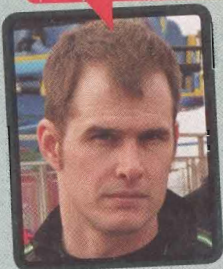


ROCK SOUND RANDOMNESS



**AL
BARR**
(DROPKICK
MURPHYS)

HELLO AL, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? "I'm just preparing for my four-year-old's birthday party. It was his fourth birthday the other day, but we had a snow storm so it got postponed 'til tomorrow. This winter's been crazy for snow. We've got 25 inches already. It's kinda nice, although I'll be sick of it by the time February rolls around, but then I'll be over in your country."

WHAT'S THE BEST THING YOU'VE EVER MADE OUT OF THE SNOW? "As a kid I was into forts and making tunnels you could ambush somebody from."

WOULD YOU SAY YOU'VE BEEN HIT BY MORE SNOWBALLS THAN YOU'VE THROWN, OR THROWN MORE THAN YOU'VE BEEN HIT BY?

"I've definitely been hit by way more. It's like I always say, I've lost more fights than I've won! You can apply that to my snowball career."

WHO'S THAT? HAVE YOU BEEN TOO BRAVE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD? "Well, you could substitute the word 'stupid' for 'brave'. It's amazing how you can confuse balls with lack of brains. I look back on some of my early excursions and think I'm lucky to be alive sometimes."

"It always makes me sick when somebody's such a well-rounded individual!"

WHAT WAS THE STUPIDEST FIGHT YOU GOT IN?

"All the fights I got in were stupid. You like to think that as you get older you get a little wiser, and now I've got a family, and blah blah blah. Any fight I got in was stupid, but the last fight I got in, which I'm ashamed to say wasn't all that long ago, was the stupidest. It's amazing how drinking can make you think you're bigger than you are. There was a fatherly large gentleman who was ogling my wife and he made a comment. I knew the bartender so I could have had him thrown out, but I decided to take matters into my own hands and two broken bottles and a dentist bit later - *blindsight's 20/20!*"

WHAT'S THE LONGEST YOU'VE SPENT DRUNK?

"When I was in my early 20s I probably went on a three or four-day bender when I'd drink all night and sleep for an hour and then that Rolling Rock or Budweiser looked good, and I'd start early and keep going."

IF DROPKICK MURPHYS HAD TO COMPETE IN A SPORT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "I'd say baseball."

"I'm the non-baseball guy in the band, but the rest of the band, except me and the drummer, are a bunch of jocks, so we'd probably kick at baseball as long as I was on the bench."

HAVE YOU EVER CHEATED AT A SPORT? "When I was in high school in ninth or 10th grade, I was a punk roller and I hated sports and I hated jocks, but we were playing floor hockey and some kid whizzed into the really hard. I remember I went into my gym locker and I got this spiked wristband and started playing with that. I left little track marks all over people's arms!"

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE GOOD AT MUSIC AND SPORTS... "Exactly! It always makes me sick when somebody's such a well-rounded individual!"

The album *The Wearest Of Times* is out now and the EP *The State Of Massachusetts* is out on February 11, both on exciting vinyl. Catch Dropkick Murphys on their February UK tour; see gig guide for dates. www.dropkickmurphys.com

DROPKICK MURPHYS

'THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS'

(BORN & BRED / COOKING VINYL)

Kelson: That's a banjo solo there mate! This has got to be the Dropkick Murphys.

Andy: And here was me thinking they were going to build an Egyptian influence into their new material.

Kelson: All Americans are Irish.

Andy: Americans love having a small race to fasten themselves to in order to feel less guilty for being the big bully of the world. The amount of Americans that come up to you at shows and go, 'Hey are you guys Welsh? I'm Scottish'. Americans are fine, they've got great teeth. This would be an anthem if you could make out any of the words.

SCOTT: [The day I went to the dentist just for a check-up, but by the end of the day I'd had two fillings and my teeth cleaned and somebody stole my bike!]