

Be a donor

Share your Yule vitality

The hope and warmth kindled by a candle flame takes on added meaning during the holiday season.

Around a candlelit table or in front of a glowing fireplace we share food, gifts and light-hearted laughter with loved ones.

During the holiday season we are reminded our vitality can be shared with others in many different ways.

Come in out of the cold. Slow down the whirlwind hustle.

Relax, and give blood. It takes only 30 minutes of your time.

Tomorrow at the mayor's clinic at St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, Yonge and Dunlop Streets, Richmond Hill from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. there will be a warm welcome and a cup of coffee waiting for you.

Parking is available behind the church or in the town parking lot behind

the municipal building across Yonge Street.

As the spirit of the season surrounds you, keep in mind the need for blood increases during the winter months.

Because the number of highway accidents increases at this time of year, hospitals have a greater need for blood.

And because holiday activities keep us busier than ever, we tend to put off donating blood until things calm down.

But patients in need can't wait.

You can help prevent a blood shortage by taking just a half hour to give the gift of life. Your special effort can play a vital role in helping others enjoy the holiday season.

This time of year brings with it the glow of rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes. Share your health and vitality. Give blood this holiday season.

Norm's reflections

Being desk bound on Remembrance Day

By Norman Matthews

Remembrance Day has come and gone for another year and if you worked for some companies or the government, you were given the day off.

Up until the middle of the day before the 11th, my firm still hadn't made any mention of how they or their employees would observe the traditions of the day.

I would have thought an engineering firm that helped the free world through World War II would have issued the symbolic poppy to the staff and asked we wear it.

Or they would have announced there was going to be a service in the lobby of our building at 11 a.m. on the 11th.

But no! Not a word!

Brainwave hit
So another brainwave hit me; the kind that usually gets me into trouble.

It occurred to me our management is always issuing bulletins of importance and posting them on various notice boards throughout the office.

So why not issue one myself on behalf of management?

Moments later I had found a vacant typewriter and my fingers had churned out a stimulating memo to the staff.

In essence I told the employees the firm was aware it was Remembrance Day.

Secondly that everyone with religious convictions could leave the office at 10 a.m. in order to attend the church of their choice.

All other employees would be allowed to take a one minute of silence while seated at their desk, with eyes closed or open as they chose.

Last but not least, everyone was to go to the nearest Legion to enjoy a few glasses of draft beer during the afternoon.

Alas, some people read it and looked astounded management would have issued a memo like this; others laughed; some left work.

Was just sore
Actually I was just sore because I had to work. I couldn't get any money because the banks were closed.

In spite of my thirst, the Brewer's Retail outlets were closed.

And if I'd been fired for that interoffice memo, I wouldn't have been

able to register at the Unemployment Insurance office because they were closed also.

Even my daughters were out of school, and I'm not sure they are aware of the reason why.

Back in my day... remember then? ... we didn't get a holiday from school to go to the local shopping centre.

A minister from one of the local churches used to come to the school and an assembly would be called in the auditorium at 11 a.m.

We'd get a serious talk about the fallen heroes, the fight for freedom, and possibly a poem would be recited by some insipid student on Flanders Fields, or Poppies Grow on Fields So Green.

Invariably we sang O God Our Help In Ages Past and the formidable True Davidson would make a short speech on how wonderful it was we had attended and she had been invited.

If the truth were ever known, we had no choice in the matter! Afterwards it was lunch time and then back to class.

Snow boots day
My children will remember the 11th as they day they bought their new snow boots at Hillcrest Mall.

