



Amy Winehouse and idiot better half Blake Fielder-Civil were busted for drug possession Oct. 18 in Bergen, Norway after the po-pos discovered a quarter-ounce of Maui Wowie in their hotel room. Winehouse, who was released from the pokey after paying \$715 in fines. In a far more shocking development, Winehouse has also vowed to steer clear of the sauce – but only before concerts, which have reportedly been farces of the highest order imaginable lately. Progress?

A triple-disc boxed set revisiting the career of country badass Merle Haggard is on its way to your hi-fi set Nov. 6; titled, appropriately, *Legends of American Music: Merle Haggard – The Original Outlaw*, the outing entails 60 of Haggard's tunes along with an inlay book chock-full of rare and never-before-seen photos.

* A series of live performances recorded at CBGB will soon see the light of day thanks to a partnership between the venue and a Pennsylvania-based entertainment group. Initial editions, scheduled to be released later this year, will feature sets by the Mooney Suzuki, The Queers and H2O; a portion of the proceeds will bene-



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fit the Hilly Kristal Foundation for Musicians and Artists.

Meanwhile, the space that formerly housed CBGB on Bowery and Bleecker in New York is going to reopen as an overpriced upscale fashion boutique. Score one for gentrification!

The Golden Age, American Music Club's follow-up to 2004's *Love Songs for Patriots*, is scheduled to hit an independent music retailer near you on Feb. 18. It'll mark the debut of new members Sean Hoffman and Steve Didelot, who replaced bassist Danny Pearson and drummer Tim Mooney, respectively.

Longing for the days when Bono wasn't such a pretentious

twat? We sure are, which is why we're thrilled about the 20th-anniversary edition of U2's landmark 1987 LP *The Joshua Tree* that's set to come out Nov. 20. Remastered from the original analog master tapes, the new edition will include liner notes from band biographer Bill Flanagan and rare photos shot by Anton Corbijn.

Nirvana's *MTV Unplugged* set is to be issued for the first time on DVD Nov. 20 with bonus footage and interviews that never made it to the original broadcast.



Hid Rock: Mugged!

Scattered, smothered, and... owned! Redneck asswipe Kid Rock was thrown in the clink after an Oct. 22 brawl at a DeKalb Waffle House. Rock (nec Robert James Ritchie) and five members of his entourage were booked on battery charges and released after posting \$5,000 bond.

Ace of Base is getting back together. So is Aqua. And the Spice Girls. As if the first go-around wasn't bad enough for each of them...

On a far more auspicious note, '90s shoegaz-ers Swervedriver have emerged from their nearly decade-long hiatus and announced plans to reconvene for a tour next spring. No word on new recordings at this point, but stay tuned for updates...

Your tax dollars at work! A hard drive containing the master tracks for Death Cab for Cutie guitarist/producer Chris Walla's forthcoming solo debut was seized by customs officials while en route from Canada to the Yoo Ess. According to the gubbermint the equip-

ment (defined as "commercial merchandise") was confiscated because it failed to pass through the proper channels, although Walla and Barsuk Records personnel have suspected the political content of some of the songs raised The Man's eyebrows. Barring further interference from the authorities, *Field Manual* will arrive on Jan. 29.

Lucky Dube, long regarded as South Africa's best-selling reggae singer, was gunned down in what authorities reported to be a carjacking gone awry on the evening of Oct. 18 in a suburb of Johannesburg. Dube, who was 43, died in front of two of his teenaged sons; local police later arrested five men in connection with the murder.

Dec. 4 is the day Fetchin Bones plans to release *Dead Band Rockin'*, their first outing since 1989's *Monster*. A DVD of their Charlotte reunion show and an audio disc of their recent Atlanta performance – a.k.a. the Best Local Show So Far This Year – will comprise the set. Yay!

Eels are commemorating their tenth year of melody-making with a best-of CD/DVD collection titled *Meet The EELS: Essential EELS Vol. 1, 1996-2006*, as well as *Useless Trinkets: B-Sides, Soundtracks, Rarities and Unreleased 1996-2006*, which comes with a DVD of the band's 2006 Lollapalooza performance. Both arrive Jan. 15.



Archival Gram crackers!

Amoeba Records, having unearthed never-before-heard live Gram Parsons recordings from the Grateful Dead's vault, has remastered the Flying Burrito Brothers' 1969 concert at San Francisco's Avalon Ballroom for *Gram Parsons Archives Vol. 1: The Flying Burrito Brothers Live at the*