by Rohit Kohli

Until I got this album, I had only heard the name Foetus in whispers and J.G. Thirlwell was a name that was on most of the remixes I had seen. However, I didn’t realize this man’s true genius until I heard this album.

Is he industrial? Not really. Rock? Uh...sort of. Pop? Fuck no! In the 15 years that Mr. Thirlwell has been making records he has managed to escape falling into musical categories by always creating something strange and incredible that defies categorization. He mixes all sorts of elements into his music, my favorite being the big band sound he incorporates around his way-out-there lyrics. Definitely check out the 11 plus minutes of “Slung” where it’s just him being backed by an entire big band orchestra. You won’t find that anywhere else, I guarantee. Other songs that are great are “Might Whity”, “Take It Outside Godboy”, and “Hammer Falls”, which is a mixture of Indian music and loud as hell guitars.

If any doctor were to read his lyrics they would probably think that Mr. Thirlwell is more than ready for a nice white room with padded walls. “Friend or foe/I don’t know/I want to reap, but I can’t sow/Friend or foe/Cheese, Larry Moe/Why do the weakest hafta take-a the most...” Okay, Jim, time for your medication.

This album is definitely a cool one, though. If you’re into hard music or the infamous “T” (industrial) word and you have not heard about Foetus, I severely recommend this record. Thirlwell is a god of sorts. In an age where songs are constantly sounding the same, he manages to shake the foundations of music as he sees fit and creates something new and better. Gash is his first major label release and it’s obvious that Columbia Records is not going to stifle him in any way. His creativity knows no bounds. He draws the line nowhere. He will not be stopped. Consider yourself warned. Dig it or die!