

Monday, March 20, 1995

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Gun control: police chiefs' welcome crusade or fallacy?

I applaud your effort to bring some sanity to a discussion that has been too long clouded with distorted claims ("Top cops say guns are out of control," Opinion Page, March 13). I also applaud the police chiefs, with whom I do not always agree, for taking a stand on this issue. Certainly they have much to gain from fewer guns on the streets.

What also should be highlighted is that we all have much to gain from fewer guns in our homes.

Most gun deaths occur from people using the weapons on themselves or someone they know. In 1992 nationwide firearms killed more people in unintentional shootings and suicides than homicides. This fact is too often left out of the debate.

One child wounded by gunfire costs on average \$14,000 in medical care alone. Taxpayers pay 80 percent of the almost \$3 billion spent annually on medical and emergency services for gunshot victims, according to the General Accounting Office.

Really, haven't we had enough? I for one am willing to listen to some ideas about changing this. I thank the police chiefs for offering theirs.

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