





## Course: Media's role significant

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past, and the debate has carried into this year's conferences.

"In regards to Promise Keepers, people from women's movements show concern and challenge what is being taught," said Dave Halbert, prayer coordinator for the Eugene conference. "What we teach is based solely on scriptures and God's design for men and women.'

The Promise Keepers' teachings are focused toward balance in relationships with women, Halbert said.

"We want men to understand how to fully love their wife," he said. "How to honor, respect and cherish.

"From my experience, women sometimes get more out of it than men do," said Rev. Larry Whittlesey, a Eugene pastor and local event manager for the Promise

Halbert explained that what is taught is the ability to recognize the uniqueness between men and women, and even though it's a men's movement, it is not isolating women or trying to be exclusive.

"It's a men's conference," said Whittlesey. "There are no restrictions at all. However, the focus is toward men.

Promise Keeper officials have been open to having Goldman and Kintz' class attend the conference, Goldman said.

According to Whittlesey, Promise Keepers do not directly mention political issues in conferences and readings.

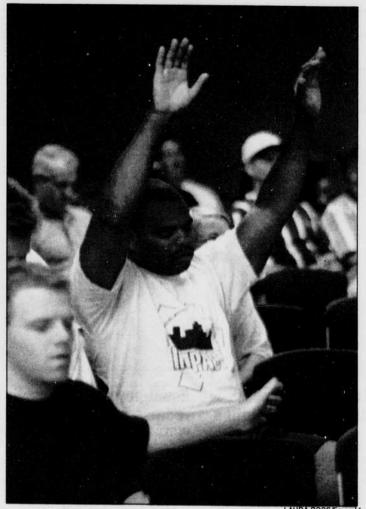
"[Promise Keepers] are a strong group of conservative-minded citizens," Whittlesey said. "Nothing political is coming from the organization as a whole.

Although many issues have risen from the Promise Keeper movement, those who are adamantly opposed have never really listened to the message, Whittlesey said.

The class on the men's organization will take into account that most people get their information about the Promise Keepers' message from the media, Goldman

Promise Keepers truly are emanating political messages, she explained.

"By focusing on the organization itself, people don't realize it's reflecting deeper concerns," Goldman said.



A special "Commissioning Service" was held for volunteers on Tuesday evening in the Casanova Center.

## **Men:** Planners see event as uplifting and creative

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that the focus is evangelism.

"Having a totally free conference makes it hard to plan for," said Rev. Larry Whittlesey, a Eugene pastor and local event manager for the Promise Keepers. "However, the purpose of the conference is to help men of integrity become better husbands, citizens, employees and churchgoers - basically what they're doing in their lives.

'[Our focus] is to reach out to men who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and God," Halbert said. "Whatever barriers exist between men and their relationship with God, we want to break them down.'

On-site preparations for the conference began July 25.

"It's a bustle of activity," Whittlesey said. "Lots of things are go-

Prayer opportunities have been offered throughout the week. These opportunities include

prayer marches around Autzen Stadium, reading of the entire Bible by volunteers and praying for every single seat in the stadium.

"The significance of this is to make prayer a practical and meaningful experience," Halbert said.

The conference will include speakers from all over the country, as well as religious music groups.

"The goal of Promise Keeper conferences is to develop a sense of complete acceptance, a sense of opportunity to release ourselves to understand and grow in the things we are being taught," Halbert said.

"It's an uplifting thing," Whit-tlesey said. "It encourages men to do what they are supposed to do."

As part of the prearrangements for the conference, the University will be receiving a new "port-a-floor," toward which Promise Keepers donated \$30,000. This hard plastic floor will cover and protect the Autzen playing sur-

