Keillor struggles to keep to keep revived 'Prairie Home' fires burning

By Noel Holston Staff Writer

Garrison Keillor revived "A Prairie Home Companion" Saturday night, but that's not to say he resuscitated the show.

His first radio outing under the "Prairie Home" banner in more than six years was marked by a curiously low energy level. Maybe Keillor was tired, but he didn't seem as happy to be here as he said he was. The audience at St. Paul's World Theater was oddly subdued, too.

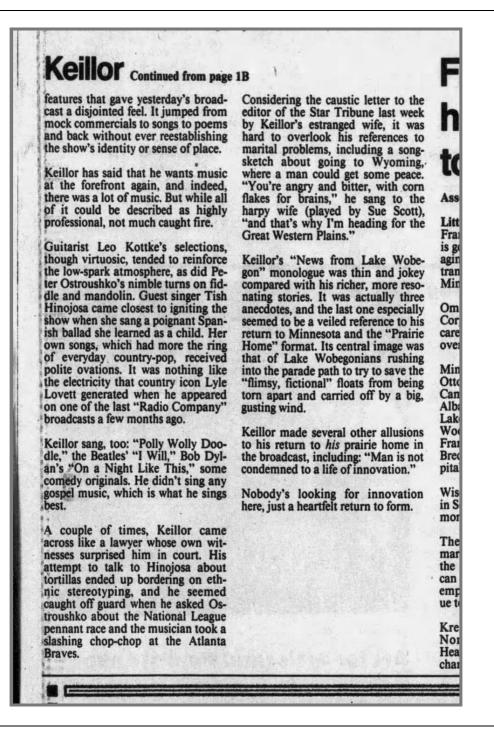
I really thought there would be spontaneous applause when Keillor said the words "A Prairie Home Companion" the first time — or later, when he announced that it had been "a quiet week in Lake Wobegon." Maybe folks were trying to be polite, so as not to disturb the rhythm of the show that was being broadcast live, but they were very quiet.

Not that there was that much rhythm to disturb.

Filling two hours of airtime without some of the longer recurring features of "American Radio Company," Keillor's program of the past four years, meant using lots of smaller

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