

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Tragedy at Northern Illinois University

Yesterday's tragic shooting at Northern Illinois University has been widely covered in the news. My initial inclination was to limit this blog entry to express my horror over yesterday's violence and to express my sympathy to the shooting victims and their loved ones. However, as with the Virginia Tech tragedy, expecting that this incident will be used for many people to advocate tighter security at academic institutions and tighter gun control, I offer these brief thoughts: - The shooter apparently is dead. Therefore, this is the time to slow the train to judgment and action. There is time for the tragedy to be investigated, and hopefully the investigation will be skillful, professional, accurate, and without bias. - All human life is sacred, and we must act accordingly whether a tragedy victim is caught up in a mass murder or in an event that does not reach the headlines. - The American criminal justice system is overcriminalized. The most powerful way to reduce violence in society is for each person to reach out to others in need. Otherwise, rampant violence will continue, and convicting and jailing people for violent crimes will just be a band-aid that barely covers the wound, and that does little to prevent new wounds. Jon Katz.

Posted by Jon Katz in Jon's news & views at 19:45

The loss of one man is a loss for all men. Save one man and you save the world one person at a time. My sympathies for the families and friends of those who lost their lives so needlessly.

We are left asking ourselves if this man understood the nature and quality of what he was doing or if he had the ability to distinguish right from wrong.

The hope is that a psychological autopsy would be performed and perhaps some psychological insight would be uncovered.

Ariel Troncoso

Anonymous on Feb 22 2008, 18:02