Big Brother, Butterfield bring powerful blues

By Bill Sisney

Few people comprehend the meaning of the term "blues," yet this fact contributed to the originality of last Monday's performance by Big Brother and the Holding Company at the Fillmore."Butterfield Blues Band" are all blues and this means that the shows are an integral part of their image. Both groups upheld a grand deal of excitement and in the case of Butterfield, a lot of plain sound power. The latter is a blues-oriented ensemble as they depend on the audience and not on feedback to the stage. It was certainly a poor thing to happen Monday night.

In addition, bad management was shown from the obvious. The sound was a lack of equipment or some sort of deafening. Such attempts at control could only result in chaos. Rock concerts are never to be delayed, nor should any audience have to bear this.

Butterfield and his band have an image that only black and white are the colors. The group also was somewhat involved in some sort of black and white manifesto. The group's show, however, was a lack of any excitement. The audience was nearly inaudible due to the poor management. The Butterfield show was not as good as the earlier selections. The group was in control of the audience and not the audience itself.

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As for the audience's reaction, Leonard Bernstein used to get more excitement at his Children's Concert than was seen Monday at the Arena. Butterfield played a type of music which was not as popular as big city and the music of the groups. The audiences were far more interested and they gave it to the performing group. The music was so good, and they showed it in any form. The audience was certainly not a blues band, but he shows signs of being a blues oriented ensemble as they depend on the audience and not on feedback to the stage.

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