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people



TALK OF OUR TOWN

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PERSONAL BOMBSHELL

Miami publicist **Pat San Pedro**, one of six women who wrote the "Miami Bombshells" book *Dish & Tell*, is recuperating from surgery. Breast cancer.

San Pedro, 52, whose mother **Daisy** died of breast cancer at 59, is diligent about getting checked. Her October mammogram was normal. But days before her April 9 ultrasound, she felt a lump in her right breast — and it hurt. "A lot of people said, 'If it hurts, don't worry about it,'" San Pedro says. "Not true." The ultrasound showed a tumor. Dr.

Vilma Biaggi, the radiologist, did a needle biopsy. Malignant.

The tumor is small and the cancer hasn't spread, San Pedro says. She discussed options, including a lumpectomy, with Dr. **Robert DerHagopian**, a breast cancer surgeon. "One of the most important things is to educate yourself," says San Pedro, a former Miami Herald VP of community relations and onetime American Airlines spokeswoman.



SAN PEDRO

She decided on a double mastectomy. DerHagopian and Dr. **Deirdre Marshall**, a plastic surgeon who specializes in breast reconstruction, operated on May 17.

"I need a year of treatment — six months of chemotherapy, followed by another medication, Herceptin." She begins chemo on Monday. She'll shave her head and donate her long auburn hair to the nonprofit Locks of Love. "I have two short wigs. I'm going to get one or two long ones and try new styles."

Her friends are documenting every step on video. "We've already shot nine hours," says **Tammi Leader Fuller**, a TV producer and *Dish & Tell* co-author.

San Pedro, once a TV producer herself, wants to make a documentary DVD to show breast cancer patients what to expect. "Fear is reduced if you know what you're facing."

Her battle will become part of a "Bombshells" musical that premieres Jan. 14 at Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables. "We have a choice in how we deal with difficult news," San Pedro says. "We can either crawl under a rock and despair, or we can choose to turn it into a gift, something to benefit others."