

Leaving it behind

I have been very saddened to hear the viewpoints expressed in three recent articles regarding the Promise Keepers. I am a registered Promise Keeper and also serve as a "PK" key man for my church.

In light of the erroneous opinions expressed by some members of the campus community, I am left with only two viable conclusions: These individuals either have not adequately educated themselves on the Promise Keepers message, or they are going on the highly prejudicial assumption that if this event is only for Christian men, it must be bad.

I certainly hope it is the former, because the latter would seem awfully hypocritical.

Our society has become full of men who just don't get it. They don't want to be responsible for anything. Marriages, children and parents all get pushed to the side for their own selfish desires.

I myself have had no contact with my father in more than 15 years because he didn't want to take on the responsibilities.

Our society's children are being raised without the benefit of a positive male role model in their lives. They grow up with "Rambo" and "Die Hard" movies shaping their ideas of what a man should be. As a result of this lackadaisical attitude and the cultural stereotype that has been passed down through the generations, society is left with the viewpoint that men don't feel, men don't cry, men don't touch and men don't care.

These are the stereotypes that Promise Keepers is trying to tear down.

We need to put an end to this false assumption that being the leader of your home means waiving down some dictatorial edict that your family must submit to. It means that you are

leading by example and by serving your family.

Being a Promise Keeper means that if your three-year-old daughter wants you to play dolls with her, you put down your newspaper and pick up a Barbie.

It means that you view your wife, mother or any other woman in no other way but honorably. It means you view racial, denominational or any other form of discrimination as nothing more glamorous than what it is — sin.

To those of you who choose to stage a protest in August, I wish you would keep one thing in mind.

Yes, there probably will be some men carrying a lot of stereotypical garbage into the stadium.

However, it is the hope and prayer of Promise Keepers that they will leave those kinds of attitudes behind when they go home.

Paul Blancher
Facilities Services

Performance praise

Having handled publicity for the University during a 1978 NCAA track meet, I appreciate and value the great event it is — deserving of the great amount of attention it gets.

Against that background, I had my eyes opened the week of this year's championship meet when I went to another student event attended by a mere fraction of the number of people who that same evening were at Hayward Field.

While the crowd at the Daugherty Theatre in Gerlinger Annex was only about 200, the student performance had the same creativity and skill I have long appreciated at top levels of intercollegiate sports.

The students of dance I watched that evening deserve praise for their performances, which were as physically demanding as they were artistically brilliant, not unlike that of

fine athletes at Hayward.

Bill Dellinger and Tom Heinonen deserve praise for having their men and women Ducks rank annually among the nation's best in track. Professor Lisa Arkin and her fellow dance coaches merit credit for bringing out parallel skills in their students, even though only a few may be aware of them.

George Beres
Eugene

A wonderful person

For the past eight years Marlene Drescher, Director of the Office of Student Advocacy, has been at the forefront of student representation and empowerment.

Unfortunately, not many students know of her or the work she does because she is so busy battling it out with campus administrators.

She has continuously been willing to push the administration to accept student initiatives to improve the campus culture as well as defending students' rights in student conduct cases.

Most importantly, Drescher has been there for the students who needed her the most — students who have been ill-treated by someone on campus.

She has time and time again helped students heal after the most painful of experiences while demanding that the institution as a whole change to stop further improprieties by faculty or staff toward students.

So before we leave for the year we would just like to thank the woman who has helped every student on this campus without need or desire of recognition.

Marlene, you and the Office of Student Advocacy are the best. We hope the students of this campus take notice of the wonderful person they have working for them and defending their rights.

Jennifer Williamson
former ASUO president
Bill Washburn
former ASUO University
Affairs Coordinator

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