

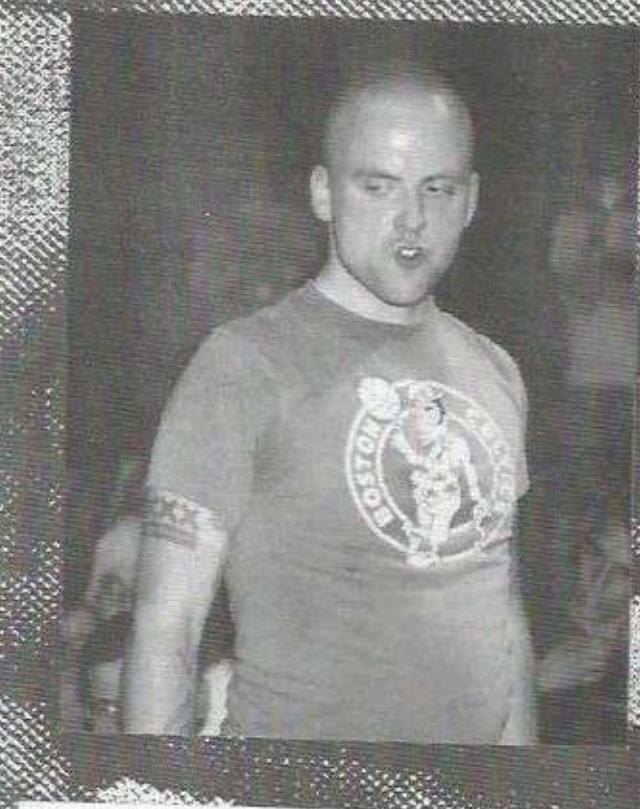
THINK I CARE

THINK I CARE guitarist Shawn Brodberg was nice enough to keep this journal of the bands ups and downs on their recent west coast tour. Broken bones. Broken friendships. I hope you break your neck!

We were originally supposed to go on tour in early June, but that tour fell through because our CDs weren't ready and some of our shows were sketchy. Instead, we figured we would wait until August and do it right. That being said, we had very limited time to get organized for our brief tour. It could not have happened without a lot of help from Corey from INTERNAL AFFAIRS and Jon Westbrook from KNIFE FIGHT.

We ended up playing Sink With Cali Fest, Che Fest and two southern Cali shows in between. Not exactly a BLACK FLAG style tour regimen but whatever. We were in Cali for ten days and only played 4 shows, so if you don't want to read about me hanging out with my friends (and I can't imagine why you would), then you should just flip the page.

For two weeks before the tour, I was staying in Toronto with my girlfriend, Jenn. For much of this time, last minute preparations were being made for the tour. Since we were flying, we had no equipment except guitars, and no tour van. You'd think it would be easy to just rent a van at the airport but we didn't have a credit card between THINK I CARE and RNR (pretty pathetic). Right before I left, I found out that we weren't going to have our new CD ready for the beginning of tour, which really sucked. Jason and I thought about bailing, but with nonrefundable plane tickets, it would have been a bad idea. I figured we would just make the best of it. Bob Mace hooked up some last minute cash for a van rental so we were in business. Two days before we were going to leave for tour, I hopped on a greyhound in Toronto and took the 11-hour ride back to Winchendon. When I got home, we had a last minute practice and then I packed before going to bed. Our flight to Cali was the next morning.



AUGUST 11th

I slept for an hour and then got up and showered. Jason and his girlfriend, Kate, picked me up at 6am. Then we went and got Tony. We left town at like 6am. Through some creative driving, Jason got us to Logan airport by 7:30am and we boarded our flight.

This was my first time flying, and I liked it. It's definitely better than the bus. I was pretty tired and not feeling too social, so I just listened to my headphones. TOH Mixtape Volume 3 kept me company. Exclusive tracks by BEANIE SEGAL, BIG L, O.C., WU-TANG, NAS, etc.

