Thursday proves good seven days a week
By Bill Greenwood

Not many bands can brag about popularizing a new genre of music. Nirvana did it for grunge, the Ramones did it for punk, and with their new album, *War All the Time*, Thursday looks to do the same for screamo. This album is truly something different in a musical landscape that has been dominated by repetition for so many years.

To put it simply, screamo is a mixture of emo and hard core, which are themselves both sub genres of punk rock. The world was introduced to this new fusion of sound on Thursday's first full-length album *Full Collapse*. Since the release of that album, numerous bands have formed and achieved success with the formula, most notably The Used and Taking Back Sunday. Due to this success, Thursday's new CD has received an incredible amount of hype. Many anxiously awaited the next evolution of screamo and *War All the Time* delivers on this and then some.

If ever there was an album that required more than one listen to be fully appreciated, this would be it. Thursday has built so many layers into its songs that a considerable amount of the album's charm does not reveal itself until the third or fourth time through. Lead singer Geoff Rickly's amazing vocals are the principle aspect that might be overlooked. While his voice is not the best by traditional standards, it works very well with his band's style of music. Constantly shifting from soothing emo singing to hardcore screaming, the vocals alternately balance and enhance the feeling of chaos created by the band's instrumentals.

The lyrics themselves are also above par. Throughout the album, Rickly uses our country's current state of war as a metaphor for personal relationships. This theme gives the album its name and helps bring the record's songs together into a cohesive whole.

Some of the lyrics are, "And we're blowing in the wind/We don't know where to land/So we kiss like little kids/We used to be a very tall building/We've been falling for so long."

Thursday's hardcore side shines through on tracks such as "For the Workforce, Drowning" and "Division Street." These songs feature the band's trademark mix of singing and screaming laced with hard rocking guitar. They also serve as a wake up call to all those who believed the band's recent jump to major label Island/Def Jam would soften their style.

The band hasn't forgotten melody, however, and songs such as "From Rupture to Rapture" and first single "Signals over the Air" could conceivably see some major playing time on radio stations all over the U.S. The album's standout track, however, is easily "War All the Time."

"Thursday's new, highly anticipated album *War All the Time* was released Tuesday Sept. 16, just in time for the band to tour through the New York area. "Signals over the Air" could conceivably see some major playing time on radio stations all over the U.S. The album's standout track, however, is easily "War All the Time."

This track sums up the album's theme of personal relationships as a battleground by relating directly to the terrorist attacks on New York and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that followed. The song is fairly slow up until the last minute, at which point it seems to come to a close before exploding into a final energetic instrumental and chorus.

Thursday's War All the Time is a breath of fresh air for a music industry in dire need of innovation. The band sings about subjects that have a real impact on the world and even when they move into break-up song territory, they portray the situation in new and different ways.

While most will listen once and discard this recording, those dedicated to bringing intelligence back to American music should support this band to the fullest. *War All the Time* is definitely worth the commitment.