



Valient Thorr
by Chip Midnight

They come from Venus, five large, bearded men who look like the scariest redneck bikers from the state of Alabama: Valient Himself (vocals), Eidan Thorr (guitars), Dr. Professor Nitewolf Strangees (bass), Odinn Thorr (guitars), and Lucian Thorr (percussion). They are on a mission, a mission to save the world through the power of rock 'n' roll, spreading the word by embarking on lengthy tour jaunts.

This summer, Valient Thorr brings their intergalactic message to the masses as member of the Warped Tour. As the blistering sun beats down upon kids in Hot Topic clothes every afternoon, Valient Thorr sweats out on stage, blasting through deep-fried Southern punk-rock tracks from their new release, **LEGEND OF THE WORLD.**

Already a few weeks into the Warped Tour, Valient Himself responded to the questions we e-mailed him by spitting out answers on his handheld space communicator device

SKRATCH: Venus, huh? Does anybody in the band still have a house there, or have you all officially relocated to Earth?

VALIENT: The property in Burlatia is pretty expensive; and being that we aren't really even born yet in our own timestream compared to this one, we thought it would be best if we just give up our personal belongings while we are on this quest.

SKRATCH: Where did you receive your rock 'n' roll education? Who were your teachers?

VALIENT: The very first transmissions we received were all R&R vibes comin' from this timestream. We all had different specialties. Mine were Dylan, CSN&Y, The Doors, Status Quo, Van Halen (NOT Van Hagar), Gentle Giant, Devo...The list goes on. And they're all

different. All of it together spells Valient Thorr.

SKRATCH: Traveling from Venus to Earth is a lengthy journey. Touring the U.S. must be a breeze by comparison. How do the modes of transportation compare?

VALIENT: Well, the technology does not compare. These primitive vehicles used to make me sick. But now we are pretty good at flying them.

SKRATCH: As the Warped Tour usually wraps up every evening just after the sun has gone down, I'm assuming that your set takes place during the blazing hot hours of the afternoon. How difficult is it to rock out at 3 p.m. in 90-degree weather?

VALIENT: It's heavy. We have to stay hydrated with Earth water and pay attention to food times so we don't get sour bellies. The transformation from potential to kinetic energy is key here.

SKRATCH: Do you think the kids checking out the Warped Tour understand Valient Thorr and your messages, or are they just there to hear the next Fall Out Boy?

VALIENT: I think most dudes are tired of lookin' over and seein' their buddy cryin' over some chick. So we vowed to drink their tears and sweat them back into their girlfriends' faces. We don't care about pop music; we care about the Earth and rock 'n' roll. And pizza.

SKRATCH: The Warped Tour is filled with a variety of different-sounding bands. Are there any bands on the tour that you can't fucking stand and

try to avoid hearing at all costs?

VALIENT: Ha ha ha. That is an awesome question. Truth be told, yeah, there are a few that I couldn't

care less if I never heard or saw anything like it at all ever again. But they are doin' their thing—whatever it is; and I'd be a jerk if I named names in your publication. I always say: Do what you wanna do. If that's their gig, then so be it. I don't have to like it, we don't have to agree, and that's just how that shit works. We just come to annihilate. That's how we name names. It does it for us.

SKRATCH: Earlier this spring you were the meat in a hot rock sandwich tour (the bread, of course, being Bullets & Octane and Damone). What show on that tour stands out as the most memorable, and why?

VALIENT: Prolly the Roxy in L.A., 'cause I met Lemmy afterwards. That was killer.

SKRATCH: Being large, bearded men from Venus, do you ever run into awkward situations when you're on tour—like, when you go grab something to eat or check into a hotel? You must have people staring at you quite a bit.

VALIENT: Well, yes, but it's not like that scene in *EASY RIDER* anymore. Most folks far and wide are totally friendly and awesome to us. Maybe 'cause we look like killers and they don't wanna piss us off, or maybe 'cause they can see that we are absolutely true dudes.

SKRATCH: In general, when touring with other bands, do you form a little

club and do things together

with those bands during your off hours, or does Valient Thorr keep to themselves?

VALIENT: It's according to who we are out, with I guess. Most of the time, yes. Sometimes we will hermit-crab it up a bit, but only if someone is like a weirdo or is like a punisher. We can't handle getting punished. I don't see how dudes at the level above us can handle it. Sometimes it's almost unbearable down here.

SKRATCH: I agree with you that rock 'n' roll can save the world. If you could wipe out the current presidential administration and

“We can't handle getting punished.”

appoint leaders, who would you appoint as president? Who would you appoint minister of rock? What would be the first law you would pass?

VALIENT: I don't know. A good candidate would look after our country while keeping the whole safety of the planet Earth in mind. Minister of rock? A while back I would've said Nugent, but after that SUPERGROUP bullshit, I'll have to go with Alice Cooper or Handsome Dick Manitoba.

More information on how Valient Thorr intends to save the world through rock 'n' roll can be found on their Website, www.valientthorr.com. To comment on this or any other interviews you see in SKRATCH, feel free to e-mail us at speakup@skratchmagazine.com.