Today was a boring day for us. We rented our tour vehicles. We opted to rent 2 cars instead of a van because it was cheaper and easier.

After that was done, we left the car parked on the street and walked to get some food. Later that night, we looked for a hotel. After checking like a hundred, we found one and I passed right out.

August 12th Sink With Cali Fest Day 1

Today we got up and got some breakfast before heading to the show. Here is where things got messed up. We were supposed to take some highway north according to directions, but apparently, I wrote it down wrong and we were really supposed to go east. Anyone who knows me would tell you that I am a bit of a space cadet, but this was worse than normal. To make a very long story short, we were very lost. Things heated up in the car I was in, and there was a bit of a fight between me and one of the other dudes. Punches were thrown on both sides, but luckily Tony and Joe Hawk broke it up real fast. It was an uncomfortable ride, but things kind of blew over later that day.

RNR played the first day of the fest, and were real good. They opened with the song from their LP and kids went off. There was lots of singing along and dancing throughout their set. I guess I am kind of an asshole because I don't always watch too many bands, just caught the bands I wanted to see, INTERNAL AFFAIRS and VERSE, and they were both good. Props to Corey for doing the 1A set even though he was real sick from a poisonous spider bite.

The Shunskys and Alison left early and stayed with some friend of theirs in LA. The rest of us piled into the other car and stayed with this dude Eli. He was a former radio DJ for TERROR and a good storyteller. Everyone pretty much went to bed and I stayed on the computer for a while and talked to Jenn.



August 15th Sink With Cali Day 2

After yesterday, I just wanted to go back to Toronto, but I figured things would have to get better. We got to the show real early and me and Joe Hawk got some awesome Mexican food. He even paid for me. The dude has class, well sort of, I bet no one has ever said that about him before. Today was a very long day. THINK I CARE didn't go on until like 10pm, so there was a lot of time to kill. I talked to my brother, Joe, on the phone for a bit. He is the singer in RIFF RAFF and a bad motherfucker. Seriously, he is 18 and I bet he can bench more than you.

It felt like forever until we played. I think the time change was hard for me to get used to, or something. I caught OUR TURN and LIGHTS OUT, both good bands. They loaned us their gear too, so they are obviously good dudes. I wasn't sure what to expect, but kids went off for our set. It was real fun. Everything except the SHEER TERROR cover went over well.

After the show, we went to the Hermosa Pier and got some ice cream. Joe Hawk checked out this chick that I can practically guarantee was a dude, but who knows, maybe he has bad eyes?

On the way back to the house we were staying at, the other car (Joe Hawk, Eli, Jason and Tony) got into some confrontation with some clubber people. Joe was throwing shit and assured us he denied their car. He was still pissed though because he didn't break any windows.

When we got to where we were staying, the kid we were staying with wasn't there, but he left the door open. There was another band staying there and their stuff was all set up in places, but we kind of invaded the house and stole all the choice spots. I even got a couch. There was a girl with the other band and she definitely had some scandalous lingerie left out in the open. Maybe their tour diary would be better?

When the dudes in the other band got home, they were definitely bummed. I heard one of them be like "I told you this was going to happen." Most of our dudes either pretended to be or were asleep. One of the dudes wanted to wake up Jason and get him off the porch, but ultimately chickened out.

17th Tehachapi Show

so later than everyone else. That's how it usually goes. When I woke up, I met that we were staying with, Pete. He seemed like a real nice dude and obviously hung us up for a night, let alone the whole week. When I heard that, I was just like crazy.

basically chilled out until we had to leave for the show. We left for the show it turned out to be in the middle of the fucking desert. We got there way too

and a lot of time in front of a Subway. Not exactly a thrilling time.

we pretty much went to the show and hung out. The VERSE dudes were too, so we hung out with them for a bit. The first band was what Jason would

mention. Their amps were seriously some of the loudest shit I have ever heard.

