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Sue Ryan, who detected a cancerous lump in her breast two years ago, educates the public about her illness through photo exhibits and her poetry. In addition to the lump being surgically removed, doctors weren't able to save Ryan's nipple due to the location of the 1 1/2-inch tumor.

## Healing: Breast cancer survivor exhibits photos of her experience

Continued from Page 1A  
breast cancer, and that's why I did the exhibit — to personalize it," Ryan said. "There are so many women hiding under turbans, wigs and scarves, so you don't see how many women actually have breast cancer."

Most of the pictures show Ryan almost bald from the chemotherapy. She said this is a realistic way to show the general public that she had breast cancer.

"I can't show everyone my breast, but I can show them [that I had breast cancer] through not hiding under a scarf," she said.

One picture, however, does show her right breast, which had the nipple removed because a 1 1/2-inch lump was directly beneath it.

Along with creating awareness about breast cancer, Ryan said she hopes the exhibit and her poetry encourages younger

women to become familiar with their bodies so they are able to detect any abnormalities that may form later.

Although it is rare for women under the age of 35 to develop breast cancer, the American Cancer Society encourages young women to begin doing breast self-exams each month from age 20.

Self-exams help women become familiar with their "lumps and bumps," said Dr. Colleen Jones, a nurse practitioner in the Women's Clinic at the Student Health Center.

Many young women become alarmed if they find a lump, she said.

"Breasts are not smooth — they respond to hormones and caffeine along with other things," Jones said. "If you are familiar with your own 'landscape', you'll recognize when there is a

change."

In her second year as a breast cancer survivor, Ryan is quick to say — perhaps reminding herself — that only 40 percent of the women who develop the advanced stage of inflammatory breast cancer are alive in five years. If they make it past five years, the odds of the cancer returning are slim, she said.

While she wakes every morning fearing the cancer has returned, Ryan said she's not discouraged by the medical statistics. She is working on a documentary about her survival with another woman in Eugene, and also has been approached to show the photo exhibit in California. And she never stops writing.

"Before the cancer, I was just sort of alive. Now I'm motivated," she said. "I feel I've been given a second chance."

## Committee puts student health concerns first

**HEALTH CARE:** Student Health Advisory Committee works to improve students' health coverage

By Amy Columbo  
Student Activities Editor

It was the work of the last year's Student Health Advisory Committee that makes it possible for the student health center to offer cheaper, less painful chlamydia screening for males this year.

The nine member student committee also works throughout the year to select student health insurance, recommend an annual budget for the Student Health Center and advocate to better serve students.

"The idea is that we want to have input from students," said

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, director of the student health center. He is a non-voting member of the committee, along with four other University staff members, who give students information and advice during the weekly meetings.

Fleischli said the committee worked to obtain a \$2,500 grant last year from the Pacific Coast College Health Association. The money allows the health center to offer a new kind of chlamydia screening for males.

The health center had offered a chlamydia test in the past, but Fleischli said it was not utilized. The new test is cheaper, at \$19.65, and not as discomforting, he said.

The committee also administers a health survey in the spring to see if the health center is meeting the needs of University

students. Of the more than 400 students who were randomly sampled last year during a telephone survey, half said they would be interested in taking a class about basic health.

As a result of the survey, the class was offered this fall, but student response was not as strong.

"We offered it, but only one person signed up. We think something went wrong in publicizing it," said Fleischli.

The class is set to be offered again this winter.

The nine student committee members have yet to be recommended by the ASUO Executive. Students can still apply for the yearly volunteer seats through the ASUO office.

"It's a chance to see how the health system works," said Fleischli.