SCRUFFY THE CAT
At the Channel.
Friday, July 10.

By BARBARA ROMAN

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AHHHHH AHHHHHH AHHHHHHH of a successful album and tour, Boston's Scruffy the Cat sailed into the Channel last Friday night. Scruffy were their usual happy and excited selves, but they seemed more intense and together than ever.

The crowd of about 1000 waited anxiously after Scruffy's equipment was set up on stage, hoping the band might begin playing before the 12:30 starting time posted on the wall. Boston has missed Scruffy. During the past month and a half, Scruffy have been on the road, and meanwhile, their loyal fans have watched as their new album, "Tiny Days" (on Relativity Records) has risen to number 10 on Rolling Stone's chart of top college albums. The show was a homecoming of sorts, and the band seemed flattered - and a bit surprised - at how many people showed up.

Stephen Fredette, guitarist, vocalist, and unofficial "spokesman" for the group welcomed the crowd, which answered with louder applause and shouts. Throughout the show, Fredette continued to address the audience in a friendly manner that reminded one of a reunion of old friends. The warm, relaxed feel of a jam session in a living-room pervaded in both the attitude and actions of the band members.

Dancing and jumping up and down are mutual reactions to the upbeat, rockabilly style of Scruffy the Cat, and they were doing double time on stage. Vocalist and guitarist Charlie Chesterman, bassist Mac, and drummer Randall Lee Gibson IV drilled out a hot solo before an encore. Scruffy presented a clean-sounding, well-rehearsed set accented with energetic antics and a spirited crowd. The future looks bright for this Boston - and particularly MIT - favorite, as their tour winds down and their album continues to climb on the national charts.

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