and decipher, but look out for a 7" on Eating Rats Records (not).

red early and then TIC played right after. Our sets were both kind of lame but it

was worse. MY REVENGE got there really late and jumped on the show,

have been doing some desert skating and decided to pull up for their much-

audience spot. We left before them, thankfully. It was a long hot drive back to

7th and 18th Days Off

the Tehachapi show, we had two days off to relax and enjoy ourselves. We had the first day to do some shopping and sight seeing in LA. I woke up and no one around, I walked down to the Whole Foods and saw Tony and Jason. I picked up food and then we chilled. We went back up and gathered everyone together to take

we left, Jason was clowning around with Joe Sylvia. He was holding onto the car side, kind of hoisting himself up front the driver side window, while Joe was in the back. I heard him tell Joe to take it easy and not do anything stupid. Joe kind of aped on the wheel a little bit. That was all it took for Jason to fall off the car. At first, it looked like everything was going to be okay. Jason was on his feet running and lost his balance, but he was going too fast and he couldn't catch up to himself, I heard. He just got up and said, "I just broke my collarbone." I didn't really think

that until I got out of the car I was in and looked at him. His shoulder looked

fucked. There was a strange lump in it. You could see where the bone had

He was all messed up, but seemed completely calm and collected.

rest of the day was spent at the hospital. The doctor told him that his right

was broken in three places and that he was going to need surgery. They

with nothing more than a sling for his arm and a bottle of pills for his pain.

we went to Amoeba records in Hollywood. Joe Hawk was psyched. He

of there with god knows how many obscure country CDs. I just bought a copy

for Destruction" on tape to listen to in the car, and a GZA "Liquid Swords" tape

to torture the other dudes (who don't like rap) for the rest of the trip.

Anyways, Allison and Joe Hawk went out to see the Hollywood sign and stuff, but

we just went home after stopping at In and Out Burger. Jason was feeling kinda

not really into that kind of touristy stuff anyways.

next day, we went shopping pretty early. First Tony, Allison and me ate at this

California Vegan. It was definitely awesome. The other dudes went to In and

Burger. Joe Hawk stayed with us and listened to THINK I CARE to learn the lyrics. He

sang in place of Jason if he didn't feel up to singing at any of the remaining

sets, all of us except Jason and Eli went to Headline records. I got a CRO MAGS

and we collected some hefty parking tickets (ahh Jason will be pissed). Joe Hawk

and talked to the dude working there about obscure crossover bands for hours.

and me cruised the streets and killed time.

After, we went to Venice Beach. It was real cold, but Aaron and I went swimming,

was pussed out, Venice Beach is a total dump. I got to see Arnold and

decided to work out, but it was closed so I couldn't really check it out. It was full of

homeless people. RIFF RAFF should play there.

That night, me and Tony went out to look for something to do. We decided to go to the

and see if anything was going on. The night was kind of a bust. We had some words

with some stubber dudes and as we were leaving, I managed to pour an entire bottle of

beer onto this one shirtless dude. We were a bit overwhelmed though so we just

and slept.

19th Ventura

Tony and I walked to Hermosa Beach. It was definitely warmer than last night, for a bit and then walked back to meet everyone and go to the show. We left for early because it was like an hour and a half ride. We got there as the first band

some sort of pop punk garbage, not a good sign.

Jason and I left and found some food. We ended up at this pizza place that was

but real good. Then we went back to the show. RNR was playing as we got

went up and checked it out. It was kind of dead in their surprisingly. Joe Hawk

complained. After the set he complained to me about them not sounding as tight as he

had liked, but I thought it was pretty solid.

When we started playing, I wasn't expecting much. Luckily for us, some Boston dudes

repping and some other dudes from Virginia Beach. Our set went well despite

handicap (he opted to do the show instead of having Joe Hawk takeover). He

extremely painted the entire time but still put on a good show. After the set he told

he nearly blacked out once or twice. The dude is a trooper for sure. Props to HIT

DECK for letting us use their gear.

