Dance club Venus de Milo deserves its popularity

VENUS de MILO
17 Lansdowne St.
Boston

By Ted Miguel

As my interminable wait neared its end on a bitterly cold January night and my turn to enter Venus de Milo approached, I looked up and down that glassy street behind Fenway Park and thought, "Is this half-hour in line and the ten bucks I am going to pay worth it?" What is it about this place that gets people to come back again and again, pick the coat rooms every Saturday night, and makes people (like me) stand outside in the freezing cold to wait?

The answer is simple. Venus de Milo is able to give different kinds of people what they want. In addition to good music and a large dance floor, it has the most varied clientele of any club in Boston.

The club is located behind Kenmore Square, near Axis and Julian's Billiard Hall, and is within walking distance of the Kenmore T-stop. It's a dollar taxi ride from 77 Massachusetts Ave.

Inside, Venus de Milo is impressive. The brightly colorful, yet tasteful, interior is deceptively large. The huge lower level of the club becomes a single dancing area on Friday and Saturday nights, swarming with hundreds of hot, and tightly packed, people. Standing too close to one of the speakers is not recommended; it can really hurt your ears. There is also a stage right above the dance floor for the more daring. The two bars are both quite large. Along with the many benches and chairs located all around both the upper and lower levels, they make the perfect places for striking up conversations and meeting other clubgoers. Most of whom tend to be friendly and eager to meet new people. These dark nooks are subtly illuminated by purple neon lights.

One of the most striking qualities of the club is its ability to cater successfully to various groups on different nights, something that other Kenmore Square nightclubs are not capable of. Venus de Milo is one of the few clubs in the city that dances to the latest progressive dance tracks until the wee hours. The music is house with some techno — was to my taste, and the dance floor was not crowded at all. In terms of price and good music to dance to, I recommend Wednesday nights, although some would feel uncomfortable without a date of the opposite sex.

One of the gripes I have with Fridays and Saturdays is that by 11:30 p.m. or midnight, the club is packed. Additionally, the mainstream dance music, such as pop and rock, is usually thrown in. The club is a good reason to plan going early, pick your night, arrive early, and enjoy one of the most popular night spots in Boston.

Venus de Milo may be too expensive for regular visits by most people. For a special treat though, pick your night, arrive early, and enjoy one of the most popular night spots in Boston.