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DIALOGUE

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150-word limit. Writers must include home address and day and evening phone number.

ISSUE | BREAST CANCER

Direct aid

With the national observance of breast cancer awareness this month, I suggest nonprofit cancer organizations such as the Susan G. Komen Foundation, American Cancer Society, and others consider putting aside a portion of their donations to help support individuals while they are sick with expenses such as rent, mortgages, utilities, and food.

I've known several women recently diagnosed with breast cancer who have been treated and are recovering. If they work, disability pay only goes so far and does not kick in right away. Not everyone has savings for a rainy day, especially after the Great Recession.

Research is important, obviously, but the healing and peace of mind that can be given to anyone affected by any kind of cancer by knowing they may have some help for their basic needs is just as important.

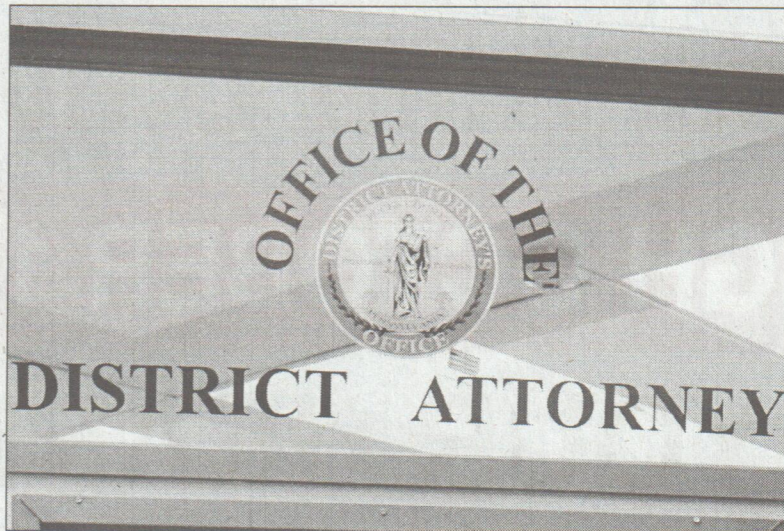
✉ **Stephanie Miller**, Glassboro

ISSUE | WAR COVERAGE

Fair coverage

Now that the allied bombing of ISIS has reached full swing, I wonder whether the media will provide us with a regular tally of civilian deaths and injuries from the bombing, or even estimates, as was so diligently done in the recent Gaza war.

✉ **Dave Olim**, Ambler



Transom over the door to the prosecutor's office in the Bucks County Courthouse in Doylestown. File

ISSUE | HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Care, not cuffs, for victims of illegal trade

While we applaud Bucks County prosecutors for recognizing that many women and girls caught up in prostitution are victims of sex trafficking, we object to the office's policy of arresting and prosecuting these victims ("How a Philadelphia-area teenager was lured into the hidden world of sex trafficking," Oct. 4).

The practice of arresting, prosecuting, and imprisoning victims of human trafficking is not only counterproductive. It violates U.S. obligations under international human rights law. In a recent review of U.S. compliance with international human rights obligations, the U.N. Human Rights Council expressed concern regarding the continued criminalization of victims of sex trafficking in many jurisdictions and urged us to "take all appropriate measures to prevent the criminalization of victims of sex trafficking."

We must either pass safe-harbor laws to prevent the criminalization of victims or demand that local police and prosecutors exercise discretion by declining to arrest victims of trafficking.

The temporary safety that arrest and imprisonment provide, which Bucks County Assistant District Attorney Chelsey Jackman cites as a reason to favor her office's policy, is not adequate to justify victims' continued criminalization. These women and girls deserve better than a temporary solution in which they are treated as criminals. They deserve a support system to help them escape toxic situations.

Given Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler's laudable recognition that many of those being prostituted are victims, we urge him to revise his policies and stop treating them as criminals.

✉ **Michelle M. Dempsey**, professor; **Shea M. Rhodes**, adjunct professor; and **Amanda Travers**, student extern, Villanova University School of Law, Villanova

ISSUE | GUN VIOLENCE

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Tom dum about

By Phil Goldsmith

I must admit that I have been sleepwalking through the gubernatorial campaign between Republican Gov. Corbett and Democratic challenger Tom Wolf. Up to now, I have been the same old, same old Corbett stokes fear about tax increases, and Wolf surrounded by his children, wife, and mother-in-law as if he is running the Father of Pennsylvania not its chief executive.

But I was jolted out of my slumber when I read that Wolf supports the abolition of the School Reform Commission (SRC) and wants to replace it with an elected school board. Now that got my blood moving. Most dumb ideas do. And this one is a doozy.

Either Wolf is just coming up to union leaders or he is naïve about the way of Philadelphia. Or, more likely, both.

Whether the SRC should continue is a legitimate issue. It was born out of p

