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Wilmington rock band Thunderlip returns home

Shawna Kenney, Star-News Correspondent | Wilmington StarNews

Singer Chuck Krueger's nose and mouth are covered in blood on Thunderlip's [myspace.com](#) profile. Drummer Johnny Collins explained the image in a phone interview just before doing a soundcheck in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"He had just tripped on a mic cable and fallen into a wall in that picture," said Collins. "But he's been running into a lot of things and lost a lot of blood on this tour."

Life on the road is both brutal and ridiculous - what else would you expect from a band named after Hulk Hogan's character in Rocky 3?

The Wilmington group is otherwise enjoying their latest tour to the fullest, and will celebrate its end with local shows July 19 and 20. Collins reports that many repeat fans have come out to see them this time around, and that the shows they did as part of Prop Visuals' Rock-n-Roll BMX Tour with Lucero were the best yet. They've witnessed a bunch of good bands themselves, while blasting Grand Funk Railroad, Priestess, UFO, and "always Black Sabbath" in the van between gigs. But as fun as it's been, Collins said that he misses the beaches of home, as well as the supportive local music scene.

Thunderlip has a lot to celebrate when they get back - Chicago label Lucid Records will release their second CD, "The Prophecy," this August, and to the delight of Collins and other collectors, the album will be available on vinyl as well. "We're all big vinyl nerds, so we're pretty stoked about that," he said.

"The Prophecy" captures Thunderlip's straight-rocking style brilliantly; '80s punk-type vocals backed by Iron Maiden-like guitar gallops abound. The disc offers quality production, excellent musicianship and a clear progression from their 2005 self-titled release. But as any true fan will tell you, the real deal is in this band's live performance and Kreuger's keen sense of showmanship. Thunderlip's official CD release party is on Aug. 10 at the Soapbox, but catch them before then tonight at Red Dog's in Wrightsville Beach or Friday at Margarita's in Surf City.

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