

# Street CENIE

Good one: Dillon Fence — Scott Carle, Chris Goode, Kent Alphin and Greg Humphreys — have come out with a sterling debut release in "Rosemary."



## Parents take heed; Kids get obnoxious in really sweet way

LEFT OF CENTER



JILL HAMILTON

Kids 10 and under are in a bit of a quandary — they want to assert their independence but aren't quite sure how. They know that one good way is to annoy their parents. From the first time they discover the many wonderful uses of the word "No!" at age two, kids grasp the awesome powers of refusing to do what their parents want.

The no tactic works well for a few years. It's very effective in forcing parents to realize that their cute little baby is developing a personality — quite possibly a trait they're not yet sure they're going to like.

But saying no gets old after awhile. The independence-minded kids need to develop more and better tactics to get under mommy and daddy's skin.

For the 10 and under crowd, two very effective tactics — getting a red hairnet and wearing tough-looking clothing — are out. Between allowances and tooth fairy earnings, the single-digit age group simply doesn't have the cash to get these symbols of independence.

So, it has to be something they can afford. In a word, candy.

And it works. Actual parents have formed committees to fight the insidious threat of kids buying certain candies, like "Garbage Pail Kids" trading cards. Presumably, the idea is that buying one "Atomic Fire Ball" is the first step on the road to debauchery. A kid eating "Tea Jerkers" will be well on his or her way to living in a moving box, babbling incoherently to invisible friends.

Is this a real problem or do some parents just need to get a hobby?

In the interest of investigative reporting, we had to find out. We scoured local mom and pop stores, searching for the best examples of parentally incorrect candy. Here's what we found:

"Cry Baby"/"Extra Sour Tear Jerkers"/"Sour FX": These little candies are the Holy Trinity of the obnoxious candy world. Eating them in front of peers is sort of a rite of passage in the elementary school set. The test is whether or not a child can actually eat the candy.

All of these are coated with a vile, sour tasting substance on the outside. If the kid can make it through the yucky outside into the sugary jaw breaker or gum inside, he or she has won.

A taste test revealed that, indeed, eating this candy is a true test of courage. The outside has a taste akin to bathroom scouring powder. The fact that kids eat this stuff anyway is a tribute to their fortitude in the quest to annoy Mom and Dad.

Parental annoyance factor: High.

Typical parental comment: "Is that stuff safe?"

"The Real Ghostbusters Slimer Bubble Gum": It comes in a toothpaste tube and is the color of bright green fluorescent toxic waste. For some kids, it's the only green thing they'll volunteer to eat. The slime has the consistency of ultramarine, watered-down cookie dough.

A taste test revealed that grown-ups don't have the right jaw power, to compact the slime into actual gum.

Parental annoyance factor: High due to an extremely elevated gross-out quotient.

Typical parental comment: "Don't get that stuff on the couch!"

"Garbage candy": This product is made in China, is simply labeled "candy" and comes in a tiny blue garbage can. The little tan candies are shaped like garbage can deficiencies like meat bones, fish scales and empty soup cans. Yum.

A taste test revealed that, shape aside, these aren't too bad and the garbage can can be used as a handy storage container.

Parental annoyance factor: Medium due to easily concealed Aiz.

Typical parental comment: "Now, why would you want to put something like that in your mouth?"

Thumb candy: This candy consists of a plastic ring mounted with a life-size edible thumb, complete with lines and fingernails.

If you're Caucasian, the thumb is the color of your skin, so it's like sucking your own thumb. If you're African American, native American, Asian, etc., the thumb is the color of someone else's thumb (perhaps, you could pretend it's George Bush's thumb).

A taste test revealed that the candy has a mild cherry flavor although the concept of eating a body part was difficult to get over.

Parental annoyance factor: High due to fears about infantile behavior.

Typical parental comment: (overheard) "Hon, do you think we should talk to the doctor about Junior's oral fixation?"

