


Things couldn't have gone better for WKSU (89.7-FM) last weekend when the Kent public radio station brought Garrison Keillor to town for a 40th anniversary fund-raiser.

Although WKSU officials are still crunching the numbers, Development Director Al Bartholet said Friday morning that he expects to clear about \$30,000 from Keillor's show at the sold-out Akron Civic Theatre. (The Orrville-based J.M. Smucker Co. underwrote Keillor's trip, kicking in an estimated \$15,000.)

In addition to all that cold, hard cash, the station also collected a publicity bonanza that included two Page One stories and an Enjoy! cover in the Beacon Journal.

Overkill? Maybe. But it's not often that a national broadcast of any kind originates from Akron. So . . . perhaps we can justify one last Keillor tale.

Because Keillor tinkers with



**Bob
Dyer**

his *American Radio Company* program right up until the 6 p.m. Saturday broadcast, his assistants are accustomed to asking for emergency help. Such was the case last week.

About 36 hours before air-time, Keillor's folks told the Civic Theatre that Keillor needed sheet music for *The Ohio Polka*.

It was not a matter of running to the nearest record store. In an attempt to find the obscure song, Civic volunteer Ron Syroid contacted music teachers, university professors and publishing companies, and "nobody had even heard of the thing," he said.

Then he really got desperate. He called Stan Piatt at talk station WNIR (100.1-FM).

On Saturday morning, Mr. Beneficent put out the word to his listeners. One of them suggested contacting polka king Frankie Yankovich. That sounded logical to Syroid, and after a long series of calls, he was able to locate Yankovich at his vacation retreat in Florida. Yankovich promptly faxed the music to Keillor.

By now you've probably guessed the ending: When show time arrived, Keillor decided he didn't want to use *The Ohio Polka* after all.

■

If you're into alternative music, your radio options will be about nil during the holidays.

As usual, WAPS (89.1-FM) — the Akron Public Schools' station that offers the most adventurous rock programming around — will pull the plug during the Christmas break. WAPS will leave the