

Big Brother & Co. Coming To Lagoon

By BRUCE ROBERTS

It is amazing to note that although Big Brother & The Holding Company has been together for almost two years, the nation is only now starting to turn on to its sound. While freaking west coast audiences every time the group played, Big Brother remained as only a part of the new San Francisco sound until recent times. But Big Brother is, and always has been much more than just another band to come out of San Francisco. They will prove that tomorrow night when Lyme Inc., brings Big Brother and Blue Cheer to Lagoon for two dance concerts at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Big Brother got its first major engagement at the Avalon, and was quite well-received, particularly Janis Joplin, who sang like no one ever heard before. The group continued to play west coast engagements to enthusiastic crowds, and quickly became one of the more popular groups in the San Francisco area. When Big Brother played at Hell's Angel president Chocolate George's funeral more than a year ago, the group was widely acclaimed as the finest band to come out of San Francisco. A short time later, the group signed a contract with Mainstream Records, and recorded its first album.

The record contract did very little for Big Brother's national image however, as the first album was one of the poorest produced records ever put on the market. Big Brother immediately sought to cancel the contract, but not until early this year did Joplin and company finally leave Mainstream and sign with Columbia Records.

Hoping to start over with a clean slate, Big Brother went back east for the first time early this year for several engagements. And suddenly on the east coast — Big Brother is phenomenal. Reviewers from the New York Times to the New York Free Press could do no more than rave about Janis Joplin, who was rapidly earning the title as the outstanding female singer in the nation.

Loaded down with praise, Big Brother returned to the coast to record its first album with Columbia. Now, fresh from the recording studios, Big Brother is heading back east again after three sellout performances at the Fillmore West in San Francisco, and, as mentioned earlier, Salt Lake is most fortunate to be a stopover tomorrow before the east coast.

Big Brother and the Holding Company is a group of performers in every sense of the word. When

Janis Joplin gets into the music and lets her voice go, the audience is in for an experience it won't soon forget. The voice of Miss Joplin has been the subject of many a reviewer, where every adjective from "effervescent," to "roof raising," has been used in description.

There is no other singer in the world quite like Janis Joplin. Although she is backed by four excellent musicians, she becomes a show in herself, using her entire body and voice to set the audience into a frenzied. And when the audience responds to Big Brother's music, the group responds to the response with continually heavier sounds and actions. Get up and dance tomorrow night and you'll see for yourself why Big Brother & The Holding Company is currently in the limelight of pop music.

Along with Big Brother tomorrow night will be Blue Cheer, which has another very unusual success story. Who in the world ever thought that three musicians, completely dwarfed by their amplifiers and sound equipment, could come out on stage and make the loudest and strangest noises conceivable from guitars, drums and voices, and rise to national fame so quickly? That is more or less what Blue Cheer has done, and its uniqueness has made it a very popular group, both in record sales and performances.

Salt Lakers got a real taste of Blue Cheer music some three months ago in the Coliseum, and most everyone left the place with their ears ringing in delight. Only three members, Dickie Peterson, Paul Whaley and Leigh Stephens compose Blue Cheer, but the sounds these three create make the Mormon Tabernacle Choir sound like the Lennon Sisters.

It is often impossible for members of Blue Cheer to remain in front of their twelve Marshall amplifiers and countless speakers, which emit all that Blue Cheer music. Blue Cheer also has a second album soon to be released on the Phillips label, and their performance tomorrow night should amply prepare people's heads for Big Brother.

Salt Lake's Holden Caulfield will also be appearing at both shows, and should be equally as much a hit as Blue Cheer and Big Brother. Holden Caulfield has gone through several stages of music in its near two-year existence, but the group has really come around with its own material. Recent Holden Caulfield sets have been very professional, and this group well deserves the honor of playing with the two headline bands.



Dickie Peterson, Leigh Stephens, and Paul Whaley, better known as Blue Cheer, will be rockin' Lagoon's Patio Gardens Saturday with Big Brother and the Holding Company.

