

Boys' Night Out in Montreal *(continued from previous page)*

the other bars in town, and Les Deux R (1554 Ste. Catherine Est) feature nude dancers, a leather/denim crowd, and some very serious cruising.

For entertainment other than the boy-meets-boy, dancing, and stripper variety, try some of the places featuring shows and drag acts: La Boite en Haut (1320 Alexandre-de-Seve, near Ste. Catherine Est), was the first disco in this part of town, and builds on 15 years of drag shows, singers, Sunday buffets, and holiday events in addition to being a decent place to dance.

Cabaret Chez-Bobette (1278 St. Andre, one block west of St. Denis) is a mixed bar with a large lesbian clientele and an amazing variety of entertainment from singers and drag to leather shows and lesbian erotic dancers - best experienced in a group. Cabaret L'Entre-peau (1115 Ste. Catherine Est) features drag shows every night, and the quality is usually quite high, although if you don't speak French you may not be able to fully appreciate the humor.

For simply hanging out in the Village, try Taverne le Plateau (71 Ste. Catherine Est), with its great window view of all the boys walking Ste. Catherine (sunny afternoons or early evenings are best); Taverne Gambrinus (1151 Ontario Est) is a wonderful neighborhood tavern a few blocks from the main village - very relaxed and friendly, with a nice mix of ages; Taverne du Village (1366 Ste Catherine Est) is a similarly relaxed place to hang out, play pool and watch the world go by from the *terrasse*; and Cafe Monarch (162 Ste. Catherine Est), Montreal's oldest gay bar, where the long-time regulars sit next to a younger crowd, is quite friendly, with lots of table-hopping.

Finally worth visiting are a number of mixed bars outside of the Village where gay men and lesbians feel quite comfort-

able with a trendy straight crowd. Notable are Lezard (4177 St. Denis, corner of Rachel) and Kiev (812 Rachel, corner of St. Hubert), located in a great neighborhood that's home to many gay men and lesbians. La Nausee (1405 St. Laurent, corner of Ste. Catherine) is a newly opened dance club/bar for those who like punk and cutting edge music and style; no one cares whom you dance with.

Stop (3580 St. Dominique, corner of Prince-Arthur) is a women's bar open to

everyone. It's good atmosphere makes it a great place to go out to with women friends.

This serves as an introduction to the Montreal bar scene. Bars open and close without notice, and what's in now may be out next month. For best results, wander the neighborhoods and explore places that pique your interest. You might also pick up a copy of one of the bar magazines (Fugues or Vision) to check for new places or special events at any of the regulars.

A Beginner's Guide to Montreal Bars

Beer: Canadian beer tends to be richer and smoother than American beers, and even those with American names (e.g. Bud, put out by Labatt, and Black Label, a very good beer from Carling-Okeefe) are brewed locally and taste Canadian. Most bars stock the well-known Canadian brands: Molson, Labatt, and Carling-O'Keefe. For a special treat, try one of the Montreal micro-brewery beers (St. Ambroise and Belle Guelle are good choices). Expect to pay from \$2.25 to \$4.50 for a beer in most bars, with frequent specials in the competitive bar market. "En fut" means draft, which is cheaper, but not available at many places.

Cover: Except for some special events, bars in Montreal do not charge a cover, which makes bar-hopping in the Village easier and cheaper. However, wintertime frequently means a mandatory coat check, which usually runs 75 cents.

Door policy: Most of the gay and lesbian bars in Montreal are strictly sex seg-

regated: women are not admitted to most men's bars under any circumstances. This is not illegal, and until very recently the community has gone along with, and even defended, these policies. While ACT-UP and Queer Nation have begun protests at new bars that discriminate in admissions, they have decided to exempt those already in existence. In addition, some bars may decide that your outfit is inappropriate for their style (especially at leather bars), but being turned away for this reason is relatively uncommon and seems to be at the whim of door people on crowded nights.

Drinking age: Quebec's drinking age remains 18, and it is virtually unheard of for people to be carded.

Hours: Bars stay open until 3 a.m.; taverns close at midnight. Opening hours vary, with taverns frequently opening at 9 or 10 a.m., and some bars opening early in the afternoon, especially on weekends. Taverns are always closed on Sundays.



Walter I. Zeichner, M.A., N.C.C.
 Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor ~
 Psychotherapy ~ Bodywork ~



Gay Positive Counseling ~
 for Individuals and Couples ~
 Gay Men's Therapy Group ~



Insurance Accepted ~

323 Pearl St., Burlington, VT 05401
 (802) 863-5510

PROPERTY
 MANAGEMENT
 MAINTENANCE

CARPENTRY
 HOME SECURITY
 INTERIOR PAINTING
 MINOR HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS
 WALL COVERING
 YARD MAINTENANCE

ROY JOSEPH BAKER
 AC802 863-3838

REASONABLE RATES
 WE WELCOME SMALL JOBS