

rocket, like a Smashing Pumpkins video come to life. Mill Race plays a CD release show with The Fast Computers and The Crosswalks at 9:30 pm Saturday, Nov. 3, at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$5. - Molly Templeton

The Pride of Boston

The typical Eugenean's musical taste is vast and fickle. On any given night the masses are spread out across the town, attending separate shows and bobbing their heads to wildly different beats. Much like our inability to agree on what to do with downtown, our inability to agree on what constitutes good music is also an ongoing battle. So when all around town I heard excited chitchat about the **Dropkick Murphys** show, I was surprised. Hardcore punk rockers, 40-year-old virgins, Catholic school girls and Celtic music lovers, all attending the same show? Blasphemy! And that's just the way the band wants it.

These seven Massachusetts guys are more like a dysfunctional family who get drunk on holidays and pee in each other's beer bottles than band members. Strong family ties and an appreciation for the working class resonate from their songs and the cover of their newest album *The Meanest of Times*. On the cover is a bunch of scowling school boys scrapping in the school yard; it's an image the band members can relate to.

"Growing up, I saw my share of hard times. But looking back on it I wouldn't trade them for anything, because those hard times made us all who we are today," says bassist/vocalist Ken Casey.

And who they are today is a punk band with a Celtic twist. Like the Irish car bomb I pounded last night, the Murphys have a sweet Irish melody that goes down smooth with a singalong, anthemic punk rock kick. Now on their sixth album, the band still continues to impress and please their loyal fans while broadening their fan base with the popularity of songs like the banjo heavy "The State of Massachusetts" and "Flannigan's Ball," which features guest appearances by Spider Stacey of The Pogues and Ronnie Drew of The Dubliners.

The energy and talent of these guys can't be denied, and I double dog dare you to play one of their CDs and not get the urge to dance. If you have never heard the Murphys, you are missing out on some of the best mandolin, accordion, banjo and bagpipe playing by a rock band - not to mention Ken Casey's and Al Barr's incredible vocals. Being a fan of the Murphys gives you a whole other extended family, and this one actually welcomes you with open arms. They seem to have at least brought together this crazy family we call Eugene.

The Dropkick Murphys play at 8 pm Monday, Nov. 5, at the McDonald Theatre. \$18 adv., \$20 door. - Deanna Uutela



Trucks Ride Shotgun, Dudes Ride Bitch

Like most guilty pleasures, **The Trucks** drove into my life by chance. While frantically plumbing the depths of the Internet for images for our Nightlife section about a year ago, I typed in "the trucks myspace" and found a plethora of quirky snapshots of feisty, ferocious girls in striped spandex dancing in front of keyboards. I was intrigued but too busy to stop and listen. Needless to say, when I finally acquired their self-titled disc a few months later - and popped the CD in for a listen - my ears just about orgasmed.

The hip ladies who make up this electro-pop-punk quartet from Bellingham, Wash., would make a perfect entry in this month's Grrrlz Rock concert series; they channel their distinct qualities (curvy bodies, sensuousness, hardcore honesty) in their music. (Fans of Gravy Train, Sleater-Kinney and Fanny Pack pay heed!) Kristen Allen-Zito, a talented singer-songwriter in her own right, leads the troupe in songs about dildos ("Diddle Bot"), one-night stands ("March 1st"), unreciprocated oral sex ("Why The Fuck?") and sex schooling ("Titties"), all served up with a we-know-something-the-guys-don't perspective that bites but never gets too sappy.

Weaker songs like "Introduction" and "Shattered" (which suffer from repetition) are balanced with tender '80s power ballads like "Comeback" - a song that hints at the girls' softer side until you hear the lyrics ("You don't have to run away / I'm gonna kill you anyway") - and the too-cool keyboard snarl of "3AM." With a recent (and odd) appearance on NPR and a national tour under their belts, now is the time to discover The Trucks. They play with The Ovulators and Black Eyes & Neckties in a benefit show for the Emerald City Roller Girls at 10 pm, Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Indigo District. 21+ show. \$6. - Chuck Adams



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