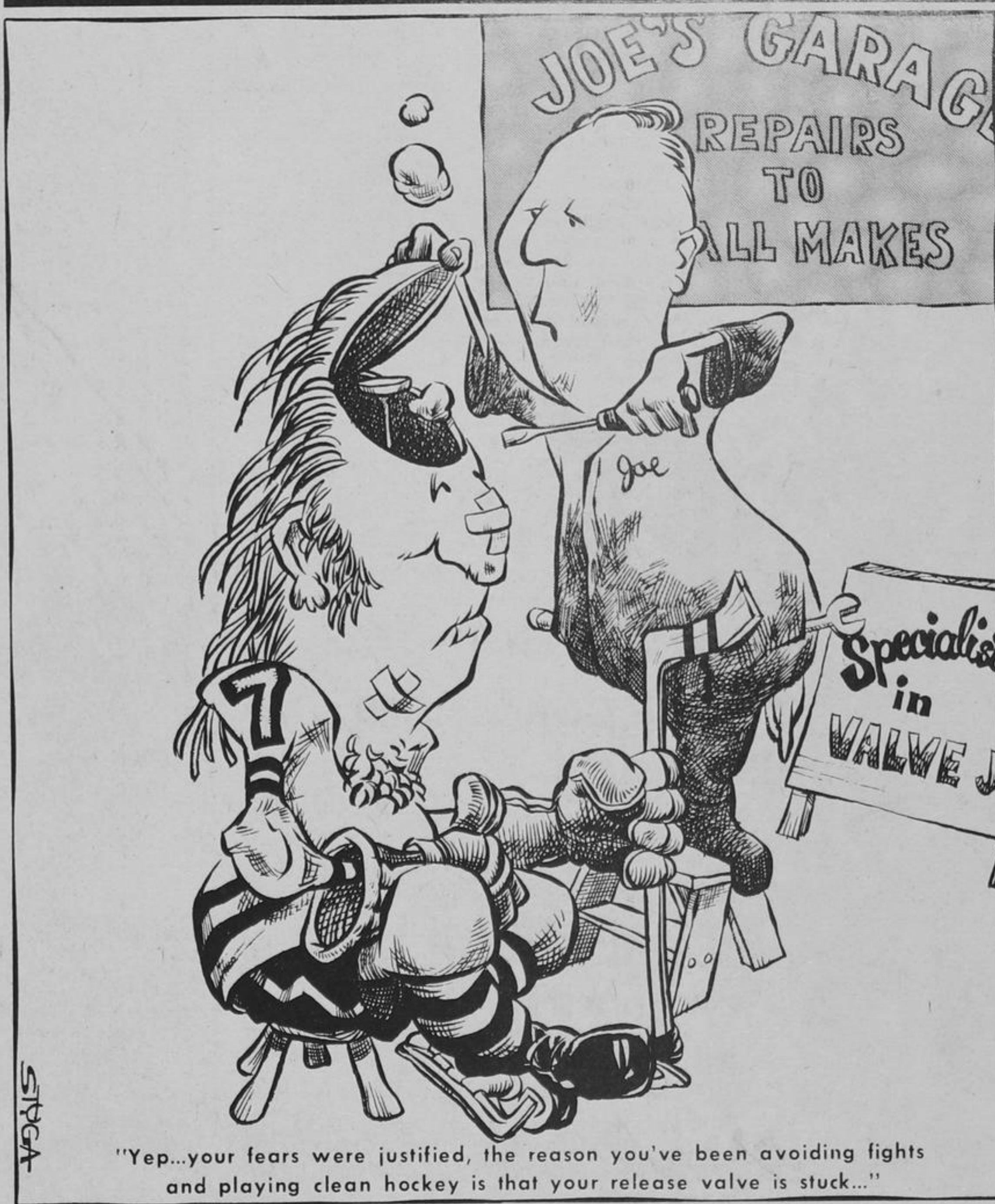
Oh well. In our home, we are reminded of the valor of yesteryear wars every day. The oval framed picture of my grandfather in soldier's uniform hangs in the living room as a constant reminder of him and the war he died in.

And in another room hangs the white helmet worn by my father as an ARP warden as our "home guard" veteran. But I have to face the fact the new snow boots from Hillcrest Mall have overshadowed the poppy, and the army boots of heroes have no place in today's society.

Next year
Maybe next year I can talk our company management into giving us the day off work, or into allowing us to sing hymns under a flag in the office building lobby.

Shut down the computer, pull out the plugs on the switchboard, silence the calculators. Raise the flag, pin on your poppy, Onward Christian Soldiers!

And leave the damn snow boots until next week to buy.



Symphony support lagging in Hill

Dear Editor:
The York Symphony Orchestra has grown and matured since its 1961 founding by Richmond Hill musicians. But support from Richmond Hill has not grown with it, a surprising fact when one considers that two of the four concerts in its current subscription series are in Richmond Hill's United Church.

The orchestra appreciates the support of people such as Miss Jacqueline London whose letter refuting the comment of your entertainment writer, Tom Davey, that "both attendance and support are stronger in other areas comprising the region", appears in your Nov. 5 paper.

At that time Tom Davey accurately stated information given him by orchestra organizers who had not totalled subscription sales by area, but were well aware of the general trend.

