

Concert Review by Luis Cardoso  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## SNFU: A Band with No Means

No one in the world of rock or punk bands in Canada. They perform with a ferocious intensity that can be frightening to the uninitiated, especially at that moment the uninitiated finds him or herself hurtling through the air toward a seemingly nonchalant guitar player. That moment came early on Monday night. SNFU weren't one bar into their first number before the thrashing/slamming began. And before the night was over a sweaty fog hovered waist high in a room that all but exploded with that furious energy found only at hardcore shows.

SNFU's illustrious career spans a period of just over ten years. The band was spawned in Edmonton's hardcore scene in 1980, and have since played over 900 live shows. After releasing three albums, 1984's *And No One Else Wanted to Play*, 1986's *If You Swear You'll Catch No Fish*, and 1989's *Better Than A Stick in the Eye*, the band called it quits. They have recently reformed and are touring North America on the strength of a new release, *Last of the Big Time Suspenders*. The new album is comprised entirely of material recorded prior to the band's break-up in 1989. Seven tracks were recorded live in Edmonton in 1989, and the remaining six tracks are studio

recordings made in Edmonton and Vancouver in 1986 and 1988.

SNFU is touring with a familiar roster of players. Although only three of the band members were in the original line-up, all five have played with the band for a number of years. Lead singer **Mr. Chi Pig** and guitar players **Brent** and **MUC** all hail back to the band's inception. Drummer **John Card**, who played with **DOA** — another infamous west-coast hardcore band — for 10 years, has played with SNFU since the second album, and bass player **Kurt** joined the band in 1987.

Unlike the many thrash bands that have recently ascended to fame, SNFU is a tight, snidely tight unit. They have all the classic hardcore riffs, the starts and stops and stutters, down cold, although cold is not a word that sprang to mind after Monday night's performance. SNFU is the real thing; no posers here, kids. Mr. Chi Pig, an intelligent and witty front-man, perched himself on a monitor for much of the night so that the admiring throngs at the back of the room could feed upon the sweat-fueled gyrations possessing his wiry frame. Saint Charbel has no stage to speak of (or dive from), which made climbing up onto windows or speaker stacks a necessity for the enthusiastic crowd divers. And dive they did.

SNFU have played Fredericton twice before this week's show. They were a highlight of the **Maritime Independent Music Festival** here in 1987; they also appeared at the Monsignor Boyd Family Center during those heady days in 1985-87 when top ranking thrash bands like the **Nils**, **No Means No**, **SCUM**, **DOA**, and the **Doughboys** made regular sojourns to our quiet little town on the river.

This past week was inspiring for those of us famished for alternative live entertainment. Along with the **Somersault/SNFU** show we were treated to Montreal's the **Asexuals** for two nights at Trina's on the weekend. Unfortunately, the mainstream media (**CBC**, **Daily Gleaner**, et al) continues to ignore alternative entertainment (that's alternative, not university bands; sadly, the two no longer equate), so that a large portion of the population remains unaware. We can see the **Bourboun Tabernacle Choir** and **Spirit of the West** on **Much Music**. Boy, can we see them on **Much Music**.

I'll leave you with one of Mr. Chi Pig's words to live by.

"You guys rule, man. You guys are the best. You rule!" hollered out an overheated front-line fan during the show.

"We not only rule," answered Chi Pig, "we're smarter than you."



Kudos to **Chris Vautour** and **CHSR-FM** for supporting live alternative music in Fredericton. Kudos to **Dave Campbell** who did an admirable job as sound tech for both shows this week. Last, but certainly not least, kudos to **AI S. Tare** for excellent photography under duress at the SNFU show.

