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Letters

Domestic violence deserves community effort

It's a sad commentary that Philadelphia police recorded 68,000 domestic-disturbance calls and 3,200 domestic-violence-related crimes during a 12-month period in 2002. Perhaps more distressing is that it took the deaths of eight women this summer to instigate the creation of a task force to provide advice on overhauling the system serving abuse victims. ("Domestic violence task force to form," Sept. 23.)

Domestic violence is a serious, and often deadly, problem that affects women from all walks of life in countries throughout the world. After all the attention that has been focused on this problem during the last 30 years, it's hard to believe that a big city such as Philadelphia is so ill-equipped to deal with the effects of it.

Those of us in the volunteer sector who work on domestic-violence issues can help to fill in the gaps. However, we need to join together, as a society, to solve the intractable problems surrounding domestic violence, including: distorted beliefs about and the objectification of women; unemployment and poverty; lack of education; substance abuse; and inadequate legal representation. Only then will domestic violence and its devastating consequences cease to be a problem.

Leigh Wintz

Executive director

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Information still sought

I was very interested to read the commentary by Glenn D. Porter regarding the Isabel-related Main Line blackout ("Blackout in the suburbs was Harrisburg's fault, not Isabel's," Metro Commentary Page, Sept. 25). I completely concur with Porter's assessment that the real news story was the slow response and lack of communication by Peco Energy Co. This event struck me as a colossal failure of both planning and execution by the utility. Isabel must have been the most-anticipated storm of the past decade, and (fortunately) it turned out to be much less severe than originally thought. Yet Peco still seemed completely overwhelmed by the situation. My family and I sat in the dark for 36 hours, and later found that we were among the lucky ones.

I read the Inquirer very carefully Sept. 20 while sitting next to a window in my darkened house. I was looking for information about what happened and when we could expect to regain our electricity. Instead, I found quotes from various officials saying how minor the storm was, and how little damage was done. If this was the case, Peco certainly has some explaining to do.

Ken Colwell

Wayne

Ken_Colwell@yahoo.com

It's not Rendell's fault

To blame Gov. Rendell for the electric failure caused by the recent hurricane is about as far out as I can imagine ("Blackout in the suburbs was Harrisburg's fault, not Isabel's," Metro Commentary Page, Sept. 25). Doesn't writer Glenn Porter realize the deregulation of the electric companies came under the former administrations of either Ridge or Thornburg, both of whom were Republican?

I don't recall Rendell's campaign mentioning reversing this action. Rendell has been governor for less than a year, and even if he was for such an action, it could never occur in such a short time.

Alfred E. Shaw Jr.

Wayne

Hoping board gives up

Radnor school board director Judy Sherry has it right: The current lame-duck school board is bent on pushing through an agenda rejected by voters 2-1 in an effort to enshrine the values of Paul Yakulis and his Radnor First group.

Hopefully, this unwanted 11th-hour scheme to change long-established board policy protecting the rights of the minority and public will end, like their efforts to move the middle school, in failure and shame.

John F. Haines Sr.

St. Davids



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