Mr. Smith goes to the Rat

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles which will describe the scene of the Boston rock wave scene.

The Rat seems to be the first place people think of when you mention punk in Boston. One of the original clubs, featuring Boston's "first wave" (DMZ, Willie Alexander, Mars Thor, Real Kidz), the Rat has become less a hardcore hangout and more a B.U. bar where bands play.

Location

The Rat is the closest club to MIT. It's on the west end of Kenmore Square, at 528 Commonwealth Avenue. This is about a 15-20 minute walk from MIT, although you could use the MBTA (not a popular alternative). The entrance is in one corner of the room, with the stage in the opposite corner. The ceiling is low, with pipes everywhere. The club is downstairs in a basement that is not particularly large. The club is not for the budget-conscious punk any more. The Rat has become a club with high cover charges.

The Rat is not for the budget-conscious punk any more. The Rat has become a club with high cover charges. The standard cover is now $3.50, and the club closes at 2am.

Management

Rat bookers are notorious tough. If you step out of line too far, you'll get a taste of the security. rough lately, but if you have a reasonable false ID you'll get in on most nights. Rat management is also not too tough on bands. Although it is still a prestigious venue, the Rat allows bands to play on most nights. The Rat is open from 6:30 until 8:30pm Sat, all day Sun, and Fri. & Sat.


Two-Minute Show, a full-scale musical production, will have its pre-Broadway tryouts at the Charles Playhouse beginning September 7. Performances Tues. - Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 8:30 and 9:30pm; Sun. at 3 and 7:30. For more information and reservations, call 426-6912.

Peter Dayton and New Models at the Rat, 528 Comm. Ave., More.

White Women and Staff Mix at the Underground, 1110 Comm. Ave., More.

Admission of Girls and B's at Canonte's, 46 Broad St., Mon. and Wed.,

Mission of Burns and Eyres at the Rat Wed.

Vacuumheaded and V: at the Underground Wed.

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Pippin

of Tufts University in October

The Rat is more popularly known as the Rat, a club in Kenmore Square featuring local new wave bands. (Photo by Jon von Zelowitz)

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