

# Substitutes offered for TV football during NFL strike

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN  
AP Special Correspondent

SEATTLE — If the strike of pro football players drags on to other Silent Sundays, the networks will need more than Canadian Football League games and reruns of old Super Bowls to keep the fans glued to the screen.

Crossing Bremerton ferry on Puget Sound the other day and sipping some consciousness-raising suds in a wax paper cup, I mulled over a few ideas that might provide exciting coverage for the likes of Howard Cosell, Keith Jackson and Frank Gifford.



during inert pigskin prime time.

**GALA GIANT SUITCASE STOMPING STAMPEDE** — Baggage handlers from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, Chicago's O'Hare, Miami International and London Heathrow compete to see who can bust up the most pieces of luggage coming off a jumbo jet. Extra points for mutilating sets of golf clubs, splintering skis and shattering six packs of duty free liquor.

**DER DUSSELDORF MORGEN MARATHON** — German businessmen going up to Bonn rush aboard the TEE, the posh Trans European Express train, in their loud check, three-piece, belt at the back, tailgate flap-heavy wool suits, then proceed to push, claw, shoulder and shove their way to the vista dome car for a prized window seat. Once ensconced, the bruised and bloodied winners ignore the splendid views of the Rhine River and open wide their copies of the Frankfurter Allgemeine and the Dusseldorf Handelsblatt to peruse stock tables all the rest of the scenic way.

**ROLLOUT THE BEER BELLY GRAND PRIX** — Wide World of Substitute Sports again returns to the Federal Republic of Germany for the Oktoberfest in Munich, where burly Bavarian bouncers man (and sometimes woman)

wheel barrows to remove horizontal sodden celebrants from the beer tents. A speed and weight race over a pilsner puddled course in tune to an oompah band, often intermixed with traditional thumb wrestling and a giant belching contest.

**INTERNATIONAL NAPERY FOLD UP FESTIVAL** — Maitres d'hotel from the Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Intercontinental and other big hotel chains test their talents and creativity in finding new, even more pretentious ways to fold up an ordinary table napkin. Qualifying rounds would include standard shapes like the tulip, pyramid, sailboat, mountain, fountain and sea shell before moving on to free form exotica. I had one last week at a certified Seattle gourmets' retreat (mints with the check, pickle ford, diaper on the wine bottle) that mimicked DeGaulle's equiline profile and another that unfurled equally on both sides like Prince Charles's ears. Half time activities would be devoted to the eye catching event of trying to catch a waiter's eye to get some food to go with those nifty napkins. Winning trophy here would be engraved with the late S.J. Perelman's tombstone epitaph for a waiter: "God Finally Got His Eye."

Well, there you have it: six sensational spectacles to tide over Roone Arledge and his TV cohorts until the behemoths in the laquered helmets once again park their dentures on top shelf of their stadium lockers and get down to the business of maiming each other on the field and fondling each other to death in the huddle and end zones.



# Public education suffering far left, far right criticism

By JOHN WHITMIRE  
News Staff Writer

Since its inception, public education has routinely suffered the slings and arrows of righteous indignation leveled by many groups both far right and left.

The basic dilemma of the public school in a pluralistic society has always been the same: should the school reflect and transmit the values of the local community or should it consciously try to change children's values?

That was the basic question raised by noted educator and author Diane Ravitch in an address to the Education Writers Association recently in Washington, D.C.

"Across the nation, schools have been pressured to remove books from school libraries, to eliminate sex education, to adopt scientific creationism, and to drop certain textbooks," said Ms. Ravitch.

"Not since the 1950s have there been so many attacks on what is taught and read in public schools. While such controversies more often than not originate with the 'New Right,' they are by no means new. Conflicts over basic values originate in tensions that are inherent in public education.

"This is a problem because 90 percent of the nation's children attend public schools. If every group of parents who dissented from the schools' values created a new school, there would be no dilemma...

"And there would be no public schools."

The educator admitted there was no simple solution to America's education woes.

