

Outside In

Dillon Fence takes a step in the right direction

Erick Gill
The Pendulum

It has been more than a year since the Chapel Hill pop/alternative quartet Dillon Fence released a full length album.

Tuesday, April 20, Dillon Fence came through with their second Mammoth Records release, *Outside In*.

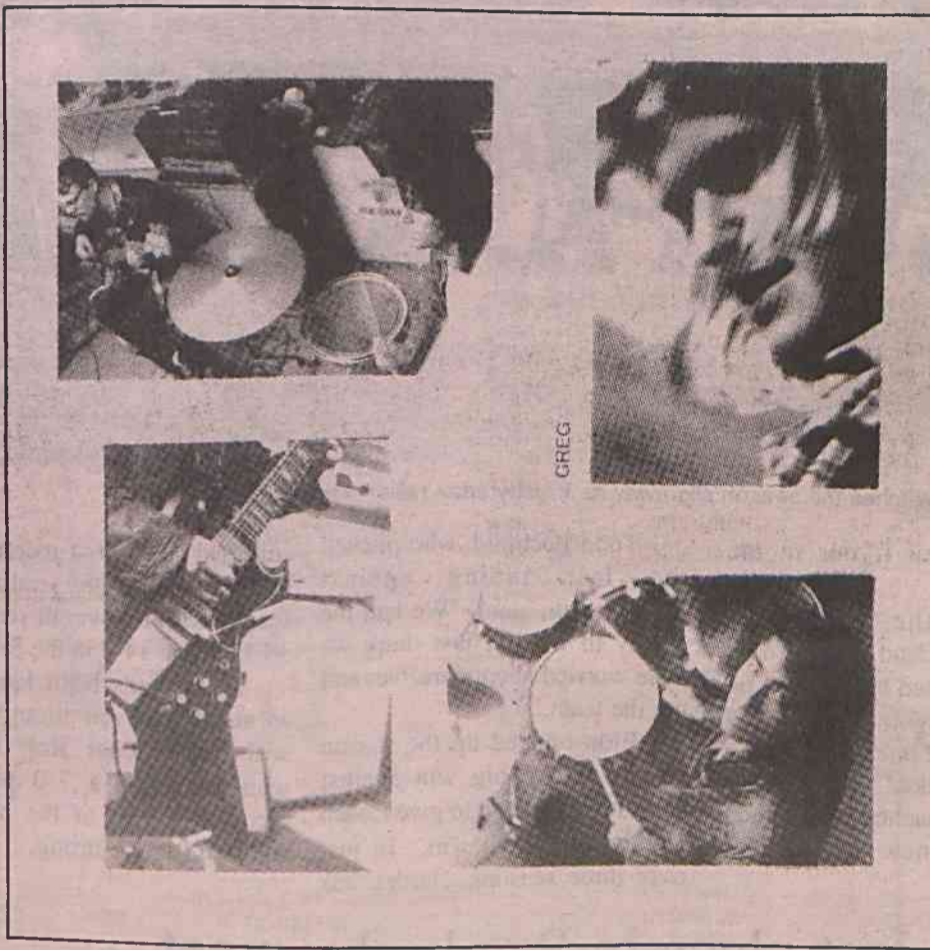
Outside In sums up the new sound and style Dillon Fence has taken. Their latest 14 tracks are a far cry from the Dillon Fence that recorded *Rosemary*.

Outside In carries a rough edged sound throughout the album. There is no over-producing on this record. It captures the true sound of a real rock 'n' roll band.

This time around lead vocalist Greg Humphreys shies away from the high-pitched girlish screams he has been known for. Songs like *Safety Net* and *Black Eyed Susan*, however, let the "old" Dillon Fence slip out:

Guitarist Kent Alphin even gets to speak his mind on the songs *One Bad Habit* and *Hold Me Down*. Alphin not only wrote these two tracks, but he also does the vocals. His voice, mellow but solid, is a soothing change from Humphrey's.

Dillon Fence has a lot to offer with their new album, everything from upbeat rock songs like *Waking Up* to soft spoken ballads like *Hard to Please*.



Lofty guitar riffs combined with a hard driving bass produce some of the album's best tracks. *Remember* and *Headache* are the type of songs that will

stick in your head.

Even though *Outside In* is a step in a new direction for Dillon Fence, it sounds like a step in the right direction.

Pop singer of '60s brings new message to audiences

In 1966 the Swinging Medallions soared to the top of the musical charts with their million-selling record, *Double Shot of My Baby's Love*.

Ken Helser, keyboardist and soulful lead singer, went right along with them. Into the spotlight for gigs with Dick Clark, Neil Diamond, performing in front of sell-out crowds, Ken was living a dream. Then it turned into a nightmare of drugs, alcohol, and the result was a crumbling marriage and a desperate musician.

Helser's life was turned around after "meeting his maker."

"I had an incredible encounter with Jesus Christ and left the band; I gave them my notice that very day," Helser said in *The Tarboro Telegram*.

On his last night with the group, Ken recalls standing on the stage, surrounded by a thousand intoxicated

teens, singing Steppenwolf's song *The Pusher Man*, from the movie *Easy Rider*.

"The lyrics of the song from *Easy Rider* were 'God damn the pusher man,' meaning God sent him to hell forever," he said. "All of a sudden when I was singing it I thought, I don't want that to happen."

Since that night in 1970, Ken Helser has been playing his music for a different audience. He has thrilled the young and the young at heart with his music, his storytelling, and his artistry (he does painting and pen and ink drawings), usually drawing crowds of teenagers and college students as well as older adults.

"That thrills me because I was brought up in a church that I hated," Helser said. "It was the most boring, stiffest, sickest moment of the whole week."

That's not why Jesus Christ came, Helser says. "He didn't come to put us in a box. He came to let us out."

Elon students will have the opportunity to meet Helser and enjoy his music and storytelling on Sunday, May 2. He will sing at ELON CELEBRATION! in Whitley Auditorium at 11 a.m., and then he will perform a full concert at the Lodge after the morning service (approximately 1:15). Lunch will be provided free for all those who reserve a space, beginning at 12:30 at the Lodge.

Briefs

Elon Dancers' spring concert

Under the direction of Rosemary Howard, this select group of performers will dance to a variety of works by faculty and guest choreographers on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in McCrary Theatre.

ON THE SCENE

Our Choice

■ *Measure for Measure* will be performed at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Taylor Building at UNCG. For more information call 334-5546.

Heading To Concerts

■ *Toyz* will be playing Friday night at the Lighthouse.

■ *Sidecar Jones* and *Perusing the Bukowski* will play Thursday night at The Cave in Chapel Hill. *Gravity's Pull* plays Friday night, *Joe Bell Stinging Blades* plays Saturday night and *Bloom* plays Sunday night.

■ *Yo La Tengo* and *Basehead* play Thursday night at the Cat's Cradle in Chapel Hill. *Bad Check* and *81 Mulberry* play Friday night. *Belly* and *Velocity Girl* play Saturday night.

Musicals/Plays

■ *Into the Woods* will be performed at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday at the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro. For more information call 333-2605.

■ *Marvin's Room* will be performed at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Broach Theatre.

At The Movies

■ Terrace Theatre- *Who's the Man*, *Indecent Proposal*, *The Dark Half*, *The Sand Lot* and *Street Night*.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Life is extinct on other planets because their scientists were more advanced than ours.

Unknown

Compiled by Ashley Stone