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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Alcohol is a factor in violence

The shooting of Marco Moore, the Oakland teen who was retrieving a basketball from a neighbor's yard, illustrates the main ingredients that make violence likely and deadly.

Too much alcohol, too many guns and too much fear are once again the backdrop of a horrible tragedy. Take any of the three out of the equation and the likelihood of deadly violence will be reduced; and an Oakland teen-ager would probably still be alive.

Recent events have kept the issue of guns and the need to control their availability in the headlines. However, the role of alcohol in violence should not be underestimated.

Research now clearly shows that one-half to two-thirds of all serious assaults and homicides are alcohol-related. Increases in alcohol consumption are directly related to an increase in crime and violence. To prevent violence and death, we must reduce the availability of alcohol as well as guns. Preventing violence by developing policies so there is less alcohol, fewer guns, more education, prevention and family support programs may seem a more difficult approach than shooting people or locking people up. But consider the alternative.

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