## THEATER REVIEW In Garrison Keillor's Book, Guys Are Free to Be Dumb

By RICHARD STAYTON SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Garrison Keillor is a guy's guy, and proud of it.

Sunday night on the last stop of a 20-city tour, the humorist from Lake Wobegon paced UCLA's Royce Hall like a minister preaching sermons. In a deep Johnny Cash voice, he sang duets like hymns with Kate MacKenzie, accompanied by pianist Richard Dworsky (both from Keillor's nationally syndicated radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion"). Wearing a tuxedo, with red bow tie and red socks, the 6-foot-2-inch author quoted parables from "The Book of Guys," his latest collection of comic sketches.

Keillor's sermon had a moral: "Being male—once one of the world's great genders—is now a problem to be overcome.... We're expected to be vulnerable ... to participate in recreational weeping."

But guys can't. "Guys know nothing about girls except they want one—desperately. We were brought up to adore women—by our mothers. . . . Men can be taught monogamy as bears can be taught to ride bicycles, but it's not natural."

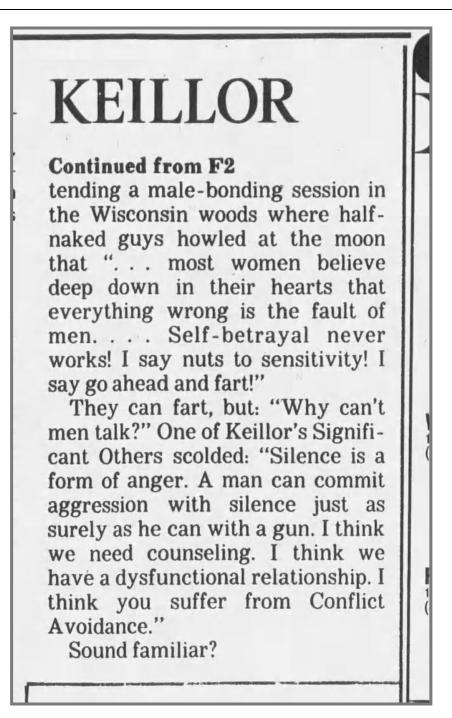
Keillor offered a solution: "Girls do it better. Women have to take over the world and do it quickly, so guys can be guys again."

And what does being a guy mean? The freedom to be "spectacularly dumb."

Keillor gently mocked the men's movement. He recalled at-Please see KEILLOR, F6

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