Dealing with disasters and children

How do you deal with your children's questions about last week's terrorist attacks in Washington, New York and the plane crash in Pennsylvania?

The Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society says that parents can minimize the traumatic effects.

They say first and foremost, be available to children and be able to discuss what happened.

They also say:

-- Talk to children about their fears and let them express their fears openly and freely. Be honest with them.

-- Reassure your love and protection.

-- Also reassure them that you will take care of yourself. They fear the loss of a parent keenly.

-- Tell them there are professionals to take care of people.

-- Limit their exposure to news coverage.

-- Get back to family routines.

-- Talk about ways you and your family can help.

Events, like those of last week, have long-term effects on children.

Parents should look for clinging behavior, persistent fears, loss of sleep and bedwetting, jumpiness, atypical behavior problems, physical problems, and withdrawal.

If these problems develop, consult a doctor right away.

Comedian is set to appear

Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer will perform Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Old Main Georgian Room at Kutztown University. The event is free and open to the public. Donations will be collected for the university's gay, lesbian and bisexual scholarship fund.

She has performed on Comedy Central, Evening at the Improv, Caroline's Comedy Hour and Politically Incorrect.

For more information, contact the university women's center at 610-683-4655.

Enrollment skyrockets

Montgomery County Community College has reported the highest enrollment in the 37-year history of the college.

With 9,660 students as of Sept. 12, it has surpassed the 1992 enrollment of 9, 411.

Art Goon, director of enrollment, said community colleges usually see an increase when the economy drops. He also notes the increase may be from adults trying to better their employment situation.

"To that end, we have made our courses more accessible to working adults.

MCCC also brings courses to the workplace.

Cars of all shapes and sizes were at the Udder Gang's car show last weekend. The "Gang" raises money to help others. The Bechtelsville event drew a huge number of cars and trucks and the people who love them.

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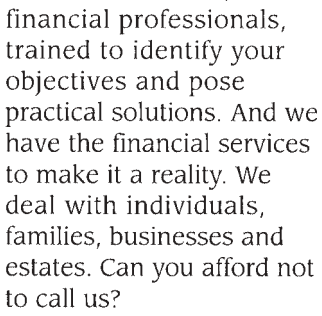

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