

# The IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

JULY 6-26, 2011

Celebrating 20 Years

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# IMPERATIVES

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Where There's a Willis

## TEAM SPIRIT

**I**N 2003, legislation passed making it easier for Massachusetts farms to create liquor from their crops. Inspired by the decree, brothers Will and Dave Willis decided to pursue a dream engendered by the lawless history in their basement—during Prohibition, their family's Sherborn farm was a bootlegging storehouse. Now, with their new Bully Boy distillery in Roxbury, the Willis brothers are bottling spirits like aged rum and white whiskey. Their efforts hit shelves just last month, but plans are taking shape for new products, like applejack, that make use of the land. "Small farms in Massachusetts aren't profitable right now," says Dave Willis. "It's nice to find ways to make those old farms useful again." **NICK ALTSCHULLER**