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Radio waves

NEWS FROM UP AND DOWN THE DIAL
□ CHARLOTTE BALCOMB LANE

Garrison Keillor gave 2nd show at reception

Faithful listeners of WMFE-FM (90.7) were treated to a hometown performance of Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* even if they didn't get to attend last week's sold-out performance at Carr Performing Arts Centre. The show was broadcast at the regular 6 p.m. time slot last Saturday and repeated the next day.

After the live show, major donors, sponsors and station volunteers were treated to a second performance by the lanky, bespectacled Keillor at a 300-person private reception at the Expo Centre across the street.

"He must have signed autographs for an hour," said Dale Spear, vice president for programming at the public radio station. "He has this rule that he never turns down an autograph, so he just kept plugging away."

Keillor also gave a speech and answered questions from fans, including the big one on the minds of Lake Wobegon junkies: When are you coming back?

Not for another three years at least, Keillor said. He and his large radio ensemble only do about four traveling shows a year. Spear said WMFE-FM had tried to woo *A Prairie Home Companion* here for years.

Keillor may not perform officially but unofficially he's a regular in O'do. Grace and John, Keillor's parents, don't live in mythical Lake Wobegon but in Central Florida and are real-life contributors to WMFE-FM.

"We support the public radio stations both here and in Minnesota," explained the elder Mrs. Keillor.

The performance probably earned about \$2,500 for the station," said JaWanda Thacker, WMFE promotions coordinator.

among the schmoozers but as the rule in radio goes: "You'll have to tune in to find out."

'Stardust' fans love WHOO's new format

Dial hoppers in the 45-and-older age range have been free with their praise of the new "stardust" format at **WHOO-AM (990)**. Since December, when the station began playing the likes of Frank Sinatra, Perry Como and Barbra Streisand, with a smattering of Glenn Miller and Neil Diamond, the station has been avalanched with fan mail.

"There was a tremendous void in the Orlando market when it came to meeting the needs of the mature market," said Sharon Aranda, the station's marketing manager.

The first day after the switch, the station received 32 letters of approval.

Occasionally, I'll try to answer questions from readers about the weightier issues in radio. Here's the first one.

QUESTION: What can I do about the foul language and profanity I hear on the radio?

S.R.
MINNEOLA

ANSWER: Unfortunately, not much, unless you have a tape recorder handy and the bad words are uttered between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., when there is a reasonable chance that children will be in the audience. Language that contains sexual or excretory references is not considered obscene and is merely offensive. However, if you want to document a complaint for investigation by the Federal Communications Commission, tape the program or transcribe significant portions of it. Include the date, time and call letters of the radio station and send the whole thing to the FCC's Media Bureau, Enforcement Division