The teaching of history, for example, requires value judgments. "Most parents," Ms. Ravitch said, "would expect the teacher to make the judgement that Hitler and Stalin were oppressive tyrants and that freedom and democracy are valued in our society as both means and ends.

"Most parents would expect teachers of drug education to warn against the use of drugs..."

But, she cautioned, the question of which values should be taught is not always that easy.

"If the local community is racially prejudiced, should the schools teach racial hatred? Certainly not.

"Suppose, hypothetically, that the local school decided not just to remain aloof from religion, but attempted to discredit religion?"

"The reasonable observer would conclude that the school had overstepped its proper boundaries and was trying to impose its own values."

And what about liberal black groups who want Mark Twain's classic 19th century novel *Huckleberry Finn* banned from the schools because it portrays black people in a "negative" way?

The father of public education, Horace Mann, feared that the common schools would be torn apart if they took any point of view in matters of controversy.

"Mann warned that if schools began to indoctrinate children with political beliefs, the schools would soon be destroyed by struggles for control of the curriculum and by the withdrawal of the children of angry

parents."

But even that point of view proved offensive to groups who wanted their children educated in their own strong values.

Catholics bitterly opposed the decision to exclude religion from the schools and subsequently created their own school systems.

During World War I, the schools became a target for widespread hostility to radicalism, political dissent, and immigrants, especially Germans.

Three New York City teachers were fired because of their antiwar views. State legislatures passed new laws to protect the public schools from perceived threats to traditional thinking. Oregon required all children to attend only public schools; Nebraska, Iowa and Ohio banned the teaching of foreign languages; other educational systems required teachers to swear to their loyalty.

Such legislation was passed, not because schools had suddenly become a hotbed of radicalism, but because the public saw them as the great transmitters of values in American life and therefore the most likely place in which to take a stand against threatening political and social changes, Ms. Ravitch said.

Political controversy reared its head again in the 1930s, when the Great Depression caused a sharp rise in radicalism.

A group of progressive educators known as the Frontier Thinkers were convinced that capitalism was in a state of terminal collapse. Some of them argued that the schools should lead the way to a new collectivist social order.

"The activities of this group aroused critics, one of whom, Elizabeth Dilling, wrote a book called *Red Network: A Who's Who and Handbook of Radicalism for Patriots*.

"Not only Communists, but socialists, liberals, and almost everyone prominent in civil rights and liberties, pacifism, progressive education and trade union politics were on Mrs. Dilling's list.

"Clips from the books and articles of the Frontier Thinkers were pasted together to prove that the education profession had fallen under the sway of traitorous professors.

"One school district after another began to drop texts written by Frontier Thinkers. State legislatures opened a new round of loyalty oaths, and some opened investigations of subversion in the schools."

The battle to keep the schools right-thinking in the 1930s was a prelude to an even more treacherous conflict in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when dozens of anti-Communist laws were passed.

History books call it the McCarthy Era.

"Right-wing organizations circulated outlandish attacks on progressive education, claiming that it was a Communist plot to destroy the brains and moral fiber of America's youth," the educator said.

"Alarmed by international tensions and armed with a bizarre conspiracy theory about progressive education as a Communist

plot, numerous citizen groups attacked the public schools and elected school board members to keep out suspicious textbooks and teachers...

"It is not clear that there is much difference between Old Right and New Right.

"Both yearn for ideological and moral purity," she said. "There are, moreover, clear links between old-time religion Right and the New Right. One thinks, for example, of scientific creationism, which traces its roots to the same fundamentalist attack on science as in the Scopes trial of 1925...

"Or of the demands to return prayer to the public schools, which also emanate from fundamentalists who refuse to acknowledge the validity of secular schooling."

Other hot topics, according to the educator, include sex education and the teaching of moral values.

"When a curriculum directly challenges the most important personal values held by most parents, it's no wonder that controversy erupts. The best way to deal with the sex education issue is to open it up to public discussion and criticism. Just as we would not want children indoctrinated in right-wing or left-wing ideologies, far-out ideologies of sexual liberation (which, she said, some texts contain)... should not be smuggled into the curriculum and then made immune from responsible criticism.

