Activist gagged for drug fact leak in Lilly case

By KINDBERD ASHBY Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — A city man who co-founded a mental health advocacy group is among those drug giant Eli Lilly has sued in an attempt to stop the release of information about Zyprexa, a controversial antipsychotic drug.

Will Ball, a member of the Freedom Center in Hadley — a group often critical of the pharmaceutical industry and that also offers support and healing for those suffering from mental illness — has been named in the suit.

The lawsuit, which was filed last week, seeks to prevent the release of any information about Zyprexa, its effects and the company's marketing and sales practices.

In the suit, the company is seeking to prevent the publication of any information about Zyprexa that would be considered by the court to be "confidential" under the terms of the court order.

Ball, who has been a vocal critic of the pharmaceutical industry, says he is not surprised by the lawsuit.

"I've been involved in this for a long time," Ball said. "I've been fighting against the drug industry for years, and I've seen this happen before."