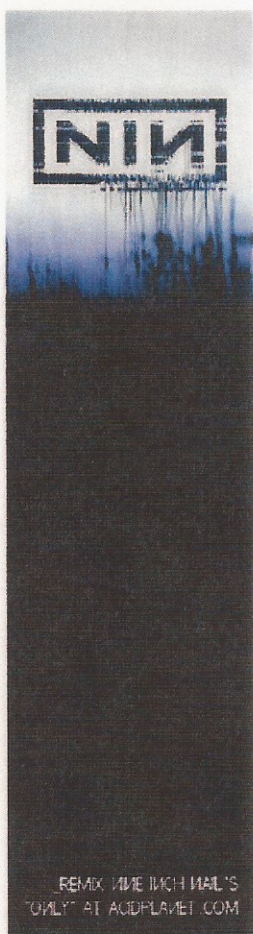


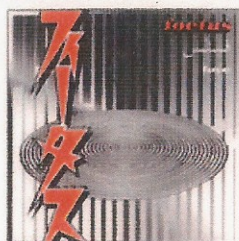


GANG GANG DANCE  
GOD'S MONEY



## RECORD REVIEWS

January 2005 #60 A #60



Foetus  
Love  
[Birdman; 2005]  
Rating: 6.0  
Buy it from Insound

Next to "the book was better," stating your preference for the British version of something has become the easiest way to sound smarter and more sophisticated than you actually are. *Monty Python* is funnier than *SNL*, Britain's *The Office* is better than the new American *Office*-- I can't even enjoy *Spaceballs* anymore without some sci-fi maven pointing out how it ripped off *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* novels. So before you Yankee industrial buffs ravenously rip open your long-awaited copies of NIN's *With Teeth*, pause for urbanity's sake and acknowledge the visionary whose innovation eventually made everyone in the mid-90s want to "fuck you like an animal"-- London's own J.G. Thirlwell, aka Foetus.

Thirlwell's foray into mainstream industrial rock in the mid-90s almost destroyed him, literally. After his 1995 Sony release *Gash*, Thirlwell suffered from creative block and alcoholism for six years until triumphantly emerging with 2001's *Flow*, a resuscitation of the gnashing, sepulchral sound that made him an industrial pioneer.

Unfortunately, on *Love* Thirlwell has neither shaken off all the rust nor decided to progress his sound any further since *Gash*. He's still Trent Reznor with a monocle, juxtaposing electronic drumbeats with Baroque-era harpsichord, referencing literary figures like Dorian Gray and occasionally singing in French. Feeling cultured yet? Don't. While including more melodic vocals in place of throat-chafing screams may be Thirlwell's riskiest move on *Love*, it totally tanks due to, well, the fact that Thirlwell's voice is abominable. We're not talking Jimi Hendrix or Bob Dylan bad here; this guy's tone-deaf sneer is utterly repulsive. On "Don't Want Me Anymore" he can barely stay on pitch for more than two beats, deflating the song's epic five-minute build. "Mon Agohie Douce" features plenty of film noir-inspired bells and whistles but little artistry, and Thirlwell's affected nasal crooning only compounds the problem.

Now I know I've been avoiding describing the music, but you all know the selling points with Foetus: Grating, crunchy, layered, intricate, et al. *Love*'s massive strings, sleazy film noir numbers and visceral guitar riffs will undoubtedly captivate fans of their last, oh, dozen or so albums. Thirlwell sticks to what he knows best on *Love*, but ultimately he sounds too much like an artist just happy to still be making records. Maybe it's because since the mid-90s the industrial sound has been picked up, dusted off, and mass-produced by snot-noised hacks like Linkin Park and Evanescence, or because listeners are blowing their synth/electronic music load on New Wave poseurs like the Bravery and Killers, but either way, Foetus's pissy eat-shit-and-die bit just doesn't have the bite it used to.

-Adam Moerder, May 12, 2005

## Features:

Interview: Dizzee Rascal  
The Month In: Dancehall

## Record Reviews:

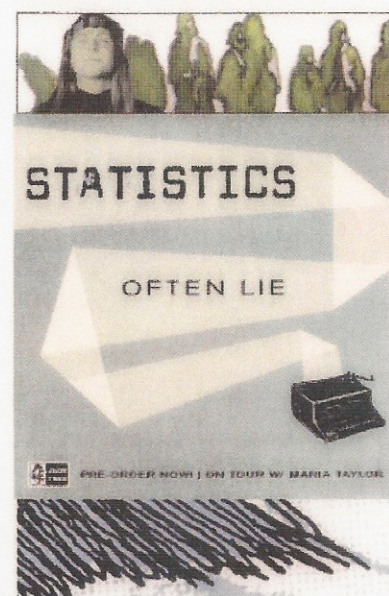
Fountains of Wayne: Out-of-State Plates  
Various: Acid  
Lowlights: Dark End Road  
'Ol Dirty Bastard: Definitive Story  
Battleborn: Villains/Reversed

## News:

TV on the Radio drop more hints on new album  
Prefuse 73 added to Intonation lineup  
Flaming Lips DVD video collection due soon  
Public Enemy to return in August  
Liars to release new album, tour Europe  
Lady Sovereign announces summer tour plans  
American Analog Set sign to Arts & Crafts  
Dandy Warhols complete new album

## Track Reviews:

Ciara: Insecure  
P. Diddy: The Godfather  
Roll Deep: When I'm 'Ere (screwed version)



## OTHER RECENT REVIEWS

13 & God	Interpol [Antics]
50 Cent	Interpol [EPs]
!!!	Iron & Wine
Ryan Adams	Kaiser Chiefs
Aesop Rock	Killers
AFX [Aphex Twin]	LCD Soundsystem
And You Will Know Us...	Le Tigre
Animal Collective	Louis XIV
Antony & The Johnsons	M83
Arcade Fire	Madvillain
Architecture in Helsinki	Magnolia Electric Co.
Audioslave	Stephen Malkmus
Autechre	Aimee Mann
Beck	Mars Volta
Belle & Sebastian	Maximo Park
Bonnie "Prince" Billy	M.I.A.
Black Mountain	Modest Mouse
Bloc Party	Mountain Goats
Boards of Canada	New Order
Books	Nine Inch Nails
Boy Least Likely To	Oasis
Bravery	Of Montreal
Bright Eyes	Pavement
British Sea Power	Pinback
Caribou [LP]	Pixies
Caribou [Tour EP]	Postal Service
Common	Quasimoto
Cure	Queens of the Stone Age