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Al Barr and the Dropkick Murphys played the year's final Thursday at the Square.

## A wild show of Murphys and moshing at the Square

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*Next Correspondent*

It was approximately 5:45 p.m. last Thursday at Lafayette Square, and already, a cloud of dust began to rise over the audience. A woman appropriately clad in green-tinted glasses asked, "What exactly is that dance they're doing up there?" indicating the swarming crowd in front of the stage. Fueled by the energy of the opening Irish-rock band, Jackdaw, fans attending the final concert of the Thursday at the Square 2007 season launched into a frenzied session of moshing that lasted for the rest of the night.

The very last of the free concerts sponsored by Buffalo Place Inc. boasted the headlining act of mainstream Celtic-punk band, Dropkick Murphys, promising to make the much-anticipated event a highlight of the series' 21st season. Along with the great weather, flowing drinks and delicious food, swarms of people gathered at a quick and constant pace.

A local favorite, South Buffalo's very own Jackdaw, opened. Singer David Moore, who also plays accordion, bag-

pipe and a slew of other instruments, was full of enthusiasm for the crowd. In his signature style of a kilt, multiple ear piercings, and wornout baseball hat, Moore's charisma and vocals, along with the band's overall talent, greatly contributed to the hype for the night to come.

A lively set list featured a range of songs from throughout the band's seven-year career, including hits from debut album "Armed and Legged." Also included were revamped traditional Irish songs that had been picked up while touring Ireland, reminding devoted "jacks" and "jackies" just why any of the performances are worth attending.

Finally at 7:30, Dropkick Murphys took the stage, and the chants of the band's name came from the now monstrous crowd. The Boston natives got under way, playing both well-known favorites and singles from the newly released CD, "The Meanest of Times." But no matter what, the heavy, pounding, fist-thrusting street-punk style that they are known for remained, prompting what was once a moderately mosh pit into something resembling a riot.

Like opening act Jackdaw, Murphys also took classic Irish folk songs such as "No Ney Never" and adjusted them to their unique "Oi!" genre standards. Lead singer Al Barr and the rest of the musicians lived up to the excitement. However, if one wanted to avoid being thrown around, there was a good chance that they were unable to see the stage from a good angle.

Overall, the atmosphere of the last concert of the season was one not soon to be forgotten. The air was practically sparking with the energy and intensity generated by both the bands and the crowd. And at a concert where a man in a kilt and a Boston Red Sox cap fervently sings along while standing next to a wildly thrashing punk rocker with an eight-inch mohawk and heavy black eyeliner, it is easy to see why any given event in the Thursday at the Square series is so distinctively popular.

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