

Malay sees malaise

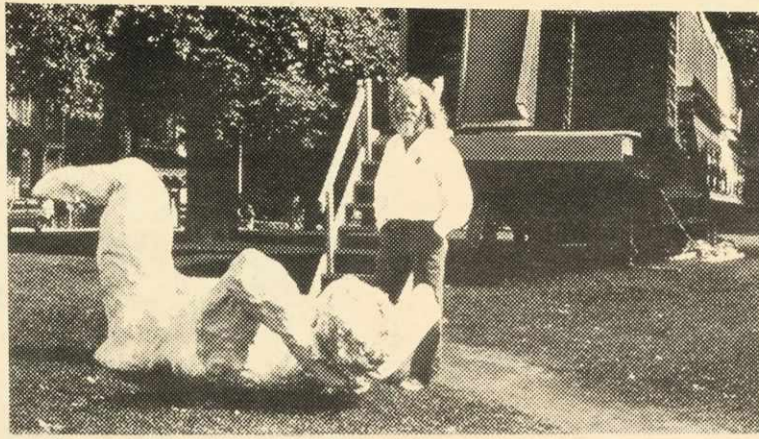
By PAT SAVAGE AND ARIELLA PAHLKE

NO FURTHER COMMENT printed on the side of a tank is worth, well, further comment.

Ambling down Spring Garden, opposite the library, you will come across just such a red, white and blue tank with a naked papier mache woman in its path. The tank is made of wood. Its creator, a grey bearded man with wire rimmed glasses and a patience for questions, (his age difficult to figure) sits by.

Inside, in a house of horrors walk-through fashion, you'll encounter Rod Malay's vision of life: conception, childhood, conformity and death.

Two comments on Rod Malay: the man is concerned with oppression and, in case the tank isn't clue enough, he likes to



work on a large scale. If he's not too busy, ask to see his series of silkscreen prints before entering the tank. There you can see the beginnings of the ideas that run through NO FURTHER COMMENT.

Entering the tank, one is struck by Malay's dissatisfied view of conception (a penis with a mil-

itary star?), followed by the innocence of children playing. Next is a bloated, nuclear family of rats watching, literally, garbage on the TV. This is certainly my favorite part of the exhibit if only for its sense of humour.

Then through life the powers of conformity — which Malay identifies as politics, religion and

consumerism — take their toll. They turn out in the end a lifeless, empty people void of all the creative and natural abilities they started with. But then with a tank as a womb isn't that the best one can hope for one's offspring?

Malay has received some criticism for having his tank bearing down on a naked woman. While he admits the woman is vulnerable, Malay also says she is "courageous, carefree, defiant and very spirited". Certainly by placing her in opposition to the tank she can be understood as an alternative to what is going on within the tank.

Malay's view of modern life as industrial conformity, stifling and oppressive, is not new. Offering a tank as the womb from which contemporary life is borne is a nice twist.

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