Nose candy: This tiny, pellet-like candy is dispensed from the nostrils of a 3-inch tall plastic nose. The idea is that they're boogers. When eating these, it is proper to call over a friend and say, "Hey look, I'm eating boogers!" Supposedly, hilarity ensues.

A taste test revealed that these aren't so bad tasting and not at all like real boogers (or so we assume).

Parental annoyance factor: Medium to high. Parents are usually relieved that Junior has switched to fake boogers.

Typical parental comment: "So this is why you didn't eat the delicious egg salad sandwich I made for you."

## Dillon Fence puts pop in music



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

As Squeeze, NTC and, of late, Matthew Sweet continue to prove, pop in its purest and most joyful form triumphs over the arcane debate whether its AOR or alternative. Dillon Fence makes such labeling insignificant.

The Chapel Hill, N.C., foursome perform a shimmering brand of guitar pop, using the broadest strokes and the simplest melodies that need no classification.

"It's alternative in the sense it's not getting played on the radio," said vocalist and guitarist Greg Humphreys with a laugh.

Dillon Fence achieves this accessible, all-encompassing platform by not sounding the least generic. And they certainly don't sound like a jangly guitar R.E.M. derivative despite being from the Southeast region.

An intensity bodes through on the outfit's 11-song debut "Rosemary" on Marmalade Records that soothes each member to their armor of impenetrable pop convictions.

All Dillon Fence wanted to do was come out with a guitar pop album. They succeeded in doing that with their latest release, "Rosemary." But even so, the North Carolina band is faced with the fact that their music isn't getting played on the radio.

Run St. Germain produced "Rosemary," helping cultivate a collaboration of Scott Carle, Chris Goode, Kent Alphin and Humphreys into a sterling debut release. Humphreys credits the producer of such renowned outfits as U2, The Cure, and Mick Jagger for getting the best out of the band in the studio.

The good songs were already there, eliciting a wide variety of comparisons from '80s British pop bands like Style Council and Aztec Camera to the flourishing soul of Marvin Gaye.

For Humphreys, songwriting is an arduous process. He sits down with an acoustic guitar and bangs out a core of a number on a four-track. From there, it's dissected and rebuilt to perfection in the studio.

But what makes a good number?

"I think it's when the melody meets the lyric," Humphreys said. "When the lyrics are honest and fit the listener and they can feel what the song is about... it sounds so simple but it's really difficult."

Many of Dillon Fence songs are about perhaps the non-simplest emotion of all — love. Theirs is

not bitter tremors of relationships gone sour. Rather, Dillon Fence focuses on the often vulnerable state in which love leaves us.

Revealed in the hook-rides "I'll Wait": "Sometimes I get a little impatient/Sometimes I get a little frustrated/Go away and use that phone 'cause I'll be sitting right here alone."

Or as further explored in the guitar-driven melancholy "I Will Break": "My side burns every step, but I just can't accept/You don't love me — you don't love me."

Against furor of the guitar and bass interplay, though, such pain is almost betrayed in a cathartic, triumphant way.

"Dillon Fence was formed by the most natural inspirations. The success of bands such as the dB's and Mink's group Let's Active led Humphreys and Alphin to put Dillon Fence together while students at the University of North Carolina.

Crowds in the Southwest immediately took to Dillon Fence, reflected in the 8,000 sales of their self-produced EP and the subsequent 20,000 copies of "Rosemary" being gobbled up.

"We just wanted to make a guitar pop album," Humphreys said.

And, quite simply, they did.

"Dillon Fence will perform open for Flat Duo Jets Friday, June 12, at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

## Bleeding's pit stop is 'Penetration' LP

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Paul Lemons of the underground industrial outfit Controlled Bleeding says the band's latest LP is not a sign on the road of things to come but merely a pit stop.

"Penetration," the outfit's latest on Third Mind, came about as a result of several fragmented ideas Lemons collected and recorded informally in his home. When Lemons took them into a 24-track studio with creative collaborator Chris Moriarty, he found the numbers suddenly took on a life of their own.

The release isn't reflective of a

particular direction the outfit is headed in the future.

