

Gun Rights and Gun Wrongs

Written by Ed Baswell
Monday, 10 December 2012 13:11 -

Piers Morgan and Bob Costas Don't Get It



God bless Piers Morgan and Bob Costas. Heaven knows they try, but when it comes to guns, they just don't get it.

Morgan, a CNN host, displayed his ignorance of the American Constitution when he decided to stick up for NBC sportscaster Bob Costas and his gun control rant on "Sunday Night Football." Morgan said, via Twitter, "The 2nd Amendment was devised with muskets in mind, not high-powered handguns & assault rifles. Fact."

I always love it when someone seeks to make colossal ignorance look like colossal wisdom by putting the word "fact" at the end of a statement. The problem is, in the age of Social Media, there always seems to be someone out there who is smarter than the colossally ignorant.

Author Carol Roth responded to Morgan by pointing out that the Second Amendment "was devised for people to be able to protect themselves with the same type of weaponry used by those from whom they might need protection."

Morgan answered Roth, and in doing so, set himself up for a Twitter beating of epic proportions. Morgan tweeted, "Where exactly does it say that in the Constitution—must have missed it?" Roth skewered Morgan with, "Right next to the word 'muskets.'"

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For the record, this is what the Second Amendment says: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

Morgan’s argument fits right in with those who are constantly harping about a “living Constitution.” They say the authors of the Bill of Rights could not possibly have anticipated what the modern world would look like, so the words and ideas found in the Constitution are outdated and largely irrelevant.

The Second Amendment is often the target of this tired argument. On the other hand, admirers of the Constitution counter that the wisdom of the document continues to endure, even in a world the Founders could have scarcely imagined.

For eighteen hours, Morgan struggled to find an answer for Roth. Finally, he came up with, “Does it authorize individual ownership of tanks, Uzis, and nukes?” Roth had an answer for that one, too. “You had 18 hours to think about it, and this is your comeback?”

But, gun-control zealots think Morgan is right on target. They like to argue from the absurd. “If you believe private citizens should not own nuclear weapons, surely you will not object when we ban semi-automatic handguns,” they say. Their argument is very similar to the argument used by people who say our only choices are between the bloated, insolvent, super-regulatory insanity of Barack Obama or anarchy in the streets.

It wasn’t long before Morgan resorted to whining that it was “amusing to see the pro-gun lobby furiously denouncing my First Amendment rights to free speech over my opinion of the Second Amendment’s meaning.” This is another tired tactic used by liberals when they meet opposition. Make the argument all about free speech when no one is seeking to limit free speech. Morgan believes calls for his dismissal were an attempt to shut him up.

Once more, Piers, the First Amendment does not guarantee you an audience. It does not guarantee employment. It does not shield you from criticism. Freedom of response is not taken away when someone RESPONDS to free speech. Indeed, to insist that “free speech” requires the muzzling of critics is, in itself, an offense against the freedom of expression. Even if CNN were to fire Morgan, he could still sound off about the Second Amendment.

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A week ago Sunday night, Costas quoted from a column by Kansas City-based writer Jason Whitlock who opined about the murder of Kasandra Perkins by her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher: “If Jovan Belcher didn’t possess a gun, he and Kasandra Perkins would both be alive today.” After murdering Perkins with a gun, the 25-year-old killed himself with a gun.

Fact. The gun was not a necessary instrument for Belcher’s murder of Perkins. He could have used a knife. Or, he could have used his bare hands to strangle her. Or, he could have poisoned her. Or, he could have waited for her in the parking lot and driven over her with his car.

Fact. Without a gun, Belcher could have stabbed himself to death. Or, he could have slashed his wrists and bled to death. Or, he could have jumped off a tall building or a bridge. He had plenty of suicide options without a gun.

The stupidity of Whitlock’s statement and Bob’s repeat of it tells you just how far gun-banners will venture out into “la-la land” to try to make their case.

“If Jovan Belcher didn’t possess a gun, he and Kasandra Perkins would both be alive today” is an absurd statement. Whitlock and Costas could not be more wrong. Belcher’s gun was the instrument of his violence, not the cause. Beyond that, does Costas honestly think a person would have any trouble securing a firearm on the black market if guns were somehow outlawed?

The gun control fanatics want you to believe there is a National Rifle Association army out there, armed to the teeth and just waiting to shoot someone who cranks their radio up too loud. They want you to believe most legal firearms owners are itching to turn every trivial dispute into a gun battle.

Decades of hard data speak otherwise.

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It was not only WHAT Costas said that was problematical, it was also the time he picked to say what he said that was problematical. It is doubtful professional football fans, even the anti-gun viewers, were interested in hearing a sportscaster offer his unsolicited opinion on firearms at halftime.

Instead, they probably wanted to hear Bob's take on what had transpired in the first half, since he is, after all, a sportscaster. It is also interesting to note that Costas offered his opinion in a forum where he could lecture an unsuspecting and "captive" audience and there was no rebuttal after his "sermon."

The bottom line here is that the Second Amendment has been and is under ferocious attack from the Left. Liberals are looking for a chance to pull off another Big Government power grab like they did with Obamacare. There is a chance that will happen during Obama's second term.

With that in mind, for the first time in my life, I own a handgun.

Ed Baswell is the host of "Crossfire Radio," Monday through Friday, 7-9 am, on The Promise, 90.7 FM. The show is streamed live at promisetalkradio.org.