After the show, we hung out with Jon Westbrook for a while at an In and Out burger.

have this grilled cheese and although it is extremely low quality, I can't get enough of

August 20th Day Off

At the Ventura show Corey from INTERNAL AFFAIRS told me that our CDs were being shipped to him and would be at his house the next day. At least we would have our new album to sell at Che Fest. So, being as it was a day off, I made plans to go get the CDs from Corey. INTERNAL AFFAIRS were playing a show that night in Hollywood with THE HOODS so I figured I would just go and check that out and get the CDs in the process. Jason had a doctor's appointment earlier in the day, but he and Joe Hawk offered to go along to the show with me afterwards. I just basically hung out at Pete's all day by myself until it was time to leave.

We got to the show early and met up with Corey. It was nice to finally have the CDs. Thanks to Bob for coming through, and Corey for getting them to us. They looked good. I was psyched. We hung out with Corey and Tre McCarthy for a while. After that, we went and got some food and made it back for HOODS and INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I had never seen HOODS before. They were real tight and kids seemed into them. They tossed in an AF cover for good measure. Then INTERNAL AFFAIRS played and the place went nuts. IA is seriously one of the best live band in HC right now. Corey invited us over to hang out, but due to the fact that Joe Hawk's bedtime is 9:30 and Jason was passed out in the car in a pain killer/pain coma for the duration of the show, we just went home. The next day we had to get up pretty early to go to San Diego so everyone was pretty much asleep when we got home.

August 21st Che Fest Day One

We got up early and headed out to the show. All the bands were supposed to get to the show at like 12:30, a task obviously impossible for us. I had been to Che once before and remember there being a beach somewhat close by. Once we got there, Tony, Joe Hawk, Eli and I set out to find it. We swam for a while and it rained. I think I could almost get used to the Cali lifestyle. Joe Hawk checked out dudes in their bathing suits, and then we went back to the show.

RNR played pretty late in the show, but when they did, the place went off. I got a good spot sitting down on the stage. I could see and hear everything perfectly. Kids were singing along, dancing and diving. They were forced into an encore.

After the show, we stayed with this girl Kate. She was very nice and hospitable. She even made pancakes for us. She also had this parrot that was fun to play with. Aaron and Joe had to get up at like 3am to drive Joe Hawk and Eli to the San Diego airport because they were leaving early. They are nice dudes. I totally would have made them take a cab.

CHE HARDCORE FEST 2004

August 21st and 22nd, San Diego, CA



August 22nd Che Fest Day Two

We got to the show and figured out when we were going to be playing and all that. We had a sweet spot, third to last, right before INTERNAL AFFAIRS. There were some bands that I was psyched to check out, so I stayed pretty close to the show. I watched KNIFE FIGHT and LIGHTS OUT and just basically chilled at the show until it was time to play. We used INTERNAL AFFAIRS gear. Corey hooked us up yet again.

Our set went awesome. From the SOD intro to the last song kids were going off. We had CDs to sell too, so that was cool. After us, INTERNAL AFFAIRS played and they stole the show.

After the show, we drove back to Pete's house. Pete is a good dude. I figured he would be fed up with us by the end of our stay (he very well could have been I guess), but he was a real champ. By the end of the week he was a RIFF RAFF skin.

The next day, we just dropped off our cars and had an awkward ride to the airport with the rental car dude. By this point, he and I weren't on speaking terms. Then we flew home. I had no money, no car, and no job to go back to, so I was a little bummed but whatever.

All in all, we had a great time in Cali. Besides the obvious catastrophe of Jason breaking his collarbone, things went without a hitch. Extra special thanks to Jon Westbrook, Corey (A, Bob Macc, AJ from SWC fest, and Spence and Kim from the Che Cafe, and I guess to you if you made it all the way through this).