

A New Kind of Resistance

By THE MISSION SINGERS

Tommy James hit the head of the nail when he titled his newest song about our present times *Dragging the Line*. For the title tells the story of the main tactic many people — young and old alike — are using to resist the world about them.

Ten years ago, what made the news was the fact of change itself. Bob Dylan's song, *The Times They Are A-Changing*, was the theme song of the day and along with many other songs helped popularize the idea of change. Along with that idea came the feeling of confidence and optimism.

Today we all take change for granted; it is part of our lives. But for the most part, people in America think that as a result of this change, this country is going straight downhill.

For example? Well, a recent poll showed that a large major-

ity of Americans believe that this country will barely — if at all — overcome the many crises it is now undergoing.

Another example? President Nixon himself wondered out loud recently about the future of the United States. He compared it to the great empires of Rome and Greece, and he wondered if this country's people had the stamina and courage to outlast their trials. According to some news reports, the President seemed uncertain of the outcome.

The phenomenal success of the book, *The Greening of America*, by Charles Reich, is a third example of how change has adversely affected people's attitudes.

In it, the author shows how America the nation is quite different from—even the opposite of—America the idea. America the nation deals in death, says

Dragging the Line

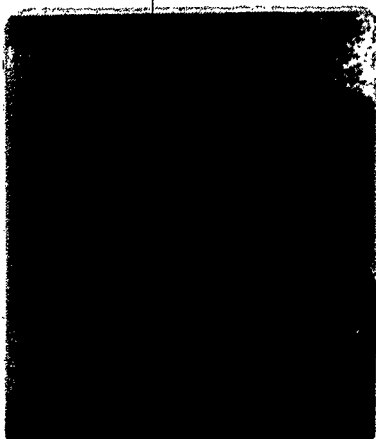
Making a living the old hard way,
Taking and giving it day by day.
I dig snow and rain and the bright sunshine,
Dragging the line.

Hot dogs, Sammy's purple flowers,
We ain't got much but what we got towers.
We dig snow and rain and the bright sunshine,
Dragging the line.

I feel fine, I'm talking 'bout peace of mind.
I'm gonna take my time: I'm getting a good sign.
Dragging the line.

Loving the free and feeling spirit,
Hugging a tree when you get near it,
Digging the snow and rain and the bright sunshine,
Dragging the line.

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TOMMY JAMES

the author, and only the consciousness of a new generation can return it to life.

In many ways, Reich seems to confirm the feelings of those Americans — the majority, it seems—who see little hope for the future of America the nation, even though his is a very hopeful book.

For *Dragging the Line* pinpoints something of the way young people feel about preserving society the way it is now: "We ain't got much but what we got towers" over anything that's around at present. So each of these young people talks about his reaction to the pressures of society: "I feel fine, I'm talking 'bout peace of mind. I'm gonna take my time: I'm getting a good sign, dragging the line."

That, you see, is a method of resistance, a method of refusing change, whether it is conscious or unconscious. It is a refusal to cooperate. Not only is it a method, but it is the best method of opposing almost anything.

JOHN DOSER

Scholastic Notebook



"They're on their own," is the simplest way St. John Fisher athletic director Bob Wanzer puts it.

He's referring of course to the Fisher club football team which debuts this fall with an apparent six game schedule including home games (Aquinas Stadium is being checked out) at night against Canisius (Oct. 8) and RIT (Nov. 5).

Coach is Frank Petrus, a Clyde resident, who of course was appointed by the "student body" in as much as they're paying the bills. (More on Petrus and his grid Cardinal roster next week).

Wanzer said all the uniforms and jackets have been delivered, student participation and interest are high, and he hopes the new sport will "enhance" Fisher's total sports program.

Wanzer also said he hopes income will offset (or nearly offset) expenses.

For the record Fisher now has football, golf, soccer, cross country, basketball, hockey, tennis, wrestling and track; and it hopes to add in the near future lacrosse, baseball and swimming.

FOOTNOTES — Clyde grid coach Nick Dercola has been named to the Ithaca College Sports Hall of Fame . . . He

played football, basketball and baseball for the Bombers from 1948-51 . . . His grid teams at Clyde are 99-99-6 over some 18 or so seasons . . . Rush-Henrietta's streaking Comet, half-back Steve Graves, should be wearing RIT togs this fall . . . Brockport State let him slip away . . . New head basketball coach at Churchville-Chili is Brockport State grad Mike Cusato.

MAGGIE MAHON, 16-year-old Mercy High student, didn't make the finals of the recent WRGDA golf test after all. She was beaten by Mrs. David Hedges, 2-1, in the semifinals. Sorry about that.

Maggie later competed at the 23rd Girls' Junior Golf test at Augusta and was ousted in the first round by Janet Aullis of West Caldwell, N.J., 3-2.

MIKE CECERE, DeSales High Geneva grad, will join the plebe class this fall at the U.S. Naval Academy. Mike was an All Wayne-Finger Lakes defensive back and won a scholar-athlete award to Annapolis.

JIMMY BURNS, former Aquinas quarterback and Bishop Kearney assistant football coach, was subject of a look-alike discussion in Peter (Times-Union) Taub's column.

Burns, who led the Little Irish of the early '50s; is a ringer for 'Super Mex' Lee Trevino.

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