

NEWS

Roundabout cont.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the peace tree that was honored at the conclusion of this year's Nobel Peace Prize Forum is difficult to miss.

It is this roundabout, in fact, that gained a spotlight in the chronicle of the parking shortage. On Nov. 21, students were notified via email from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) that parking in the roundabout would not be allowed in order to comply with state laws; since the open-

ing of the roundabout, the edges of it have been used for parking spots—a precious commodity around Augsburg.

This new ruling is to be compliant with Minnesota State Statute 169.34, as stated by the email. “[N]o vehicles may park in the roundabout or crosswalk areas at 21st Ave S and 7th St S.” The message from DPS reads. “The roundabout is a traffic control device for an intersection, and parking

within the roundabout creates an unnecessary safety hazard.”

In order to enforce this, students were informed that ticketing would begin immediately after the email was sent. Additionally, the email informed students that any vehicles parked in these areas after Nov. 27 would be towed immediately.

These actions taken by DPS are meant to keep Augsburg community members following the laws that

come with including roundabouts on campuses. Day Student Government continues

to work with both DPS and administration to better the parking situation.



PHOTO BY JIM PFEFFER

Garrison Keillor cont.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will change the name of American Public Media, now under the direction of Chris Thile.

In an email sent to the “Star Tribune,” mere minutes after the statement released, Keillor wrote: “I’m doing fine. Getting fired is a real distinction in broadcasting, and I’ve waited fifty years for the honor. All of my heroes got fired. I only wish it could’ve been for something more heroic.” Keillor went on to describe the incident and recourse leading to the investigation, saying, “I put my hand on a woman’s bare back. I meant to pat her back after she told me

about her unhappiness, and her shirt was open and my hand went up it about six inches. She recoiled. I apologized. I sent her an email of apology later, and she replied that she had forgiven me and not to think about it. We were friends. We continued to be friendly right up until her lawyer called.”

On his Facebook page, Keillor wrote and later deleted, “It’s astonishing that fifty years of hard work can be trashed in a morning by an accusation. I always believed in hard work and now it feels sort of meaningless. Only a friend can hurt you this badly. I think I have to leave the country

in order to walk around in public and not feel accusing glances.” Though deleted, the “Star Tribune” reporter Neal Justin fortuitously captured a screenshot of the post and published it in a Nov. 30 article.

Keillor issued another statement on his own website, saying, “I’ve been fired over a story that I think is more interesting and more complicated than the version MPR heard. Most stories are. It’s some sort of poetic irony to be knocked off the air by a story, having told so many of them myself, but I’m 75 and don’t have any interest in arguing about this.”

On Nov. 28, Keillor wrote in a “Washington Post” column that he detested the recourse brought upon Minnesota Senator Al Franken, a public acquaintance and guest on “A Prairie Home Companion.” Of the allegations brought forth by Leeann Tweeden, “Eleven years later, a talk show host in L.A., she goes public and there is talk of resignation.” He argued, “This is pure absurdity, and the atrocity it leads to is a code of public deadliness. No kidding.”

The “Washington Post” fired Keillor over the column. Replacing the article with a statement, Editor Fred Hiatt

explained that the article breached a transparency clause all columnists must abide. “Knowing he was under investigation for his workplace behavior,” wrote Hiatt, “he should not have written on that subject; or, if he was going to write, he should have told his editors and readers that he was under investigation.”

“Instead, he wrote a column defending Sen. Al Franken without any disclosure of his own situation.”

It is clear that while Keillor is being forcibly removed from MPR and other media outlets, he is not going quietly.