"It really depends on the general feeling at the time," said Lemons about the process of making records. "All of our records are very personal. It depends on how angry we are... or happy we are will depend on what mood the records will take."

For that reason, Controlled Bleeding has never been one easy to gauge. Previous releases spanning back to their 1983 debut "Knees and Bones" have ranged from pri-



Back to basics: Controlled Bleeding, in a sense, has unearthed industrial music's most brooding potential with its latest release, "Penetration," on Third Mind.

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## IN CONCERT

Monday, June 8

TRIP MASTER MONKEY

Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross,

Ypsilanti,

466-5050

FULL MOON RISING

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor,

996-2747

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM

Ann's, 1776 Jones, Leland,

832-2355

Tuesday, June 9

VU DU HIPPIES

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

PRODIGALS

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor,

996-2747

Wednesday, June 10

MAITRES

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

DAVE MOORE

The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor,

761-1451

BLUE EDGE

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor,

996-2747

Thursday, June 11

NEW FLESH

30 Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak,

589-3344

FERE LE DIMANCHE

The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor,

761-1451

M.L. LEIBER MARIO POETRY

With Frank Pahl and Mary Richards at

Ann's, 1776 Jones, Leland,

832-2355

WYNTON MARRAIS

Chene Park, 2600 E. Atwater, Detroit,

393-0066

MURKHOOD HEAD

With Blue Numbus at Griff's Grill, 49 N.

Saginaw, Pontiac,

334-9927

JOHNNY WITH AN EYE

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor,

996-2747

FRANK ALLISON & JULIE SPARLING

Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

Friday, June 12

MOTOR CITY FUNKATHON

With Royal Crescent Men, Fungo Mun

go, Brothers from Another Planet and Lyla

Sia, The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave.,

Detroit,

833-9700

17 REASONS WHY

With the Incubators and Wayouts at Al-

vin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit,

832-2355

QUIET RIOT

1-Rock Night Club, 16350 Harper, De-

troit,

861-7625

TEW LOST TRIBES

With Voodoo Chix at Finney's Pub,

3605 Woodward, Detroit,

831-8070

FLAT DUO JETS

With Dillon Fence at Blind Pig, 208 S.

First, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

ROLAND B.

Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross,

Ypsilanti,

485-5050

MOSE ALLISON

The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

X-FEST

Smotherings, Poster Children, Prang,

Cowbells and Flat Out at Chene Park,

2600 E. Atwater, Detroit,

393-0066

CHICAGO & THE MOODY BLUES

Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and

Sashabaw Road, Clarkston,

377-0100

ELAN BANE

With Mind at Li's, 2930 Jacob, Ham-

tramack,

875-6555

HAPPY ACCIDENTS

With Weeping Rachel at Griff's Grill, 49

Saginaw, Pontiac,

334-9927

THE ATTIE

Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor,

996-2747

FLAT DUO JETS

With Dillon Fence at Blind Pig, 208 S.

First, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

First, Ann Arbor,

996-8555

Saturday, June 13

MOOLAPOPPERS

With K-Popers at Finney's Pub,

3605 Woodward, Detroit,

831-8070

MONOTONKILLS

Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross,

Ypsilanti,

485-5050

RFD 8078

The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor,

761-1451

LEON RUSSELL

The Majestic, 4120 Woodward, Detroit,

377-0100

CHICAGO & THE MOODY BLUES

Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and

Sashabaw Road, Clarkston,

377-0100

MELLOW

Ann's, 1776 Jones, Leland,

832-2355

SEX DICK RUN

With Incubators at Li's, 2930 Jacob,

Hamtramck,

875-6555

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

With K-Popers at Griff's Grill, 49

Saginaw, Pontiac,

334-9927

Happy Accidents

Li's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck,

875-6555

Happy Accidents

Li's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck,

875-6555

Sunday, June 14

BARB BARTON

The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor,

761-1451

INDIGO GIRLS

With Matthew Sweet at Pine Knob Music

Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road,

Pontiac,

377-0100