The following is a statistical breakdown of the subscription series sales expressed in percentages: Aurora — 25, Newmarket — 25, Richmond Hill — 13, Whitechurch-Stouffville — 8, King City — 7, Outside York Region — 5, Thornhill — 4, Kleinburg — 3, Markham and Oak Ridges — each 2, Mt. Albert and Keswick — each 1, Sutton, Bradford, Maple — less than 1 each.

The bulk of support comes from Newmarket and Aurora, much smaller communities than Richmond Hill.

Of the people admitted at the door at the Oct. 18 concert, only three cited their place of residence as Richmond Hill.

It remains to be seen whether the departure from the usual masters to an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan for the YSO's third concert on Jan. 16 will encourage more Richmond Hillers to attend or not.

(MRS.) JOY MORNING,
YSO publicity,
4 Davidson Rd.,
Aurora, Ont.

False economy to spend board reserves

Dear Editor:

The budget for 1976 is the most difficult assignment facing the York County Board of Education today.

The board passed unanimously a motion from the finance committee on Nov. 10 that: "Staff be directed to prepare a first budget that will have as its objective an increase in mill rate of not more than 10 per cent and report with their suggestions as to ways to accomplish this which will create as few problems as possible in the system."

Unlike previous years, the board is developing a top-down budget. By determining in advance that the total increase will be limited to not more than 10 per cent in the mill rate, significant savings will have to be made and major sacrifices will be required. There have not been frills in the past, and in 1976 we will have to cut into the very fabric of the system to accomplish this budget.

How can the board possibly hold the increase in mill rate to 10 percent.

The best answer will come from staff and employee groups within the system.

The teacher's federation representatives were present at the finance committee meeting on Nov. 13 and it is likely they will enlist the support of all the teachers within York Region to find ways to reduce costs.

A local financier gave two suggestions to keep the mill rate down, which I abhor:

First, he said, "Why not make up the difference by deficit spending?"

This would mean the board would borrow money in 1976 to help escape this year's problems, but would have the extra burden in future years to pay back 1976's education costs.

Deficit spending for business may be OK, but for public education is as foolish as using Chalgex to buy food. It should be paid for now and not later.

It is the trustee's responsibility to meet today's expenses with today's dollar, paid for by our current ratepayer.

Second, he suggested: "Why does not the board spend its reserves to offset the increased costs?"

The board has accumulated approximately \$2.6 million in its special reserve account since 1969.

The reserves are used for current spending before the municipalities are able to collect and forward the educational taxes to the board.

The money in the reserve account presently saves the board in excess of \$200,000 per year in interest costs.

It would be false economy to spend the total reserves in 1976, but it may be advisable to tap this account for some

money, and also ensure no money is allocated to the reserves in 1976.

Before this budget is finally struck and after every possibility has been exhausted, the board may have to approach the ministry of education for assistance.

There is inequality between what Metropolitan Toronto Board of Education receives from the ministry and what York County Board receives.

In 1974, for example, Metro received \$146 and \$154 more per elementary and secondary student respectively than York County.

This means we receive between \$1,100 and \$1,400 less per teacher than

Metro.

As a board we will have to exert every possible pressure on the ministry of education to equalize the grant.

As a board we will have to exert every possible pressure on the ministry of education to equalize the grants and to give our children the same opportunity as Metro.

There should not be any difference in the treatment of children north of Steeles than those to the south.

DONALD COUSENS,
Public school trustee,
2 Southdale Dr.,
Markham, Ont.

Letters

Unionville's Crosby Arena safe

Dear Editor:

Recent local newspaper articles, based on a report to Town of Markham council by a concerned group of local residents unfortunately left the Unionville community with the impression that Crosby Arena is not a safe structure, which is not true.

The "UNSAFE" headlines were based on two situations which have been corrected.

- 1) One of eight speakers over the ice surface fell to the ice during a Midget OMHA practice, fortunately without incident and caused the board to have all speakers inspected and hung with stronger chain as an added safety precaution.
- 2) Gates giving access to the ice surface

were not working properly due to swelling caused by high humidity conditions of late summer and early fall operation. This problem was corrected by the board prior to the start of league play.

Cleanliness of the Crosby Arena is indeed a problem that the present board has found difficult to solve due to the heavy traffic in this facility and have recently authorized the hiring of additional maintenance staff to combat this problem.

The board is also aware of the need for an improved auditorium (which is allowed for in 1975-76 budget) and improved washroom facilities, but have delayed the washroom renovations on the advice of a local plumbing contractor until such time as the Crosby

Arena can be connected to the town sewer system.

