



the evidence

TYLER PICKERING | CASEY LEWIS | RANDY BURTON | DEAN RUDD

THE EVIDENCE

To most The Evidence is still an unknown commodity; that band with the singing drummer, bombing between suburban halls and downtown dives - carving their way through the local sub-pop.

The truth is that while The Evidence was christened in 2007, the core of the band has been playing together for the better part of a decade. The story is one of crashed vans, broken hands, new bass players, and more glorious notches in the ethereal indie-cred belt. But before we explore this iceberg analogy any further, allow me a musical preface.

In an effort to spare you the hyphenation and unconventional word compounding akin to musical descriptors, it will suffice to call The Evidence an alternative rock band. As individuals they draw upon influences as diverse as Queen, Rush, Refused, Descendents, Aphex Twin, and The Cure.

When all is written and recorded, a listen is recommended to fans of Bad Religion, Circa Survive, Coheed and Cambria, Tool, and even AFI.

Now, back to the iceberg: Guitarists Tyler Pickering and Dean Rudd (high school chemistry classmates) banded together with fellow punk rock scenester and drummer Casey Lewis under the moniker 'The Failure' in late 2000. In parallel to a whirlwind of Canadian tours, Canadian Music Week showcases, and Warped Tour stints, Rudd and Lewis launched local indie imprint Meter Records and Echo Base Studios as resources for the band and their peers. After wrapping up another tour in late 2005, the band took a step back - They had a video in light rotation on Muchmusic and MTV Canada, and had sold through the pressings of a self-titled album and the sophomore *...of reason*, but needed to recharge and were running into troubles with their name.

"My mom never liked that name," adds Dean.

These sub-surface trials and tribulations have been a source of both pride and perspective, and Rudd is quick to point out that the band's objective is more modest than it might appear: "We really just want people to enjoy our music as much as we do. Yes, there is social and political perspective there, but our first agenda is to get people onto that dance floor."

This year brought bassist Randy Burton into the fold, saw the completion of the debut Evidence record *Polarity*, and found the band with enough cash to finally get back in the van in time to support the new record. The spring will see The Evidence stepping into bigger shows once again, including a spot on this year's Sled Island Festival, COCA Conference, and the Vans Warped Tour's Kevin Says Stage.

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The Evidence's debut record, *Polarity*, has just been sent out to media for review.

In 2004, The Evidence put out a record called *...of Reason* under the moniker The Failure. That album earned the following reviews:

Punk Planet (*highlighted review*)

On *...Of Reason*, rock quartet The Failure explodes with a hardcore punk sound that is considerably more melodic and meaningful than simply muscled. But there's still a manly mania below the double, driving guitar, creating a back-and-forth that is playful and potent. The nasal singing and continual harmonies and back-ups offer a youthful exuberance, as they play for a specific kind of teenage outcast. "I'm the loser, I'm the social reject/ I'm the nerd, the geek/ the freak who lives all alone" goes the densely weighty "Pep Rally". *...Of Reason* is furious, fearless, passionate and political, all without sounding contrived and obvious. They retain their musical wits throughout, with sharp guitars and tuneful melodies: There's no kind of failure here.

-Ben Friedland

Punk International

Grade: A-

Color me impressed. Another band from Alberta has emerged to genuinely humble me with their unique take on the usual punk, emo, and hardcore techniques. It's obvious from the moment the album's "Preface" kicks off that the Failure isn't just another band mixing melodies, emotions, and riffs. This band plays like they're on a permanent adrenaline rush. Just like fellow Albertans Belvedere, The Failure play fast-forward punk rock with a side of hardcore. They're as technically sound as their comrades from Alberta, Choke. And they have an emotionally gutwrenching post-hardcore approach, balanced with bizarrely catchy hooks, much the same as Drive By Punch.

"*...Of Reason*" is a supersized sixteen-track recording, and it's fully capable to holding a listener's interest all the way. Different degrees of all the pop, hardcore, and other elements fused together in this four-piece band are at center stage at different times. Certain songs, like my favorite, "Cumulo Nimbus", dazzle with their edge-of-your seat rhythms and transitions, while others like "Pep Rally" show off their guitar wizardry.

Broken Pencil

Maybe I'm paranoid but I suspect that The Failure - shining sons of Calgary - or agents on their behalf investigated me, tossed my apartment and discovered I was a fan of Mission of Burma. Then through a series of subterfugious moves, had this CD put into my hands so I could declare it so hot, it's entropic. Divergently though, Burma, specifically songwriter Roger Miller, investigated a buzz-saw pop so melancholic as to be suffocating, whereas The Failure deviate with an occasional irksome cheerfulness. But that's just me being ol' picky pants. While "Vandal Me" comes a hair-trigger close, The Failure will succeed in writing our generation's "That's When I Reach For My Revolver" sometime very soon.

-Brian Joseph Davis

Music Emissions

The Failure is a fairly youthful punk band from Calgary that is on their second full-length album already. I missed out on their first album but if ...*Of Reason* is any sign, it might be worth tracking down. The Failure plays a more intelligent style of punk that you normally hear. Harmonies are prevalent in their music and while at times I'm reminded of old Calgary stalwarts Field Day, I also hear the forward thinking of bands like 311. Their music is socially conscience without shoving any ideals at the listener. The band is dynamic showing that they can handle pretty much any style. Listen to "Pep Rally" for a perfect showcase of true singing in punk music. Not something that you normally hear this day and age. ...*Of Reason* is a great album and I look forward to hearing more from this quartet...

Exoduster

Grade: B+

One the first real track of ...*Of Reason*, "Greymoment/Enjoy It While It's Over," you are thinking a more punk version of Coheed and Cambria (or AFI for that matter) as the vocals rumble a cadence similar to the prog-rock of Rush or Queen, the bass drum starts it off and the guitars mute away. Though as the rest of the sixteen tracks demonstrate, the Failure from Calgary have a varying menu to offer to the listener. This is the sophomore record for this four-piece after two of the members, Colin Hess and Casey Lewis spent a decade in the Everymen. Gaining notice in the area and touring with Canada's most recent favorite punk band Flashlight Brown, the Failure have made a name for themselves and are apt to do some serious damage from this record. Though the Failure lack an overly coercive characterization, this seems to add significantly to their product as they are free to strum the spectrum of punk and indie. At times, the Failure present the element of indie-punk that was such uniquely demonstrated by Blankface of Chapel Hill - and that is a very, very good thing. To some extent, then, the opening track, as good as it is, might mischaracterize the band to the quick, casual listener. Other tracks to enjoy include "Cumulo Nimbus" for the powerful and awesome guitars and the gut-wrenching vocals kin to Braid. With an extended quote from Pump Up the Volume and a very 'high-school' opening "Pep Rally" is brilliant when it kicks in full throttle. Echoing guitars open up the solid "Buttersidedown" and "Absolution" follows a similar path. This is a CD that came out of nowhere for us, but it is something that we really enjoyed - very admittedly unexpectedly. Hopefully, the Failure will venture out of the heartland of Canada and come across the border to add their hat to the U.S. punk legions.

Voice of Reason (Belgian Fanzine)

The Failure can be described as an Indie Punk outfit that is truly trying to come up with something original and not just copying other bands. The riffing is reminding me (of) the almighty Thrice but it's nevertheless not sounding like Thrice. Strange, but I guess you can't come up with an accurate description how the Failure sounds like. So why not check them out for yourselves? Stop reading and start listening!

-Stefan