

“CJ is responsible for his own death”

The Bethlehem Gadfly Christian Hall, George Floyd killing April 3, 2021

 Latest post in a series on Christian Hall 

Bob Davenport is PA born and raised for 25 years. Now a retired railroad (but not the man at the throttle) Engineer, a CE graduate of Lehigh U, a Catholic attending daily mass and praying for a better world without apparent success. An optimist.

ref: **Case Study of police shooting of Christian Hall ripe for good discussion**

ref: **Have you done your Christian Hall homework yet?**

ref: **Breaking down the YouTube video of the Christian Hall shooting by the Pa. State Police**

Gadfly:

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; in this case the cure was lead. I don't blame the officers. They have a right to protect themselves, and they were backed into a corner. The outcome was predictable once CJ selfishly made the decision to die. The ones who protest this action should sign up to be on call when the next incident occurs and give it a try to do better. Fortunately, CJ took nobody else with him, but the officers who shot will undoubtedly be affected.

What we need is cowboys as portrayed in the fifties who could shoot quickly and always manage to shoot a gun out of someone's hands, unless the guy was evil, and then he died instantly. Those bullets must have been “smart” bullets. Alas, this was real not scripted. CJ is responsible for his own death; he chose others to do it for him.

A prayer for all involved.

A similar incident occurred in Atlanta. The film clip is shorter but more intense: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/georgia-tech-student-activist-shot-dead-campus-police-n802146>

An alternative solution may be to start shooting before police think they are in mortal danger, so they can aim for extremities rather than the core. Can you see a problem with that?

These situations are similar to those faced by the military under rules of engagement which were in effect during my time and place in Viet Nam. There were rules that were to be followed before you could use your weapon, which in my situation was kept in an arms room until I might need it. I remember my thoughts that one with a knife had to get very close before you “could” take an action. Indeed when do you get to make a him or me decision?

Drugs being involved is also a common situation. Who knows what impaired people are going to do. There was a situation that was called police brutality because an officer emptied his pistol into someone who attacked him. The answer was “he kept coming.” I heard the .45 cal pistol was used in the military because of the drug-fueled combatants in the Philippines. The round would stop an attacker even if his brain did not get the message that he was hurt. Who wants to be a police officer?

Spiderman and his web may be effective in certain situations, but reality usually precludes anything but a difficult life-and-death decision by a cop, often complicated by the desire of police to protect one another, which may initiate the trigger response even earlier.

If we could turn machine operators into mental health professionals and pay for their services, unemployment would disappear.

Bob