

Keillor broadcasts from Mark Twain House

HARTFORD (AP) — Humorist Garrison Keillor broadcast his radio show live Saturday night from the Mark Twain House, in honor of one of the heroes of American humor, a person he described as "a beautifully funny and kind and terrible man."

The two-hour presentation of "Garrison Keillor's American Radio Company," set in the historic 19th-century brick house where Mark Twain wrote such American classics as "Huckleberry Finn" and "Life on the Mississippi," focused on Twain's humor and consisted largely of readings from his work.

"In the end, what is permanent and interesting about Mark Twain is that he was funny. That's the whole message of this show," Keillor said.

Throughout the show, Keillor described in loving detail the objects he found around him in the house where Twain and his family lived for 17 years — a house whose architecture he called "sort of Victorian gothic with a little bit of cuckoo clock thrown in."

Between readings of Twain's writing, the show featured live performances of such music as spirituals, which Keillor said were Twain's favorite songs, and the work of Wagner, whose music Keillor said Twain loathed.

"It's good to shake up a memorial," Keillor said of his short visit to the house.

As he and fellow humorist Roy Blount Jr. recited some of Twain's

best one-liners such as "Good breeding consists of concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person," and

"Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow," Keillor repeatedly spoke of his own debt to Twain.

Aetna grant called a conflict

HARTFORD (AP) — A \$45,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation to the state court system presents a conflict of interest because the related insurance giant is a "special interest" with much business pending in the courts, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association charged this week.

The grant, intended to pay for a program to educate judges on ways of settling cases without costly trials, will be announced Monday.

The lawyers' group said it is concerned about the possible advantage Aetna could gain.

"The Aetna represents a special interest. Its \$45,000 grant is perceived as a lobbying effort on its behalf and on behalf of the insurance industry," said New Haven lawyer William F. Gallagher, president of the trial lawyers association, in a letter to Supreme Court Chief Justice Ellen A. Peters.

Obituary