

Dillon Fence makes its mark in Cat's Cradle performance

Monday night shows are not exactly notorious for being major crowd-drawers. However, this was evidently not a problem for Dillon Fence, a band that played Monday to a packed and wildly enthusiastic crowd at Cat's Cradle.

If one word could sum up the entire show, it would be energy — not just the energy of Dillon Fence, but that of the audience and the entire Cradle as well. The more songs the Fence played, and the deeper into the night it got, the greater the enthusiasm of everyone became, so much so that the band played well past its allotted time. The group actually had to be asked by the management to stop just because it was getting too late to continue.

Perhaps the explanation for this lies partially in the group itself. This is a band for fun. As Greg Humphreys, the lead guitarist and vocalist, remarked, "This band is for fun in general, and whatever happens, happens. We don't want people to take us too seriously because we know that we don't necessarily know the answers."

Another factor in the successful gig was the underlying teamwork and interaction of Dillon Fence.

Julie Olsen
Concert

The show was spontaneous in feeling because, in a sense, it was spontaneous. The band held a natural rapport and communication with the audience that only enhanced the musical performance. Most notable were Humphreys and bassist Chris Goode who, perhaps because they played in a band together in high school, ad-libbed and joked with each other throughout the show. The comfortable relationship among the band members was certainly evident and a definite plus in the overall performance.

There is quite a bit of variety in the repertoire of Dillon Fence, not only because the members all have different musical interests and backgrounds, but also because they all contribute to the songwriting. Humphreys, Goode and rhythm guitarist Kent Alphin actually write most of the songs, along with Brooke Pitts, the drummer.

The band members came back fresh from winter break with a bag full of new songs that they opened

up at the show on Monday, though they still played all the old favorites. A sign of their increasing popularity in the area was the number of people present who not only were familiar with many of their songs but amazingly knew the words and sang along with the band.

The Fence plays mostly originals, sprinkled with a few covers of those such as James Brown, Muddy Waters, and the Feelies. But it is the originals which really exhibit the substance of the group. Just to name a few: the funky tempo of "Sex is Boring," the rocking version of "The Jungle Book Story," an almost country-sounding song aptly named "Dillon Fence," and "Baby on Board," which Goode describes as being "a half-hearted protest against miscellaneous, bothersome, trendy items."

But most of all, the musicians obviously enjoy playing the music that they do. This is a band that is just plain fun to watch, to listen to, and to dance to, which is precisely what almost everyone did at the show. Dillon Fence is a lot of fun, definitely a band not to miss.



UNC varsity cheerleaders perform before the North Carolina-Duke game

DTH/David Minton

Spirit boost

Cheerleaders fired up after national competition

By **JULIE WOODS**
Staff Writer

The UNC varsity cheerleaders are always busy cheering and applauding the University's various sports teams, but now they deserve some kudos of their own.

The 16-member squad placed seventh in the Coca-Cola/Holiday Inn National Cheerleading Championship held in San Diego, Calif., Jan. 8-11. The Universal Cheerleading Association sponsored the event.

"This is the major competition for colleges," said Don Collins, head coach for the UNC varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads.

Co-captain Mark Evans, a junior RTVMP major from Washington, N.C., said this was the first time the UNC squad competed in the competition since winning the national title in 1978.

Out of 70 cheerleading squads that submitted videotapes to be judged for this year's competition, 12 were chosen to compete in the national championships. The videotapes had to demonstrate a sideline chant, a cheer, a school fight song and crowd participation. Judges selected squads based on crowd

interaction with the cheerleaders, their originality, precision, level of difficulty and squad appearance.

"Crowd participation helped us a whole lot in getting invited," Collins said. "The crowd this year was really excellent in getting behind the games."

Collins also attributed UNC traditions, such as "The Wave," to helping make a good crowd segment in the videotape.

Lyn Mathis, a co-captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, said the Carolina Fever Committee (CFC) played a tremendous role in boosting crowd spirit.

"The CFC got the other students to stand up and cheer, shake their pom-poms and be supportive," Mathis said. "Without them we would not have gotten as many points."

The CFC met bi-weekly with the cheerleaders and the UNC band during the football season to discuss game strategy. Together, they planned cheers and entertainment for homecoming, parades and pep rallies that would encourage more crowd enthusiasm and participation. Mathis, who is a senior RTVMP

major from Greensboro, said the cheerleaders had less than three weeks to practice in preparation for the competition. The squad was working up to six and eight hours a day before they left for California.

Their two-minute routine, set to "Good Golly Miss Molly," "Mony, Mony" and "I Think We're Alone Now," featured gymnastics, partner stunts, pyramids, chants and dancing.

