

Keillor 'comes out' for Clausing

By Matt Pommer
The Capital Times

MENOMONIE — A Wisconsin political fund-raiser hit a stunning high here Wednesday in what humorist Garrison Keillor called "sort of a coming out."

Keillor "came out" as he confessed to moving from Minnesota to Wisconsin four years ago.

"I've been in denial ever since," he said at a fund-raiser that attracted more than 300 people to the century-old Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater here.

His popular public radio show "The Prairie Home Companion" is set in the mythical town of Lake Wobegon, Minn.

His performance Wednesday also was a "coming out" as he for the first time used his humor and story-telling talents to help a politician.

He had a serious message, mixed in music, and held the audience on the edge of its seat for 90 minutes.

"It's the best fund-raiser I've ever been at," said state Rep. Shirley Krug, D-Milwaukee, a veteran of two decades of political wars.

The \$100-per-head performance raised more than \$30,000 for state Sen. Alice Clausing, D-Menomonie, the top Republican target in the November election. Keillor lauded Clausing. "Alice believes regardless of all the complaints made about our public schools they are crucial American institutions and we will live or die by them — one way or another," he said.

Keillor, who lives in Clausing's district, added, "We cannot afford to go our own way. Schools are a basic part of the American faith."

He also praised Clausing's for clean water and being against a

Dem incumbent is GOP target

major airport a few miles from Wisconsin.

"Alice Clausing is a fighter," he said.

Then he broadened his sights. "We are all liberal in a sense that we're not willing to be a country where an army of poor people go begging on the streets and homeless people sleep under bridges," he said.

"We're all conservative in the sense we realize our public institutions are fragile. Society is fragile, and we have to shore up these institutions."

"We can't expect them to deliver more than they are able, and we have to be loyal. They are in a constant process of decay and deterioration. They are never fixed (constant) in time. They have to be renewed in every generation," he added.

As part of the performance, Keillor sang "Frankie and Johnnie," two verses of "How Great Thou Art," and "God Bless America."

Former state Rep. Harvey

Marquette ads target enrollment

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Marquette University, trying to reverse enrollment declines, is launching an ad campaign targeting southeastern Wisconsin and the Fox Valley.

John Hopkins, Marquette vice president, said broadcast and newspaper advertisements will run today through Nov. 15 and be aimed at high school seniors and their parents at a time when they are considering what college to attend.

Marquette's enrollment of about 10,400 students is down from 10,600 a year ago, continuing a downward trend. The university's freshman enrollment of 1,430 is down from 1,616 last year, a drop of 12 percent. The number of freshmen is down 30 percent from 1988.

ture has it in for us. Nature will make several serious attempts to kill us.

"We will be rewarded for surviving it with the Lutheran month of March — the month God designed to show people who don't drink what a hangover is like," he said to continued laughter.

He also said Midwesterners know there is a relationship between cold and intelligence. Adding, after more laughter, that no one is exactly sure of what the relationship is.



Garrison Keillor



Alice Clausing

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