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Miller: Friends recall colorful personality

Continued from page 1

adding that what his brother really cared about was making the world a better place.

"Once he got onto something, he was pretty single-minded about it. He was pretty relentless," Bob Miller said.

"(Bruce Miller and his father) became the first two salesmen of Nike shoes," Bob Miller said.

"He saw things that people didn't see," Bob Miller said. "That's why he annoyed people."

Because of his persistence, Bruce Miller had been kicked out or barred from several campus areas.

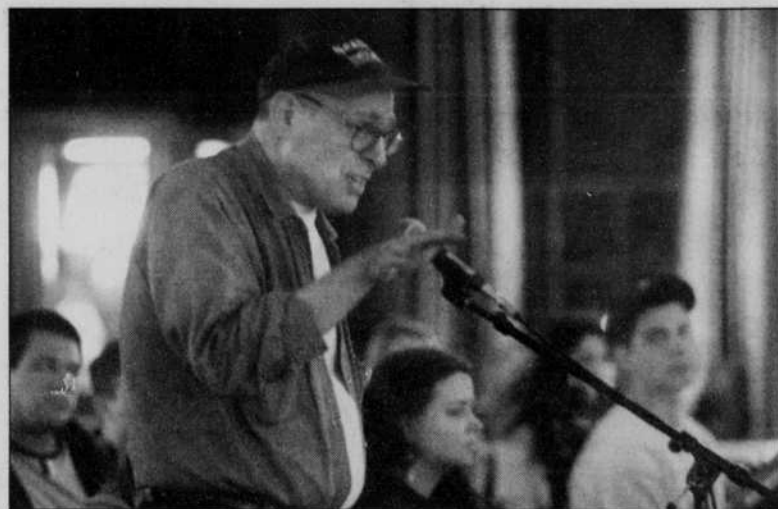
Department of Public Safety Lieutenant Herb Horner said he can remember Miller getting kicked off campus after he harassed people in the ASUO and Greek Life offices. Miller appealed the decision to then-DPS Director Tom Fitzpatrick, who voided the trespass order on the understanding that Miller would be respectful to other people and not interrupt public meetings.

"We got calls from a lot of different groups about him, even the law school," Horner said. "I think he finally got it after that time he got trespassed."

PFC Chairwoman Persis Pohowalla said Miller "wasn't a big pain at my meetings," but she had been at prior meetings when Miller was very vocal and even a "nuisance."

"Most of the time, it's just unnecessary, irrelevant comments," Pohowalla said. "I will admit that he had his very rare, rare moments when he said something useful."

Oregon Commentator Editor in Chief Tyler Graf, who Miller frequently visited at the journal's office, said his biggest memory of Miller is when Miller stood outside of a Student Senate meeting last year screaming at then-Senate President Ben Strawn, calling him incompetent. Strawn was upset because Miller had contacted Strawn's mother and told her that her son was incompetent, Graf said.



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce Miller asks the panel of ASUO Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees questions during the ASUO debates earlier this month.

"At first Bruce just seemed odd, because what 60-year-old man pays attention to student government? But deep down I think he was just a generally nice guy who wanted (student leaders) to take responsibility for their actions because he knew they were going to be our future leaders," Graf said.

Strawn said his strongest memory of Miller was when he approached his mother while she was on campus helping Strawn campaign for ASUO president and told her that Strawn was "mean, spiteful and immature." His mother told Miller to take a hike, Strawn said.

That memory was probably not the most representative of the man, Strawn said, adding that Miller was "always pushing you to do a better job than what you were doing."

Hight said at times Miller did have helpful suggestions, once he finished making excessive points.

"It was kind of like getting through the static," Hight said, adding that one of his good ideas was to get parents more involved in lobbying efforts.

Kathy Viscarra, of the Campus Copy

Center, met Miller when he came to make copies of his newsletter.

"He was quite willing to express his point of view," she said. "You either liked Bruce, or you didn't like Bruce."

Miller was also very active at the community level. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy said Miller regularly attended city council meetings, monitored city issues and frequently exhorted the city council to take action.

"He cared about our community and urged us all to be careful in safeguarding our natural resources and zealous in protecting the rights of the most vulnerable," she said in an e-mail to the Emerald. "He could be a pretty loud voice on occasion and even a challenge to deal with at times, but he gave his best to us and we will miss him."

Students leaders also expressed how different meetings will be without Miller.

"He will be missed for his consistency," Hight said. "He was more dedicated than most of the student body."

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