

GROUP

Continued from Page 1

advocating for the rights of the mentally ill.

The Clearinghouse on Human Rights and Psychiatry held a memorial candlelight vigil for Jang Tuesday outside the psychiatric unit where she died after being held and drugged against her will.

About 25 community members, nine of whom identified themselves as "psychiatric survivors," attended the gathering. They formed a circle and talked about their experiences as and with mentally ill patients, who had been incarcerated and

drugged.

"Several years ago we held a protest in front of this unit, warning that their use of heavy forced drugging would one day result in a death," said David Oaks, Clearinghouse coordinator.

Although Oaks believes drugs contributed to or caused Jang's death, an autopsy report attributed it to natural causes.

Jang had been diagnosed with "bi-polar affective disorder," otherwise known as manic depression. While in LCPH, she was administered a "chemical cocktail" of three powerful psychiatric drugs — Haldol, Lithium, and Restoril, Oaks

said.

This fact, along with the circumstances that brought Jang to LCPH, was confirmed in the Lane County Medical Examiner's report and by Al Levine, supervisor of emergency services for Lane County Mental Health.

Haldol, the most potent of the three drugs Jang received, is a major tranquilizer known as a neuroleptic, meaning "nerve seizing" drug. According to the 1991 *Physician's Desk Reference*, Haldol should be administered cautiously and may have adverse effects on the heart. In rare cases, the PDR states, Haldol has been associ-

ated with sudden death.

However, an autopsy by the Lane County Medical Examiner reported the cause of death as "mania" and the nature of death as "natural." The autopsy report also listed moderately severe heart disease as a significant condition.

Levine admitted that cases of death caused by mental disorders are rare. However, he said, extreme fear from psychosis could have caused a heart attack.

According to the autopsy report, while in the hospital, Jang was taking five milligrams of Haldol three times a day, 450 milligrams of Lithium twice a

day, and 15 milligrams as needed.

Levine said these were "maintenance level" dosages. He also said Jang had been on the medications before, ruling out the possibility of a fatally allergic reaction.

"There are better, less dangerous ways to help people," Oaks said. "We demand that this case be reopened. We demand that better alternatives be available."

Sei Il Cho, a longtime friend of Jang's and fellow church member, said she does not know what is right or wrong in terms of psychiatric treatment. However, Cho said, "If they treated her wrong, they have to correct it."

BRIEFS

Athletic funding

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education is expected to reach a decision on the issue of intercollegiate athletic funding at its Nov. 15 meeting. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room.

"At our Sept. 27 meeting, the Board decided to delay a decision on intercollegiate athletic funding until we had engaged Oregonians in a dialogue," said Board President George Richardson, Jr. in a press release.

"Since then, the board has reviewed numerous letters and phone calls from citizens, and has held three public hearings regarding athletic funding," he said. "Now it is time for us to make a decision."

The issue before the board involves a deficit produced by the sports programs at the University, Oregon State and Portland State. Since 1981, the three schools have tried to fully fund their programs out of gate receipts and donations, resulting in total deficit of \$6 million.

MacDonald named

Eugene city councilor Randy MacDonald has been named director of legislative and community relations for the University.

MacDonald, who represents Ward 1 (South Eugene), formerly served as an intern and then legislative assistant to state Sen. Larry Hill during the 1987-91 legislative sessions.

The director of legislative and community relations plans and oversees University relations with the state Legislature and directs programs that develop links between the University and community leaders and organizations.

Duties include acting as University liaison to the Oregon State System of Higher Education's legislative advisory team, monitoring state legislative actions, tracking bills, and planning and coordinating individual state legislators' visits to campus.

Brodie Remington, University vice president for public affairs and development, said in a press release he was pleased to appoint MacDonald because of "the quality and breadth of his legislative experience, his broad community ties as a non-partisan local elected official and his background in public relations and management."

MacDonald is a 1990 University graduate, and holds a bachelor of arts degree with honors in political science and a minor in philosophy. In his student days, he chaired the 1986-87 ASUO Student Senate.

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