

GETTING A BREAST of the SITUATION

Cancer fundraiser turns chest casts into artwork

By PETER JONES

I'm not going to lie. It hurt.

In fairness, I was only the second man to submit my bosom to a cast for Breasts of Colorado so the complication of chest hair had presumably not been much of an issue before. (No offense to Englewood Mayor Randy Penn.)

The process is a bit like a "papier mache" art project, though more intrusive and less likely to produce Easter Bunnies. One by one, Englewood's Eileen Baranosky and Rosemarie Cabral layered my chest with warm gooey strips.

That was the easy part. Taking the cast off was another matter.

Next time, I'll be requesting a truckload of baby oil, a bottle of painkillers, two bottles of vodka and a plate of bite-size bullet appetizers.

Those who saw that scene in *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* will get the idea.

But anyway, better people have experienced worse pain for shoddier reasons.

I was there to lend my "man boobs" for the cause of breast cancer – a disease for which men constitute about 2,000 cases a year in the United States or about 1 percent of U.S. breast cancer diagnoses overall.

This is the second year that the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce has organized Breasts of Colorado, for which anyone with a bosom may submit himself or herself to a casting, which is later adorned by a local artist.

This year, I was drafted – and in turn, I drafted my friend, Centennial's Becky-joi Smith (aka Green Venom from the tough-as-nails Rocky Mountain Roller girls).

"I was thrilled to be asked to participate in this event," she told me.



Putting it on was the easy part. *Villager* reporter Peter Jones goes under the casting. An artist will soon render the breast replica as art in a benefit for Sense of Security, a local organization that assists breast cancer survivors. Donations to the organization can be sent in care of *The Villager*.

Photo by Becky-joi Smith

"The casting was both intriguing and humbling at the same time. Both my grandfather and my namesake have gone through breast cancer, so the issue is near and dear to my heart."

I thought Venom might knock me to the floor with her hardened skates after I somehow innocently (and very semi-accidentally) volunteered her breasts. But she was trooper and even let me take photos of her casting for the newspaper. (Well, I was asked to leave the room at certain points in the process.)

We were each asked to pay \$50 each – a detail that was somehow omitted from the initial sales pitch. It's an ante. The idea is for each breast model to raise funds totaling at least \$250 through friends, associates, family, social networking circles, blackmail, etc.

The money will go to Sense of Security, a Denver-based nonprofit that assists breast-cancer patients

with their living expenses while they endure the often grueling and time-consuming treatment, healing and survival process.

Last year, Penn and radio DJ Jo Meyers were among the 40 victims – err, models – who raised more than \$10,000 for the cause.

At press time, the chamber was still seeking volunteers for this year's fundraiser. Anyone interested can call Cabral at 303-795-8240. Your gender and city of residence are unimportant.

Tom Munds, a reporter for Colorado Community Media, was among the other 2013 participants.

Baranosky got the idea for Breasts of Colorado several years ago after she came across a similar benefit in California.

"I thought this would be a great thing to do in Englewood," she said. "We chose Sense of Security because it's one of the only local breast

cancer charities."


An art show with all the breast casts is scheduled for Sept. 19.

Any *Villager* readers who would like to support the breast cast of yours truly should send a check



Mountain climbing was the theme of artist Jan Zielinski's representation of Amanda Moore's breasts in last year's Breasts of Colorado.

File photo

Support  'Breasts of Colorado'

To sponsor Peter Jones's breast-cast art, please send a check made out to Sense of Security to the following address:

Breasts of Colorado
c/o The Villager
8933 E. Union Ave. Suite 230
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Please write the words "Breasts of Colorado" on the check memo

For more information about Sense of Security, visit www.senseofsecurity.org



Eileen Baranosky and Rosemarie Cabral of the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce cast the breasts of Becky-joi Smith (Green Venom of the Rocky Mountain Roller Girls). The green-eyed derby player is hoping for a greenish superhero motif when her cast is turned into art. Smith is raising donations on her Facebook page.

Photo by Peter Jones