The cheerleaders had five tense minutes of floor time in the morning to check their spacing and a dress rehearsal later that day before the final competition.

The squad made a couple of mistakes in its routine, Mathis said, so they did not really expect to place in the top three.

"We were not let down at all," Mathis said. "Placing seventh is definitely going to give those (cheerleaders) coming back drive and desire to do better next year."

Kentucky placed first in the competition, Alabama was runner-up and N.C. State came in third.

Collins, who has also been a cheerleading coach at Slippery Rock University and James Madison University, said, "I think the recognition is very important because there are over 300 major universities with cheerleading squads, and this gave them a chance to match their skills against other squads."

Mathis said many people had the misconception that cheerleading was not a true sport.

"The competition brings respect to our sport because lots of people think of cheerleading as a club," Mathis said. "We wanted to see how we ranked nationally."

"Since the competition, people have given us more recognition and respect as a sport."

During football season the squad usually devotes 18 hours of sweat and hard work each week between games, practice and weightlifting. The hours of preparation involved for basketball season are considerably longer because there are more games.

"I think one of the most important things is that people do not realize the amount of time that goes in to being a UNC cheerleader," Collins said. "It takes a lot of athletic ability."

People interested in trying out for the UNC cheerleading squad can check for information signs in March after the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

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House of Freaks duo waxes unique with their 'Monkey on a Chain Gang'

About a year and a half ago in Richmond, Va., Bryan Harvey was playing mostly pop-oriented music, and Johnny Hott was playing big band jazz. When they met, after dating the same girl, they abandoned their respective standards and moved to Los Angeles to form House of Freaks, an intellectual rock 'n' roll duo.

House of Freaks (the name comes from a circus poster) has just released its debut LP, *Monkey on a Chain Gang*, on Rhino Records. In the past the duo has opened for the likes of Allison Moyet, John Hiatt and Mojo Nixon. "Bottom of the Ocean," a song on the duo's new disc, has also been released as a single.

James Burrus
Album

One might get the impression that because House of Freaks is a duo, the music is light. Harvey sings and plays lead electric guitar, Hott thumps on the drums, and that's it. That the Freaks are weak is a false assumption. This duo can rock it up. In fact, Harvey and Hott brag about the fact that they can blow away many four-piece bands. Although there is no bass on the record, House of Freaks produces a hard sound, mainly due to Harvey's reliance on the low strings and chords.

Lyrical, *Monkey on a Chain Gang* does not make an attempt to convey the feelings Harvey and Hott had when they dated the same girl. Instead of trying to write the ultimate love song, Harvey and Hott deal with subjects like migration ("Cactusland"), slave sacrifices ("Bottom of

the Ocean"), nuclear explosion ("Dark and Light in New Mexico") and the making of the blues ("Black Cat Bone").

While "Bottom of the Ocean" deserves the attention it has gotten from the press, the best song of the LP may be "40 Years." This song is about midlife crises. Instead of feeling depressed about reaching the halfway point of his life, however, the character in the song is thankful for living 40 years.

House of Freaks has a unique sound, although the duo's lyrics are somewhat hard to comprehend fully. There seems to be no underlying theme running through the album, and many of the songs can be interpreted in many ways. It sounds like Harvey and Hott have a message to convey, but do not know exactly what that message is. But hey, that's OK. Maybe this powerful duo does not know exactly where it's going, but House of Freaks will win over many fans as Harvey and Hott try to find out.

Congress

qualified candidate to run for office. Rep. Stephanie Ahlschwede (Dist. 14) said the bill also addresses the problem of financial need in other aspects of campus life.

Differences in rent rates between North and South Campus residence halls, financial aid and the question of stipends for campus officers are all problems that are linked, she said. Ahlschwede said she will probably

vote for the bill although it would only address part of the problem.

Student Body President Brian Bailey said he also supports the bill.

"Student government and the student body should be concerned with making our student government the best it can be," he said. "So we have to have the best person in office, and that's not necessarily the richest one."

Students running for office should be prepared to make sacrifices, but those sacrifices should be minimal, he said.

"Four hundred dollars is a lot of money for a campaign where you don't know if you're going to win or not," he said.

Hathaway said the subsidy candidates could receive is small in comparison to the financial difficulties faced by students, but it is the best action that can be taken by congress.

"Larger actions must be taken by the private sector, the federal government and the administration," he said.

Housing

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are far less than what she (Cell) perceives according to the quality of life survey that was conducted recently," Topping said.

"I believe now is the time for us to inform the faculty of the realities of University housing."

Dixie Spiegel, associate professor in the School of Education, said, "A lot will be accomplished by just hearing what the faculty has to say about what they feel the problems with housing are."

The survey will be taken again in February, Kuncil said.

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