black community, perhaps rooted in the practice of slavery over a century ago, that won't ever lessen so long as black leaders refuse to put that era behind them.

Come on, Al and Jesse, stop fanning the racial flames!

And all of you thugs that use any excuse to riot, burn, and loot... STOP. You are only making things worse, making whites fear you more, and making police officers get itchy fingers. It is a vicious cycle, with the innocent paying the price.

I've traveled the world for decades, and whenever these outbreaks occur and the citizens of other countries question me about them, all I can do is shake my head and shrug my shoulders.

And say that I am ashamed that Americans sometimes don't act like Americans.

Captain Steve