

Hypocrites and easy fixes

Publisher DAN HAMMES/St. Maries Gazette Record

There has been no shortage of lectures of late by people smarter than you and me about who should have guns and who shouldn't have guns.

If all those edicts of the Enlightened Ones had not been the result of such a horrific tragedy their ramblings might be comical. That is not the case.

But the hypocrisy should not pass unnoticed.

Rupert Murdoch, the CEO of News Corp., was one of the first to lead the charge. Shortly after the news of the massacre in Newton broke Mr. Murdoch lectured the millions of U.S. citizens who own guns but do not kill people about the sort of guns they should be allowed to own. The media magnate deduced that semi-automatic weapons are simply not necessary.

Which is odd.

Odd because Mr. Murdoch is such an important person he travels with bodyguards. Bodyguards who carry semi-automatic weapons.

Piers Morgan, who happens to work for a network that competes with Murdoch's, is also bewildered by the fact our government allows the common folk to own handguns. Mr. Morgan, being a really smart British guy, knows that is wrong. He knows that mere citizens – that is, people not nearly as important as celebrities like him – cannot be trusted with guns. The question arises whether Mr. Morgan, who remember now is very, very important, is ever provided protection or any sort of security.

Security that includes at least one person carrying a gun.

But it is David Gregory – another media star – who is the howitzer of hypocrisy when it comes to the gun-control debate of late.

Mr. Gregory mocked the leader of the National Rifle Association during a recent interview when the NRA chief espoused putting armed guards in schools. People can argue whether that is a good idea but nobody can deny that Mr. Gregory is less than sincere when it comes to lectures about gun control.

After disparaging the idea of having armed guards in public schools we learned that Mr. Gregory – who is rich and oh-so-very-important – sends his children to a private school.

A private school with 11 security personnel – presumably armed - on staff.

There is no shortage of examples of hypocrisy when it comes to the recent furor over guns. Whether it is Hollywood-types - many who employ armed guards - lecturing us about guns while making millions from movies filled with violence or members of Congress who spend their days surrounded by an army of security personnel.

Each who carries a gun.

But what may be most striking about the past few weeks is the animosity and vitriol directed towards the NRA. Not that the NRA deserves sympathy. The NRA is a monstrously prosperous lobbying outfit whose executives, like Hollywood stars, are grossly overpaid.

But, once again, the hypocrisy should not pass unnoticed.

More than a few media-types, whether directly or by insinuation, place the blame for the school massacres with the NRA. The thinking - if it can be called that - is when an insane maniac kills with guns it is the NRA's fault because they lobby for gun rights.

By that standard those same media stars would blame the Human Rights Campaign when the pervert raped a child in the Penn State locker room.

Of course that is preposterous.

The Human Rights Campaign, the largest gay-rights lobbying group in the country, is no more responsible when a slimy pervert rapes children than the NRA is when an insane maniac murders children.

The hypocrisy of those who want to make it harder for the rest of us to own guns, while surrounding themselves with people carrying guns, is outstripped only by their gullibility. Their mantra is that if only we had a few more laws then everything would be better.

Great, but why stop with a few gun laws?

Let's make it illegal to distribute and use meth. Let's make it illegal to drive drunk. Let's make it illegal to harm children or beat spouses. Let's make it illegal to be rude in public. Let's make reality TV shows illegal. Let's make it illegal for rich people who lecture us about global warming to fly on private jets.

Who knew this would be so easy? Add a few of your own and contact your legislator today!

DAN HAMMES is publisher of this newspaper.