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Miller: Friends recall constant involvement

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about the country embarking on different ventures.

"He went to New York to study to be a rabbi, but we knew it probably wouldn't work out because he didn't speak Yiddish," his youngest brother, Gordon Miller, said. "He had a pretty tough life, but he would rebound somehow. Where some people would give up, he didn't."

Miller graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree in economics, spent one year in law school and served in the Marine Corps for four months before being discharged, Gordon Miller said.

Guests talked about Miller's unending quest for the truth, his overflowing arsenal of ideas and the way he cared so deeply about the students at the University.

"He was an information hound. He would have been perfect working for the CIA because he could absorb and track information just relentlessly," longtime friend Brian Kenny said.

Former ASUO Constitution Court Chief Justice Randy Derrick said things won't be the same on campus without Miller. Derrick enjoyed reading the manifestos Miller was known to write on his old manual typewriter and distribute among select groups of students and other community members.

"One of the good things about him was that he would just say what was on his mind," Derrick said. "He had a lot of really good ideas. Some of them were solid. There was a reason to listen to him."

Derrick recalled having many "spirited discussions" with Miller. "Next year, (students) will come in who don't know him, but they'll know about him from people who have known him in the past. There



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Left to right: Bruce Miller's brother Gordon Miller, sister Barb Hershberg, and close friend Eleanor Kenny clean up after Miller's memorial.

will be stories about him. He will live on," Derrick said.

Friend and fellow community activist Betsy Steffensen said her fondest memory of Miller was when he arranged for a group of University students to march at Autzen Stadium during football games to protest the war.

"He had a degree of mental difficulty; he was challenged, but he did always challenge himself," Steffensen said. "He would go and find out about what was happening, whether it was at the University, where he spent a lot of his time, or a political issue."

She said he'd take his opinions and ideas to city council meetings, City Club meetings, the Democratic Party and University student government.

"He thought that Mike Bellotti was managing the football team so well that, by God, he should be the city manager," Steffensen said.

Kenny described Miller as a true humanitarian. "He was really

moved by the tsunami and he thought the University should be more involved with the relief efforts because they have lots of international students," he said.

Not only was Miller interested in how the University spent student money, but he also thought a lot about downtown Eugene.

"He knew more about downtown business than the downtown businesspeople did," Kenny said.

In a book provided for friends to write their last words to Miller, CJ Mann thanked Miller for his "energy and excitement about politics and life." She said Miller would rarely be seen without a bunch of articles and papers, always passing out copies and always wanting to share his information with others.

Miller was a man who wanted to live life "below the radar," Kenny said. "His life philosophy was like the Jewish phrase 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'"

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Genocide: Randall says hatred threatens values

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chaos and death where there had been a secular government amidst a fundamentalist regime, a society with excellent public education and health, and a position of women that was progressive for the Middle East."

She added that there is solid evidence the CIA has been directly involved in torture sessions from Central America to the Middle East.

Randall said it is her belief that all groups of people must be included in the struggle for a just society, and if they are not, it paves the way for the marginalization that makes genocide possible.

"Muslims, whose history is ripe with oppression and marginalization, are today engaged in some of the worst acts of violence against others," Randall said. "Genocide is happening now in Sudan."

Randall also claims that domestic violence against women and

children by someone more powerful is directly related to the "invasion or occupation of a small country by someone more powerful."

She said three things can be learned from the failures of 20th century revolutionists: Everyone counts, social inequities are reflected in the home, community and world, and future activists must find ways to ensure that power is distributed among all people and exercised fairly.

"When (democracy) becomes nothing more than majority rule and that majority turns out to be a powerful minority, then an analysis of representation may be overdue," Randall said.

With hatred of "the other" becoming a virtue in the United States, Randall said people should "hold onto and teach values of true honesty, thoughtfulness, intellectual curiosity, fairness, inclusion, respect and solidarity."

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KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Margaret Randall, a feminist writer and long-time activist, gives a keynote address in the EMU Ballroom on Friday evening. The title of Randall's lecture was "We Don't Mean You ... Well Yes We Do" and was based on a quote by a Lutheran minister.

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