8

Waiting for Wilberforce—Making Sense of and Coping with the Tragic and Senseless

Abstract: This chapter discusses school violence and shootings as messes from multiple perspectives. Indeed, they are integral “parts” of TEM. In particular, it discusses the general topic of school violence from each of the Jungian quadrants.

“it is both shocking and predictable that James Yeager, the C.E.O. of a Tennessee company that trains civilians in weapons and tactical skills, posted a video online Wednesday (since removed but still viewable at rawstory.com) saying he was going to start killing people if gun control efforts moved forward. He said...”

“I’m telling you that if that happens it’s going to spark a civil war, and I’ll be glad to fire the first shot. I’m not putting up with it. You shouldn’t put up with it. And I need all you patriots to start thinking about what you’re going to do, load your damn mags, make sure your rifle’s clean, pack a backpack with some food in it and get ready to fight.”

“Threatened by long-term declining participation in shooting events, the firearms industry has poured millions of dollars into a broad campaign to ensure its future by getting guns into the hands of more, and younger, children.”

“The industry’s strategies include giving firearms, ammunition and cash to youth groups; weakening state restrictions on hunting by young children; marketing an affordable military-style rifle for ‘junior shooters’ and sponsoring semiautomatic-handgun competitions for youths; and developing a target-shooting video game that promotes brand-name weapons, with links to the Web pages of their makers.”

Introduction

As we indicated in the Preface, as this book was nearing its completion, the tragic and senseless shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut occurred. As a result, we not only felt we had to say something about school safety and security, but that we would be seriously remiss if we didn’t.

But there is another important reason as well for treating school safety and security. Safety and security are not only integral parts of TEM, but they are major parts of it. As a result, they cannot be ignored. One cannot discuss TEM without discussing school safety and security at some point.

In addition, school safety and security constitute important messes in their own right. Thus, by discussing school safety, security, and violence,