



## **Last Shop Standing: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop**

### **Brick and Mortar and Love**

I wonder if the promoters of last Saturday's Record Store Day were cognizant of the fact that April 20 also is the day designated by stoners worldwide to honor all things related to marijuana consumption. If any two things went together like a horse and carriage, it's music and pot smoking. I'm sure that the distributors of "**Last Shop Standing: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop**" and "**Brick and Mortar and Love**" consciously timed their video releases to Record Store Day. The national smoke-out, probably not so much. Both chronicle the history of indie stores, which, along with FM radio, brought unprogrammed rock 'n' roll to masses in the 1960-70s, only to be overlooked and dismissed in the digital era. The so-called "vinyl revolution" has regenerated one segment of the music business, even as technology conspires to crush everything else. Indeed, that's exactly what happened to the Louisville store profiled in "Brick and Mortar and Love," which was an integral part of the city's scene ... until it wasn't. "Last Shop Standing" takes a more anglophilic approach to the subject, adding testimony by Billy Bragg, Paul Weller and Johnny Marr. Anyone who frequents indie stores, or is a fan of "High Fidelity," already knows that the success of such businesses depends on knowledgeable personnel, vast selection, listening stations, in-store concerts and an invitation to linger for hours. They deserve our support and attention.

- Gary Dretzka

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