

Rolling Stone

RS1035

★★★★½

Dropkick Murphys

The Meanest of Times *Born & Bred*

Celtic punks bemoan world affairs, get wasted on pulverizing sixth album



THESE SEVEN MASSACHUSETTS guys know how to make even dire moments sound like a hot party. On their sixth album, fiddle, mandolin

and other Gaelic accouterments adorn rave-ups like "The State of Massachusetts," reminding you they're a punk band with a Celtic twist. They're also songwriters – and good ones, too, preserving their party-boy reputation while turning out giant, soulful choruses on songs both manicured and memorable: Dig tunefully sotted jams like "Tomorrow's Industry," which sounds like the best Rancid song in several years.

CHRISTIAN HOARD

HOTLIST

ROLLING STONE editors' favorite albums, singles and videos

2 Dropkick Murphys

"State of Massachusetts"

Even your dad knows these Boston punks from their song on the *Departed* soundtrack. Now the two of you can knock back a dozen Jamesons and bond over this savage and moving song about family ties. And then go kick the shit out of some Yankee fans.