Then there are the packaged moral dilemmas, which are supposed to give the student the experience of reaching a moral decision.

In one such dilemma, the student is told that his best friend is attracted to his wife. The student is told to choose one of three possibilities:

"Would you want them to maintain a clandestine relationship so you wouldn't know about it, or

"Would you want them to be honest with you and accept the relationship, or

"Seek a divorce?"

"The choice not available to the student," the educator noted, "is that they should exercise self-restraint and value fidelity over immediate self-gratification."

Without displaying any political or religious ideology, the schools can teach the values of honesty, fairness, responsibility, industry, courage, courtesy, and good citizenship.

"Such values," Ms. Ravitch said, "are best taught, I believe, not in courses, but as part of the curriculum and behavioral expectations of the school community.

"The common thread running through all of these controversies is that the New Right has a measure of success when it hits upon an issue where there is a discontented public that is far larger than the New Right.

"Extremists feed on other people's fears and grievances, and the only way to protect schools from extremist attacks is to open the issues to full discussion."

We as a democratic nation cannot teach the concept of an open marketplace of ideas unless we are willing to deal with the risks and challenges those new notions spur.

# Los Alamos nepotism shown

By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Bureaucrats at the Los Alamos National Laboratory responded to my recent exposure of nepotism at the nuclear research facility in typical fashion: They attempted to uncover the whistle blowers, instead of taking steps to correct the abuses.



Officials pored over telephone records of the New Mexico lab in a desperate attempt to find out who had talked to my associate John Dillon. And what terrible secrets had been compromised? That officials had given cushy jobs to their relatives at a time when less favored employees were being laid off.

Los Alamos spokesman Jim Breen said the search of phone records was done to determine whether employees were making unauthorized calls to my office on the Federal Telephone System (FTS). "We have reason to believe FTS may have been used," he said. "It is a criminal violation."

In hopes of preventing any further waste of time and effort, I can assure the vengeful bureaucrats their telephone search was doomed from the start. None of my sources called from laboratory telephones.

Fortunately for the taxpayers and Los Alamos workers, my report inspired other, less perverted investigations of the situation at the laboratory. The investigators are going after the substance of the charges, not trying to unmask the whistle blowers.

A Hispanic rights group, the American G.I. Forum, asked the United States attorney to look into Los Alamos hiring practices. And the Energy Department, which oversees Los Alamos, has launched an investigation by its inspector general.

Spokesman Breen said that the lab itself had requested the U.S. attorney's investigation of the G.I. Forum's complaint, and added that laboratory officials will cooperate fully. Breen said he was not aware of the separate inspector general's investigation.

A spokesman for the inspector

employees claiming to have suffered radiation exposure from atomic tests at the facility during the 1940s and 1950s. "He's one of the few people who can provide historical data," the spokesman explained, adding that Harris' consulting fee is "pretty cheap for a medical doctor."

**PROLETARIAN PROBLEM:** The "workers' paradise" is facing a critical labor shortage. A CIA report predicts that the Soviet Union's work force will increase by less than 300,000 a year by 1986, compared to an average increase of 2.3 million a year in the 1970s.

"The prospect of a labor shortage is especially painful for Soviet planners, because up to now the share of labor's contribution to growth generally has been larger than in other developed countries, while the contribution of productivity has been smaller," the CIA explains. The report, reviewed by my reporter Michael Binstein, lays the blame for this reverse situation on the Soviets' notoriously backward technology.

A major factor in the lagging working-age population is the rising mortality rate among adult males due to alcoholism, industrial accidents and cardiovascular disease, the CIA reports.

What can the Kremlin do? Possibilities include pushing workers into certain industries, cracking down on absenteeism and on-the-job drunkenness, increasing the birth rate, shifting investment capital to areas of surplus labor like Central Asia, and making the huge investments needed to automate currently labor-intensive industries. But all of this will take time, the CIA notes.

Increasing workers' productivity would be an obvious solution to the coming labor shortage, but there's a serious roadblock: lack of incentive. Increasing the wages of good workers has been tried and has failed; because of shortages of food and consumer items, they already have too little to spend their money on.

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