

Instructor dies of cancer

By **Michael McLarty**
Spectrum Editor

Part-time English instructor Sally Farris died of ovarian cancer Apr. 30 at 6:10 p.m. in a Santee convalescent hospital. She was 42. Farris had been an instructor at Grossmont College from 1982 until 1992 when her illness became too severe.

Farris was first diagnosed with ovarian cancer in January of 1990. She underwent chemotherapy and was also administered other more extensive forms of treatment in-

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Farris: posted many accomplishments

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cluding an experimental new drug called Taxol.

Due in part to her exposure in The San Diego Union where she wrote about her disease, Farris began to receive inquiries from readers who were interesting in sending her donations. Rather than have the money sent to her, she asked that any money be directed toward Vietnam veteran-related causes.

"As a teacher, she was enthusiastic about students, didn't rely on textbooks to direct her class, and liked teaching students," said English Department Chairperson Homer Lusk.

Lusk said that Farris made it a point to use her office hours to meet students and that her bubbly enthusiasm was reciprocated by her students who picked up on her genuine interest in their education.

One program she was involved in was Project Success, which focuses on students with low academic skills who have a lower chance of success in a college environment.

"Most of the full-time faculty aren't here a month before the semester (which is when Project

mester (which is when Project Success starts), but she was always there to volunteer her time with no pay. Even later when she was pressed for time and had to rearrange her schedule, she was there making a difference as far as keeping students in college," Lusk said.

She was also involved in helping homeless people find a place to stay, according to Lusk.

Farris posted many accomplishments, including the Courage Award for her writing and her spirit

by the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. She graduated with two English degrees from U.C. Irvine.

Lusk said she had a really good mind, was curious, and always well prepared for her classes.

"She was most proud of her long hair, and of course it was the first thing to go after her chemotherapy. She hated to wear wigs, but did and had a good sense of humor about it. Her personality was great, people liked being around her, and she had a good heart," Lusk added. Farris is survived by sons Shawn, 20, and Bryan, 13.