

Scientist 'solves' NFL strike

United Press International
DALLAS — Don Edward Beck isn't a typical armchair quarterback and therefore has a typical solution to the conundrum of the National Football League strike.

Beck is a behavioral scientist. He directs the National Values Center in Denton and has spent 20 years on the university level. He has worked as a consultant to several professional and college football teams.

His profession involves the major forces of change and the forces they create.

His plan for solving the NFL strike is simple — use the coaches.

Beck proposes that a group of seven coaches be selected to examine ways to deal with the financial issue and make recommendations to both sides.

He suggests three coaches, Tom Landry of the Dallas Cowboys, O.A. "Bum" Phillips of the New Orleans Saints and Chuck Noll of the Pittsburgh Steelers, be named to the committee along with two other coaches — each selected by the players and the owners.

"They have the respect of the players and the respect of management, if it can get rid of its jealousy," Beck said. "They (the coaches) can settle it quicker than anyone else. They are men of good will."

"They will have a calming effect on the whole process. They will move it out of the gamesmanship that is going on now."

Beck said the strike is "a major psychological confrontation between two divergent value systems packages that are so mutual-

ly exclusive that no agreement is tenable. Thus, the need for the middle ground the coaches tread."

The first step, he said, is forming a separate commission staffed by both union and management representatives, to draft a player "Bill of Rights and responsibilities."

Then, enter the coaches.

Beck said he doesn't propose using the coaches to sabotage the collective bargaining process.

"Their role would not be to actually bargain, but to serve as a friendly influence to both groups," he said.

But Beck knows friendly influence alone will not end the strike. He proposes a series of deadlines be established.

Beck recommends the game schedule be resumed Nov. 7, re-

gardless of whether an agreement has been reached. Then, he proposes another deadline be set, beyond which both sides would pay expensive penalties if they fail to reach an agreement.

However, Beck believes there is much more than the season riding on the strike and its eventual resolution.

"The way it's settled will determine the game of the future. It will dictate relations in the future."

"It takes catastrophe for change, and the game will be changed by this."

How, he said, remains to be seen.



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Big Band era swings again

United Press International
HOUSTON — Step into a time warp and turn back the clock 40 years.

It's the beat of the big bands that's heard in the background of the dark-suited men swirl their dates around the dance floor to the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey or Benny Goodman.

Maybe it's the nostalgia that is drawing the crowds back to the dance floor, but many say the Big Band music has returned as the newest fad, replacing disco and country as the music of the day.

This is the emerging new sound, a new version and a mixture of the music of the '30s and '40s, said Buddy Brock, leader of his own big band for more than 40 years.

"The Big Band music is the most dramatic and elegant of all dance music forms," Brock said. "If you analyze it, it seems to be the strongest when economic conditions are bad."

At a recent gathering in Houston, the dance floor was crowded throughout the evening as Brock's band delighted the audience with a mixture of oldies but goodies, and some modern day swing tunes. Fingers start snapping, hands begin clapping and toes start tapping when songs such as "Stardust," "In the Mood," "Begin the Beguine," "String of Pearls" or "Sunny Side of the Street" are heard.

At least three New York nightclubs are playing Big Band music to turn-away crowds and, in Washington, D.C., the Shoreham Hotel has redone its ballroom to accommodate the big bands. Brock said the music also is gaining popularity in Los Angeles and Chicago.

David John, an authority on Big Band tunes who discusses the swing era and its music on a weekly Houston radio program, said the emerging popularity can be traced to people returning to simple things again.

"Big band is not depressing music, but upbeat," John said. "It's easy to listen to, but not considered 'easy listening' or elevator music. I think the cheek-to-cheek dancing is coming back. Who wants to be 10 feet away from your partner on the dance floor?"

Ronnie Renfro, a 26-year-old disc jockey and Big Band show promoter, claims the return of swing-era music to the radio is not a result of the older crowd's nostalgia.

"People are looking for an alternative in their music and I think they are finding a delightful difference in swing," he said.

Two years ago, Renfro helped promote the first Houston Big Band dance which attracted 10,800 people. Last year, 11,200 attended. A course on the swing era is offered at Rice University and Renfro said his students range in age from 10 to 82.

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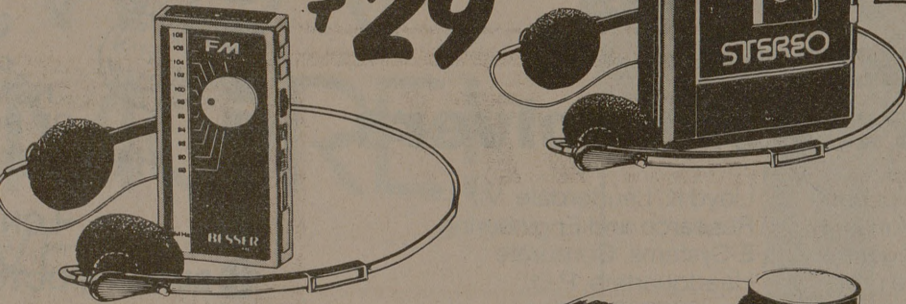
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