

## Breast cancer does not discriminate



By Kara Thomas  
FORUM EDITOR

According to Susan G. Komen, 450 men will die of breast cancer in 2011. My stepfather was one of them.

In the endless parade of pink ribbons, pink feather boas, pink tutus and tatas, my stepfather and the other 449 men are forgotten. Or in the case of women's-only breast cancer events, such as the Women's Only 5k Walk and Run held Oct. 1 in Greensboro, they are intentionally excluded.

If breast cancer does not discriminate, why do we?

Yes, Susan G. Komen predicts that roughly 288,130 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year while only 2,140 men are expected to receive the same diagnosis.

The difference between those diagnosis rates is astounding. But the number of sufferers should never discredit the suffering of each

person.

Here is another astounding figure: based on Susan G. Komen's 2011 predictions, the mortality rate for men with breast cancer will be roughly 22 percent, whereas women will only face a 13 percent mortality rate.

That more than deserves some "Save the Pecs" bumper stickers and respect.

Throughout my stepfather's illness he wore a pair of pink, flowery flip-flops around the house. Half of that was a joke on Susan G. Komen and the other 2,139 men in his shoes. The other half of it was a need to feel connected, to feel like he was not the only one going through it.

At a time in a person's life when they are their most vulnerable, scared and in need of support, Susan G. Komen and other breast cancer organizers far too often exclude men to the effect of ignoring their suffering and almost denying their cancer.

If you are okay with that, then by all means, sign up for the next Women's Only 5k Walk and Run.

But I am not.

So I am stopping just short of making "Save the Pecs" bumper stickers, and instead I am growing a mo'.

By mo', I mean a moustache.

And by growing one, I mean I am supporting the efforts of Movember, a global movement to raise money and awareness for men's health, specifically cancers that affect men.

Right on the tail of October, which is breast cancer awareness month, Movember asks men — Mo' Bros — and the women that support them — Mo' Sistas — to spend November raising awareness for all the illnesses that affect men.

That includes breast cancer.

I am not saying that one month or organization is better than another. Both strive to raise awareness and money, as well as lending support to sufferers.

But I am saying that, while my stepfather will never get to walk with the survivors at a Race for the Cure, will the 1,690 men that are expected to beat breast cancer this year feel welcomed enough to do it?

Will the brothers and sons and husbands who have lost a woman to breast cancer feel welcome enough in the breast cancer community to seek support?

I cannot speak for them. But I can speak for my stepfather when I say that I would rather have a mo' than a feather boa any day.

And Party City sells stick-on 'staches for \$4.99, so no one needs to feel excluded.

## The 99 percent defends our home



By Sarah Welch  
STAFF WRITER

You could hear the roar of the crowd blocks away.

Festival Park in downtown Greensboro was teeming with signs of protest, people and an atmosphere of community created by the participants of Occupy Greensboro.

"I believe in creating economic, racial, gender and social justice," said John St. Louis, a junior at Guilford, when asked why hir (gender neutral pronoun) was part of the Occupation. "And I don't believe the current system is set up to create those."

Brandon Sampson, a participant in the Occupation, strongly believes that people need to be concerned with the unbalanced state of our society. And like so many participants, he wants people to comprehend their power to ignite change.

Some think the protesters are unsolicitedly voicing their discontent with the wealthy.

The protesters are not necessarily angry with wealthy individuals. They are upset that our current system allows and supports a sliver of people becoming wealthy, while poverty still flourishes.

This is not the wealthy vs. the poor. This is the people vs. the system. The wealthy and the poor are both supporting the movement.

"A lot of Guilford students and people in this country do not have access to the same wealth and money I've had," said St. Louis.

Contrary to negative stereotypes of protesters, the participants of Occupy Greensboro are peacefully demonstrating their dissatisfaction with the inequalities that exist today.

"They are taking action," said Rosie Butchart, an observer of the Occupation. "They aren't just sitting around complaining."

The environment at Festival Park was not one filled with hatred and chaos. It was composed of people uniting to support their desires for changes in our society.

St. Louis explained that the issues being protested are not new. We have been wanting human equality for ages.

Instead of individually promoting the need for change, people are uniting to fight for their rights. The familiar "99 percent" slogan embodies the diversity of the Occupation. This is a movement that spans ethnic groups, families and ages.

We have seen the people in New York who wear crazy costumes, and the protesters who have decided against showering.

The fashion police may disagree, but Occupation Greensboro did not look like a Halloween party, and it did not smell like a reenactment of Woodstock.

I bet most of the Occupy movements are similar.

The majority of participants are not trying to enrage people. They are trying to get people off their butts.

Discrimination exists in our society. The American economic system is unfair to the majority of its citizens and people are collectively voicing their frustrations.

Bobby Pacheco, a sophomore, said, "Wall Street has lawyers to defend them, Main Street has us."

Occupancy Greensboro is an organization that is evolving.

"They have a lot of room to grow, and that's a really great thing," said St. Louis.

Contributing to this growth is important to the supporters of the movement. The Occupation does not have all the answers, but it is asking the questions.

## CAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

### Small parties bad for big parties



By Isaac Cook  
STAFF WRITER

With the campaigns of the major parties garnering the majority of media attention, it would be a surprise that anyone reading this article would have been aware of the little guys off in the background.

There is so much more to our government than just Republicans and Democrats, and the sooner we as a nation acknowledge this, the closer we are to a better tomorrow. It is time to shine the spotlight down stage to the little guys.

Sure, everyone has heard of the Green Party, maybe even the Constitution and Libertarian parties. But have you ever heard of the Prohibition Party, who have their candidates Jack Fellure and Toby Davis running for the 2012 election? Or how about the America's Independent Party, the American Independent Party, and the Independent American Party?

Wait, what? Okay, that just can not be serious. This has to be a joke.

Someone thought it would be funny to make up a few fake political parties just for the sake of an obscure "Monty Python" reference. Oh sure, it may seem like it is all in good fun.

But will you be laughing when election time comes around, and these fake parties take votes away from the real third parties and this nation is left with another Nader-less White House? Will you?

It is incredibly silly behavior like this that makes a mockery of our great na- what? Oh, it seems apologies are in order.

The three parties in question are in fact real, valid third party groups. The American Independent Party has been an active party for nearly fifty years now. And the other two, while smaller and younger, still hold ballot spots within multiple states regularly.

Well, you fooled me. All joking aside, folks, the mass of third parties building out there in the country is seeing to it that everyone has a political platform they agree with.

And do not take this the wrong way, but it is good for the country to have so many independent viewpoints speaking out.

However, there is a problem with this political spread. With every little party that forms, more people divert themselves away from supporting front-running candidates to vote for a small write-in.

It may not seem like much when a few districts here and there vote for the small party candidate, but history has shown what can happen when a third-party candidate has the clout to back himself up.

When Teddy Roosevelt formed the Progressive (Bull Moose) party in order to take back the White House from Taft, he split the Republican party in half, leaving the way open for Woodrow Wilson.

While this particular case turned out for the better, there may come a time when a similar situation creates the real-life equivalent of Emperor Palpatine. And, although I highly doubt that Dick Cheney is ever going to actually run for president, the thought of it happening is still rather frightening.