

Keillor raises Humphrey cash in N.Y.

By Mike Meyers
New York Correspondent

New York, N.Y. A few blocks from Times Square, about 1,000 New Yorkers and expatriate Minnesotans sang hymns, heard words of longing for the Land of Lakes and paid \$50 to \$150 apiece to indulge in sentimental tales about a Midwest that probably never was.

Monday night, Garrison Keillor once again had overcome his shyness and was center stage — on Broadway.

The goal of the one-night appearance at the Ritz Theater was to raise about \$40,000 for the U.S. Senate campaign of Hubert Humphrey III, but Keillor also admitted to a selfish motive.

During one of the lulls that befit his heavy-lidded, soft-spoken cadence, he put his hands in the pockets of his tuxedo and stared at the audience for several seconds.

"I will stand here and let you look at me," Keillor said.

"Since I have left the radio business, I have sometimes enjoyed more privacy than I perhaps wanted."

He packed the theater and got money from some fans who wouldn't vote for Humphrey even if they lived in Minnesota. A Humphrey aide said one New Yorker who bought a ticket described herself as a "dyed-in-the-wool Republican" who was willing to donate to a Democrat as the price of admission to see Keillor.

Keillor sauntered through a recitation of the things he misses most about Minnesota.

He told of walking aimlessly along the streets of Manhattan, pausing only occasionally to imagine what his shoes were sticking to on the sidewalks, in search of a Lunds market.

From time to time Keillor's thoughts turned to politics, as he glanced up at a box occupied by Humphrey and



Associated Press

Garrison Keillor joined Lee Humphrey on Monday during a fund-raiser for her husband, Hubert Humphrey III.

members of his family.

How, he asked, did Minnesota elect two conservative Republicans as U.S. senators?

"It's kind of like having two odd brothers-in-law who keep coming around and they don't quite belong. They try too hard to say, 'Yep.'"

Yes, but-how do they get elected?

"The mistakes of Democrats would make a wonderful book," Keillor said. "They fight like peasants over common ordinary details — about who gets how much."

Meanwhile, Republican candidates hire advertising directors and portray themselves as handsome knights atop white horses, with rainbows glisten-

ing in the background, he said.

Keillor said the voters look at Democrats kicking up dust and Republicans on their white steeds, and image wins over substance.

Keillor said he was inspired by the Humphrey clan in his childhood, when he saw the senior Humphrey talk at a fair.

A local man named "Spud" drove Humphrey to the fairgrounds and later complained that Humphrey never could pass himself off as a Norwegian. On the way to the car, Humphrey said more than a Norwegian would say in the 3½-mile drive to the fairgrounds.

But young Keillor said he was impressed by the passion and compas-

sion of Humphrey, implying that his son will carry on the legacy.

"He cried out against injustice and the cruelties of the world," Keillor said. "He gave people more hope than some heard in church."

Through the evening, for all his sentimental tributes to Minnesota, Keillor didn't hint that he'd like to return. For one thing, he said, he doesn't miss the weather — particularly at this time of year, when skies are gray, the weather stays cold and the last snowfall may be a month or more ahead.

"March is a terrible month in Minnesota," he said. "God designed it to show people who don't drink what a hangover is like."