

# MUSIC



## RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

By John B. Moore

Austin's Riverboat Gamblers has been the Lone Star State's best kept secret for the past five years, but thanks to stints on the Warped Tour and opening slots for a Who's Who of punk rock – everyone from X to MC5 – the rest of the record buying public is finally waking up to their blistering AC/DC by-way-of-the Stooges sound.

Touring behind their latest record "To the Confusion of Our Enemies," front man Mike Wiebe called in from Burlington, VT to talk about pouring coffee, broken bones and playing punk for Springsteen.

**The last time I interviewed you, you were calling in from the back of the coffee shop you were working at, just before your record came out. Do you still work there when you're off the road or were you able to leave that job behind?**

Yeah, I still have the job, but I've moved up. I'm not doing dishes anymore. I'm pouring coffee.

**This is your fourth album for your third label. Do you finally feel at home now that you're on Volcom Entertainment?**

The record label is really cool, yeah. I like that different labels reach out to different audiences. We're definitely going to do the next record on Volcom and things are really going great. It's pretty easy and fun, working with them.

**This is for Arkade magazine, so I need to ask if you still find time to skate while on the road.**

I'll bring my skateboard on some tours. I didn't bring it on this one, because I knew the weather was going to be real cold, but yeah, we love to bring them when we can and just kind of mess around in the parking lot. I try not to get too death-defying on tour because I kind of hurt myself on stage enough as it is.

**That brings up another good question. You guys are known for a lot of on stage accidents - from shattered teeth to broken bones – any new scars lately?**

No, other than just mentally abusing each other, we're all physically fine. (The injuries) have gotten the band a lot of press, but that was never really a goal. I'd rather get press from having a lot of good songs and putting on some good shows, rather than getting hurt.

**You guys have played with some amazing bands over the years - MC5, Joan Jett, X – does that ever get intimidating?**

It does. I think it's always a little bit intimidating, but luckily enough they've all just been really, really cool and we've always just tried to soak in all the coolness

from them. We try and learn as much from them as we can; really watch and see what they do that's great... and steal those things. Last night we played in New Jersey and Bruce Springsteen came out to the show. It was pretty amazing. But that was intimidating.

**So Springsteen is a closeted punk rocker?**

We heard a rumor that he was going to be there, his son is a really big fan of Against Me! (also on tour) and so people pointed out to us where he was, so we kept looking at him throughout the entire show. He was cool though and the night went really well.

**Has there been anyone you guys have really wanted to tour with, but haven't yet?**

I always wanted to go out on the road with Rock From the Crypt, but they broke up before we even had a chance to. I think we've been really lucky. We've gone out on the road with some really amazing people. We're really excited to be out with Against Me! because they've been one of our favorite bands for a really long time.

**John B. Moore lives in Atlanta and writes a lot of punk music for a number of magazines, despite living a very unpunk rock life with a mortgage, a 9-to-5 day job, a wife and a kid on the way. Hoping the kid will be a little more rebellious than he turned out.**