

Party time heads west

DJ Pelletier brings techno to Westboro

It's not so many years ago that the area called Westboro was pretty much an extension of the working class neighbourhood whose hub was LeBreton Flats.

Today, a leisurely drive down Wellington, especially once it crosses Parkdale in the westbound direction, reveals an altogether different picture, as storefront signs for establishments like Bridgehead and Mountain Equipment Co-Op go sailing by.

'It' neighbourhood

As new, younger money rubs shoulders with the older establishment, Westboro has been actively seeking its own identity as the newest "it" neighbourhood in Ottawa.

Musically, there is an active ingredient in this quest, and his name is Jason Pelletier.

"When I first moved here from Montreal and started djing at Trio (one of the newer and hippest restaurant/lounges in the area), the owners picked me up at my downtown apartment

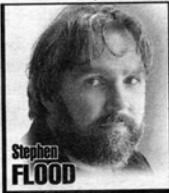
and drove me out there," laughs Pelletier.

"One minute we're on city streets, the next minute we're on the highway and I'm wondering if we're even still in Ottawa."

Once he got used to the idea that Westboro was this separate and relatively new little enclave in the fabric of Ottawa's collection of communities, Pelletier also began to realize that he could look at it as a kind of clean slate, musically speaking.

Through his weekly residency at Trio, spinning mostly lounge and house music, Pelletier began to develop the idea and the audience for a monthly party of an altogether more rare and interesting variety.

"When I was in Montreal I was combining house with techno and minimal techno at my sets in clubs like Blue Dog, but I've noticed that that kind of scene doesn't really exist here, it's more delineated along the lines of house or rock djs," muses Pelletier.



Stephen FLOOD



"The Disconnected and Disorganized folks cover those scenes really well, but there's this gap as far as techno's concerned, and I really want to change that."

Pelletier hopes that through playing the 12-inch singles put out by labels like Force Inc, Kompact, Mille Plateau, Ghostly International and Chain Reaction, he can offer the people who would go to a lounge night

the chance to step outside their usual listening experience.

For this inaugural kickoff to the ongoing event, which will be called Techcetera, Pelletier will be sharing the decks with fellow techno lover, visual artist and Saw Gallery board of directors member Andrew O'Malley.

Beats to move the body

The two will engage in dj battle in a call-and-response format, and promise a night that will include visuals to stimulate the mind and beats to move the body.

"I love the whole clicks and cuts movement, but that doesn't mean that this night is about ambient music," concludes Pelletier.

"It's more about a low-key, machine-generated funkiness. And Trio, being about a 50-person capacity is, I think, the perfect place for this to start as a nucleus, as a place to start a scene that proves you don't always have to head downtown to find new and exciting things going on."

The DJ file

► **Who:** Techcetera (Jason Pelletier and Andrew O'Malley)

► **Where:** Trio Lounge, 307D Richmond Rd.

► **When:** Tomorrow, 9:00 p.m.

► **Other Djing activities of Pelletier:** Rotating monthly sets at Helsinki; part of the "Spins and Needles" crafts and music sessions held monthly at the Clocktower Pub

► **Top slabs of vinyl in**

heavy rotation on Pelletier's turntable:

Joachim Spieth *You Don't Fool Me* (Kompakt)
Matthew Dear *Dog Days* (Spectral/Ghostly International)

DBX (Dan Bell) *Losing Control/Beat Phreak* (Peace Frog)

Basic Channel *Phyllystrak* (II)

► **A special surprise on the night of the first Techcetera:** "Andrew (O'Malley) is really into



making buttons, and he's designed some specially for our first event. But they're limited, so you better get there early."