

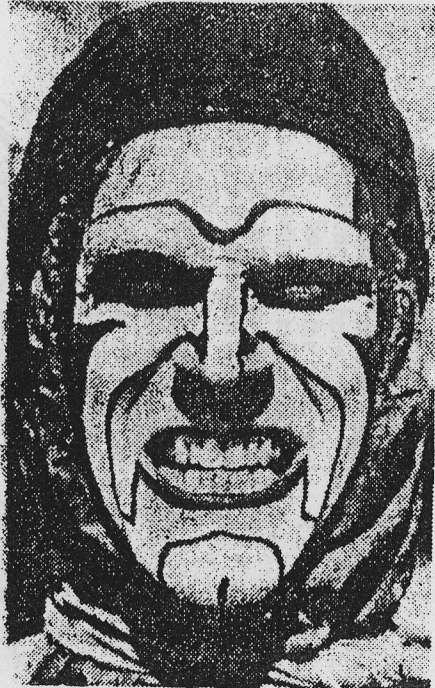
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Malachi's message causes reaction

by Jennifer Koppa.

He walked in the office on Saturday afternoon, and when he saw the Bible laying open on the desk, he inquired who was reading it. Malachi is the last section of the Old Testament, and he explained that there is a specific reason why he, as a performer, bears the same name.

"Malachi (pronounced MAL-la-key) is not a personal name, and that is why I took it. It means a messenger," Malachi said.



Malachi

He speaks of messages of change — political change, to be more specific. As a performer who cares about the world, he is also concerned how that change will come about. Calling himself "primarily a theorist," Malachi has ideas about what is needed to enact the change.

"It is a commonly known fact that political change is desperately needed in the United States as well as in other countries. Yet, such a change requires a polar shift in mass consciousness, a new moral outlook — hopefully, not caused by a major crisis," he said.

People hear messages everyday and tune many of them out by regarding them as unsolvable or unimportant. However, it is difficult to tune Malachi out because he is a visual, melodic statement against apathy. People are forced to react because this reminder comes in an unusual package.

Draped from head to foot in dyed, heavy cotton material, Malachi wears white makeup with black around the eyes and dark lines on the forehead, nose and chin. The effect is both frightening and beautiful.

"I wear the outfit to cause a reaction. I'm sick and tired of apathetic performers and audiences. As for leaving an impression, that I cannot predetermine or cause," he said.

The music contains the same paradox. On a tape titled "Malachi," there are 24 instrumentals that possess a tension and beauty that speak of spiritual inspiration. Malachi recorded the songs using mandolin, bells, a 12-string acoustic guitar, several electric guitars, kalimba, voices, a meso-American rainmaker, an Indian Jetaw 2, chimes, various drums, a radiator, tambourine and a classical guitar as well as



Chancellor Smith appears surprised at meeting performer Malachi on the UWM grounds Monday.

other instruments.

"I have been working with electric guitar a lot more recently. The tension/beauty paradox is planned and executed purposely," Malachi said.

Many of the songs were written several years ago, recorded and compiled later. The tape is no longer available, and prior recordings are also not available due to the fact that Malachi makes only a limited number and when they are gone, that is it.

He says that at this point in his life, he does not concern himself with becoming famous, and when he writes, he writes with no one else in mind but himself.

He is presently working on another tape titled "Plagues," but this will not be available for several months. He had some interesting words to say concerning this project.

"Everybody thinks of plagues in terms

of sickness, but what about the plagues of immorality or ideas? They are just as harmful," he said.

"Practice gave me the ability to play the guitar — other instruments are not as well practiced with me. They are more often done out of need to make the sound more full, a more accurate mimesis of what I hear in my head," he said. "Actually, most of them are instrumentals and some are with subliminal voice-overs. I enjoy the mimicry of natural sounds through techniques of playing."

Malachi performs twice a semester in the 8th Note Coffeeshouse, the only place he chooses to play.

Malachi will perform in the Coffeeshouse in the UWM Union on Thursday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. The show is sponsored by the Union Activities