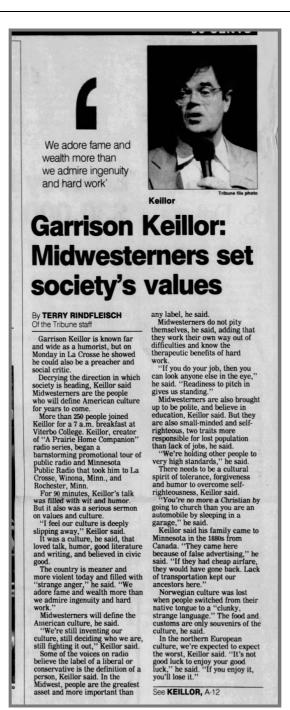
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Keillor said his mother never left the house without seeing in her mind the house bursting into flames. If you tell a farmer he has a nice-looking crop, the farmer usually replies, "To you, it does," or "It looks pretty good now, but just wait," he said.

New Yorkers talk about people from the Midwest in a patronizing way, Keillor said. In New York, when he says he's from Minnesota, he gets a strange look from people.

"They are searching the hard drive," he said. "They know it's cold here."

Keillor said he tells them it gets so cold for five months that spit sounds like a handful of dimes dropping. Midwesterners usually tell New Yorkers that the Midwest is a good place to bring up children, he said.

"We need places where we can live," he said.

The only disadvantage of living in Minnesota, Keillor said, is that two or three times a year nature makes a serious attempt to kill its residents. And the month of March, he said, was designed by God "to show people who don't drink what a hangover is like."