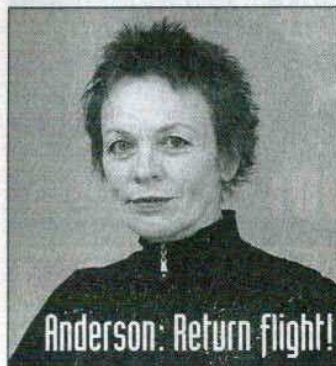




A Waco, Tex. jury found **Billy Joe Shaver** not guilty of aggravated assault charges stemming from a 2007 altercation in which he popped a cap in a guy's face outside a bar in 2007. **Willie Nelson** and **Robert Duvall** showed up to testify on Shaver's behalf, and as the defendant advised prosecutors during the trial, "I'm from Texas. If I were chickenshit, I would have left, but I'm not." To wit: Don't even think about fucking with Billy Joe Shaver under any circumstances whatsoever.



June 15 is the day **Laurie Anderson** will release *Homeland*, her first collection of new material in nearly 10 years. Guests include **Antony Hegarty** of **Antony and the Johnsons** fame, and better half **Lou Reed**.

April was a banner month for cerebral maladies when reality-TV manwhore **Bret Michaels** was rushed to the emergency room with a brain hemorrhage

April 22. **Michaels**, 47, had undergone an appendectomy the previous week and remained in critical condition at press time.

And **You Say Party! We Say Die!** drummer **Devon Clifford** collapsed onstage during the band's April 16 concert in Vancouver and later died from a suspected brain hemorrhage. He was only 30.

*Achtung, baby!* **Neu!** guitarist **Michael Rother** has put together a limited-edition vinyl boxed set whose contents span the Krautrock noiseniks' entire career. Out May 10, the collection includes the duo's first three studio albums, as well as previously-unreleased live material and a 36-page book featuring photos by **Anton Corbijn** and **Peter Lindbergh**. A separate tribute album entailing covers by the likes of **Sonic Youth**, **Kasabian**, **Oasis** and **Primal Scream** will follow on May 11.

**Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings** were among the hundreds of thousands of travelers stranded at European airports after the Icelandic volcano **Eyjafjallajökull** exploded April 16. The crew was forced to abandon their scheduled visits to NPR's *Talk of the Nation* and *Late Night with David Letterman*. On a similar note, **Talvin Singh**, **Frightened Rabbit**, **Gary Numan** and several other performers were unable to make it to Coachella on account of the massive cloud of ash and heat.

**Matthew Houck** has put the finishing touches on the next **Phosphorescent** album, *Here's to Taking it Easy*. It comes out May 11.

Someone thought it was a good idea to book **Vanilla Ice** for this year's Glastonbury Festival, which convenes June 24 if you're into that sort of thing.

Those **Darlins** are joining **My Morning Jacket**, **Lambchop**, **Drive-By Truckers** and many others in paying tribute to **John Prine** on *Broken Hearts & Dirty Windows: Songs of John Prine*. It's out June 22.

**Death Cab for Cutie** have broken ground on their seventh long-player, which they hope to release early next year.

**Gang Starr** founder **Guru** lost his battle with cancer April 19 at the way-too-young age of 43. He had gone into cardiac arrest and lapsed into a coma the previous month.

**Supergrass**, about whom no one has given a flying fuck for the last 10 years, are calling it a day not because they were caught by the fuzz. Citing the suspected "17-year itch," **Gaz & Co.** are parting ways in kosher fashion, so don't worry your pretty little head about any of that.



## Larry King: Young scofflaw!

For some reason certain people out there in TV Land were shocked and appalled when **Willie Nelson** revealed he'd blazed up shortly before his appearance on *Larry King Live*. Nobody, however, was shocked that Nelson made absolutely no sense during the ensuing interview.

**Brendan Toller's** 2008 documentary *I Need That Record! The Death (or Possible Survival) of the Independent Record Store* is headed to a DVD player near you July 27. **Patterson Hood**, **Thurston Moore**, **Mike Watt** and **Lenny Kaye** are among the peeps providing valuable commentary and insight.

Punk icon, manager and all-around badass **Malcolm McLaren** lost his battle with mesothelioma in a Swiss hospital April 8. He was 64 and had been diagnosed with the condition the October prior.

Hey dudes, **Krokus** are back together and have a new album called *Hoodoo*. Party on!

Congrats are due **Allison Moorer** and **Steve Earle**, who welcomed their first little 'un, **John Henry Earle**, into their family April 5.

**Sleater-Kinney** singer **Corin Tucker** has revealed she's hard at work on her first solo project, which **Kill Rock Stars** will issue in October. No potential title or release date have been divulged at this time, however.

There's more cutesy-poo tuncage due from the **Mates of State** bar-feria this summer: *Crushes (The Covers Mixtape)*, which finds the duo interpreting everyone from **Fleetwood Mac** to **Death Cab for Cutie**. You'll heart it, hipsters!

**Mark Eitzel** is joining **Arcade Fire** offshoot **Bell Orchestre** and **The National** on the soundtrack of *Vidal Sassoon: The Movie*, a documentary chronicling the life and career of

the legendary hairstylist. The flick just premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, which hopefully means it'll hit a screen near you soon.

Motor City cowpunks **Goobar & the Peas** are back in business about 15 years of inactivity. To commemorate the noteworthy