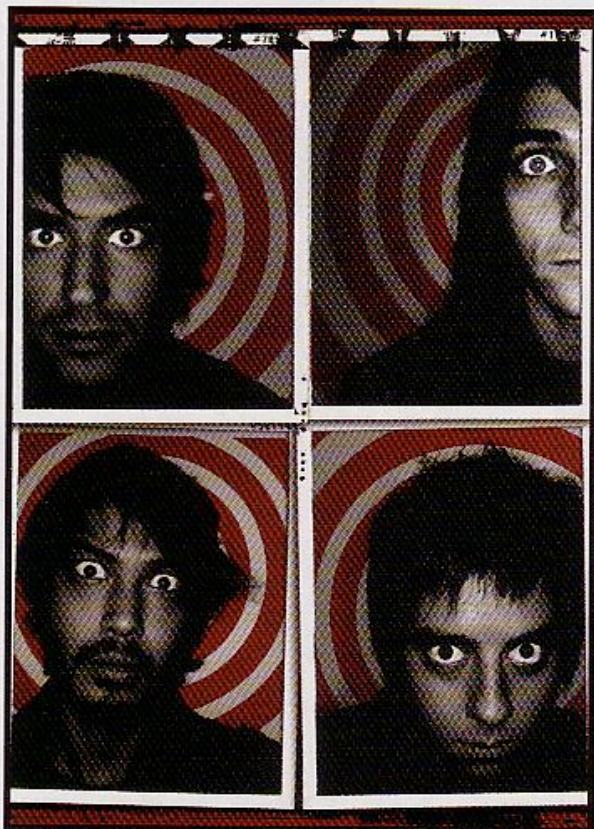


00 BANDS YOU NEED TO KNOW IN 2006

TOMORROW'S MUSIC TODAY: THE ULTIMATE BUYER'S GUIDE!

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THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

HB: Denton, TX

CHECK OUT: *To The Confusion Of Our Enemies*

(VOLCOM; volcoment.com)

FOR FANS OF: AC/DC, the Hives, Rocket From The Crypt

Two years ago at a gig in San Francisco, Riverboat Gamblers singer Mike Wiebe chucked down his microphone and accidentally punted it right into bassist Patrick Lillard's mouth, knocking out

several of Lillard's teeth in the process. The bassist soldiered on, swallowing pints of blood until he collapsed and was rushed to the hospital, eventually to have his mouth surgically reconstructed. Oddly enough, this is also a great metaphor for Lillard and Wiebe's band: Over the past half-decade, the Riverboat Gamblers have been beaten down, dealt bad hands and endured multiple nationwide tour brutalities (they did the Warped Tour, sleeping in the parking lot under their van, nightly). They play skinned-knuckle, bruised-hip rock 'n' roll that sounds like sex, fighting and dancing all at the same time; and on their upcoming Volcom debut, *To The Confusion Of Our Enemies*, they prove that rumors of rock's death have been greatly exaggerated. "We took some chances with this [new record], and we ended up really happy with what we did," says Wiebe. "We wanted it to be big and loud and thought out, but still keep a rawness. It's a fine line between clever and stupid—hopefully, we have one foot on each side." [TTT]