 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
ACCOUNTABILITY
IN FERGUSON:
All mixed up!

By Stephen L. Bakke  November 28, 2014



Here's what provoked me:

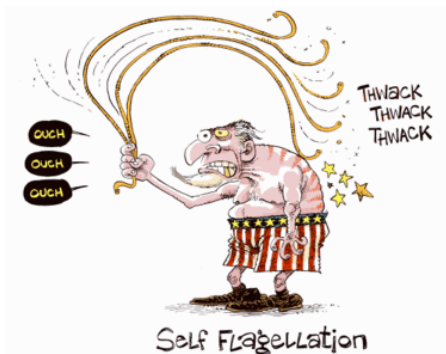
I read an opinion about the lack of accountability in Ferguson and felt that it completely missed the point. Following is my attempt at "redirect."

Here's my response:

Accountability in Ferguson: All mixed up!

Re: "Why it was inevitable that Ferguson officer walks free" – Opinion exchange, 11-26-14 – Author Jamelle Bouie offers some opinions:

- Protestors wanted justice, meaning accountability, for Officer Darren Wilson.
- The only acceptable accountability would be an indictment, and probably a conviction.
- Accountability wasn't achieved, according to Bouie.
- Our society doesn't give dignity and respect to people like Michael Brown.
- If there is no conviction, self-flagellation by Wilson would be required! **(I made that up!)**



I emphatically add:

- Officer Wilson's actions during this event were extensively examined by the Grand Jury.
- Wilson offered (unrequired) testimony to the Grand Jury.
- **This investigation easily fits the definition of "holding someone accountable."**

Regarding Michael Brown:

- He was an unarmed black teenager shot by a white policeman.

That's where most reports stop! I must add:

- Immediately before his death, Brown robbed a convenience store.
- After the officer recognized and confronted him, Brown attempted to take the officer's pistol.
- This resulted in two close-range shots inside the police cruiser.
- Brown ran away and then, burdened by the judgment impairing affects of marijuana, charged Wilson aggressively, thereby provoking the fatal shot.

In spite of the complete review of witnesses and evidence, many claim there still hasn't been accountability regarding Officer Wilson. Pundits like Bouie blame the problem on lack of dignity and respect for people like Brown. **I suggest the real problem for people like Brown might be that, sadly, THEY never have been held accountable.**