The Crosby Community Centre Board normally meets the first Wednesday of each month and would be pleased to receive representation from local residents who feel they can contribute to the successful operation of the community facility.

Thank you.

CROSBY COMMUNITY CENTRE BOARD,
Ken Page — Chairman,
Arthur Toogood — Treasurer,
Carole Bell — Councillor,
H. Hi Lawrie — Councillor,
Aleta Burgess — Member,
Doris Hurst — Member,
Don Hewson — Member.

Viewpoint from the regional desk



BY JIM IRVING

Some years ago I was wandering around Vancouver, down to my last Canadian Tire coupon and wondering if I'd ever be in the position to add to my collection again, let alone get enough real cash together to gas up my alleged automobile and head back east, when comedienne Phyllis Diller came to town.

Now you may wonder just what that has to do with anything further I might have to say. But if you will just bear on, you will see. For, as I said I was in rather straitened circumstances and the arrival of Miss Diller, I thought, pointed to a possible way out.

For, not being so much enterprising as naive, it struck me she might be able to use a little material on the local scene, and no doubt would pay considerably.

So I rushed back to my rooming house — knowing at that particular time the landlady would be down at the market place looking for

bargains and it would be safe to go up — got my typewriter out from under the bed, and after pecking away at a pace guaranteed to encourage even the worst student of typing, came up with a series of so-called gags, or one-liners for Miss D.

I then put them in an envelope and dropped them off at the Hotel Vancouver, where she was staying, with a note and my return address.

She bought one of them. But the \$5 she paid hardly covered my return trip and I eventually had to go to work just like any other decent citizen, which always seems to be the case anytime visions of becoming an international — or even regional — playboy, come bouncing into my head.

But experience is a great teacher, as I believe one or two people have pointed out over the years, and should I ever find myself in such a situation again, whether it is Miss Diller who comes to town, or any other good comic, I'd know exactly

what to do, exactly the kind of material to give them, that would guarantee them sure-fire laughs and me a sure-fire sale.

I'd just send them my notes from a York Regional Council meeting. How could I miss?

Well, of course, I guess there'd be the odd meeting where they'd cross me up, doing something that was not so much funny as tragic, and I'd have to submit the efforts of some other public body.

But for the most part, especially after witnessing Thursday's get together of the region, I know I could rely on them not to let me down.

For the meeting was carried on in exactly the kind of slapdash fashion favored by comedians when they wish to satirize the political scene.

It was out of control almost from beginning to end, with members talking back and forth to each other when somebody else had the floor; walking in and out constantly, with

the latter eventually being the majority, so that when it came time to end the meeting for the day, there wasn't even a quorum on hand; and everybody just gradually drifted off in the manner of a dull party.

Not that it lacked action up until then.

With the members constantly fidgeting as to whether to stand or to be seated, the pace seldom let down until just at the last.

Even Chairman Garfield Wright, whose only displays of animation usually come about when he checks his various pockets for matches, took his pipe out of his mouth long enough to twice shout down Councillor Bob Adams of Markham.

The latter had spent the better part of the afternoon trying to convince anyone who would listen how ill-advised had been that Johnny-come-lately report from the planning and engineering committees on the importance of the

Pickering airport.

It was just Mr. Adams' misfortune that the rest of the mob wasn't in the mood for his views; maybe it was his approach — he has a tendency to shuffle around the room in somewhat the manner of Groucho Marx about to perform a bit of sleight-of-hand — or perhaps it was just that he started his filibuster after the matter had already been passed, and the members were hoping to get out of there before the predicted snow started.

But whatever the reason, Adams and the rest of the crew weren't exactly taking off on the same runway where the airport was concerned; even though he finally managed to get them to agree to insert a preface to the report that it was strictly "judgmental or subjective and not based on quantitative research."

Just where that leaves the report now is hard to say.

Later on the members argued

back and forth as to whether Monday's meeting with four provincial cabinet ministers on this very same subject, should be open or closed.

However, we never did find out, because the yoga class, or whatever it was, started up again, and several councillors got up and flexed their muscles — right out the door, in fact — so that, as mentioned earlier, the place was kind of empty at the end.

But a quorum, it seems, is only necessary to resolve things, not dissolve them. So the remaining members of council were able to quit the meeting with impunity at that point and go home, or wherever it is members go after council sessions.

As for that joke I sold Miss Diller. As I recall, it went something like this: "I was going to do a topos number in my act, but I got a little miffed when the director fastened the tassles to my shoulder blades."

See. The region's really a lot funnier.

Region council versus Phyllis Diller