Blue Cheer concert waxes sour

By Steve Great

Blue Cheer, my friend, is a drag, a bore, and an insufferable musical insult. Another tired organ group out of San Francisco, they were a keen disappointment in their performance Thursday night at the Boston Tea Party.

Blue Cheer is first, foremost, and nothing more than one thing: loud. Their overwhelming volume has an interesting effect: it numb the listener's senses until after two or three songs he has been driven into submission—total submersion in the band's artful whin. Unfortunately the Cheer lack the imagination to do anything creative with this very useful power. They just continue to eke the audience to death with their astonishingly limited set of devastating cymbals and drums. Other local groups, most notably Jefferson Airplane, manage to accomplish a great deal with threshold volume, but the net effect of Blue Cheer is that of a sledgehammer rape of the eardrums with no sense of artistry accompanying their thunderous delivery.

High potato

They did manage two good moments in the entire show. Their initial impact is easily justified, and compelling. The group's superficiality starts to show through, however, when the listener notices that the note bank's changed a bit since the beginning of the show. The second highlight, and the only musically valid one, was the slow, plastic blues of "Rock Me Baby," which carried out solid and driving but eventually went the route of all the other nonsensical songs.

On the basis of this very boring concert and their equally nonsensical album "Vinylous Exquistes" Blue Cheer gets the "Summe of the Month" Award of all the featured bands that appeared at the Tea Party, the side band on the bill with Traffic, was more raucous, but then again not the main attraction.

The Quill

The second band with Blue Cheer, the Quill, was, on the other hand, thoroughly enjoyable. Another band that, by about 300 who wandered in on their own, for the experience, even if it was not your type of art.

The opening set was intended by about 500 who wandered between the gallery and the courtyard outside, listening to wine from aesthetic plastic cups, joining the exhibitor by hanging on the "Make Love Not War" sculpture with the mit provided, with wine in the tie of another piece of climbing on one resembling a playground jungle-gym.

Included in the exhibit of about 25 pieces done by mem-

ers and associates of the Coastline Art Association, Park Place Exhibit opened officially Friday night at the Hayden Gallery and surrounding areas. It is well worth visiting for the experience, even if it is not your type of art.

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