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Garrison Keillor will bring his live radio show to Louisville next Sunday.

Guy Noir, writer's block and Fox TV

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wit to Louisville

WORLD LEADER WIRE SERVICES

Lake Wobegon comes to Louisville next weekend when Garrison Keillor and *A Prairie Home Companion* — *The Rhubarb Bear* stops at the Palace on Aug. 31 (the show is sold out).

An interviewer caught up with Keillor recently before he left out in the Scriptures — and so our resistance saved us from fustions, as it so often does.

Question: How has Lake Wobegon coped with the recent power outage and the heat wave?

Answer: The outage didn't hit the rural Midwest because we're on a different electrical grid. The East and West coasts are on ACDC and we don't approve of that — we're on the BCAD system as laid out in the Scriptures — and so our resistance saved us from fustions, as it so often does.

Q: Guy Noir's bubble-head doll is quite possibly the best one ever made. Has it caused even more beautiful women to seek his investigative skills?

A: If beautiful women have been seeking Guy Noir, they must've stopped some distance away and took a look and decided to seek help elsewhere. This happens after you hit your 60s.

Q: What is the show's longest-running bit and character? Is there one that tour audiences seem to love best?

A: Guy Noir has been going for about 10 years and people always clap when they hear Rich Dworsky play the Guy Noir theme song.

"He's smooth and he's cool, and slick with a gun, a master of the hoodoo!" and they seem to enjoy it as the story opens, in the cluttered office on the 12th floor of the Acme Building, and the beautiful babe walks in, her jeans so tight you can read the embroidery on her underwear — it says "Lands' End." People seem to accept this pretty well.

Q: Your new novel, *Love Me*, is about a Minnesota writer who finally finds success only to suffer a case of writer's block. How do you combat writer's block in writing books, short stories and radio scripts?

A: Writer's block is what you get if you're trying to be Frost. You sit and stare at the wall, and nothing will come. Once you come to your senses and accept who you are, then there's no problem. I'm not Frost. I'm a late-middle-aged, mid-list fair-to-middling writer, and it gives me a lot of pleasure.

Q: The *New Yorker's* late, legendary editor William Shawn shows up in *Love Me*, but the character is almost a complete opposite of the real-life Shawn. Do you agree with book reviewers who say Shawn probably would have delighted in his fictional persona?

A: Mr. Shawn put his mark on every piece of writing that went into *The New Yorker*, so he put marks on my stuff for about 15 years, and I was in awe of him. He wrote in pencil, in a small precise hand, and clarity and accuracy were his great passion. I simply feel that, after all the small mean stories told about him, he deserved something gorgeous, so I made him into a combination of Knute Rockne, Ernest Hemingway and Sherman's Sammy Sneed.

Q: What's your take on the lawsuit filed by the Fox News Channel against fellow Minnesotan and writer Al Franken over his book *Lies, and the Long Lars Who Told Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right?*

A: It's a cheap lawsuit, brought by an enormous corporation to harass an individual writer, and it's ridiculous on the face of it, to imagine that you can copyright the concept of "fair and balanced." And the notion of Fox News as being anything like fair and balanced is a joke to anybody who lives in this country and understands English. Al Franken is going to make Fox look even more ridiculous than they do now. Fox is a big fat man lumbering around, breaking the crockery trying to hit a mosquito.