

# 401

Richmond

# update

May  
'95



volume 2  
number 3

Published by 401 Richmond Ltd.

**inside**

**Profile:**  
**The**  
**Learning**  
**Edge**

*Welcome*

- **The Graphic Underground** (graphic design; silkscreen on garments; vinyl cut lettering) - Studio B105
- **Rivini Design** (couture bridal and special occasion) - Studio 216
- **Greg Stephens** (barrister & solicitor) - Studio 423
- **Get Graphic** (graphic design) - Studio 436
- **CARO Canadian Artists Representation Ontario** (service organization for visual artists) - Studio 440
- **V-Tape** (distributor of independent video) - Studio 452
- **Fuse Magazine** (publication featuring arts, social and political issues) - Studio 454
- **Parallélogramme** (magazine featuring artist-run activities across Canada) - Studio 446

#### Moved within 401

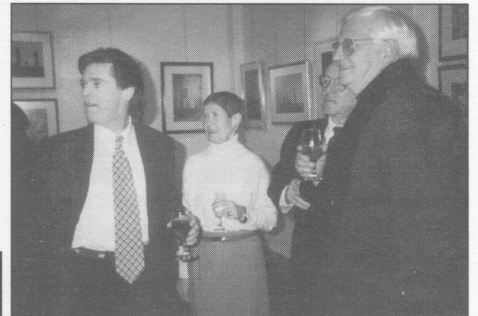
- **Inside/OUT** (gay and lesbian film and video festival) - formerly Studio 216, now Studio 456

## Gallery 401 Opening

**I**t was a great night. On March 3, 1995, 401 Richmond's new art gallery, **Gallery 401**, opened its doors. Many tenants, their friends and families showed up to join in the celebration. Seen at the event were well-known faces from Citytv including Gord Martineau and Colin Vaughan. The photographic work of Gokche Erkan, entitled 'Renewal', was on exhibit, and several of the pieces sold within hours of opening.

The mandate of Gallery 401 is to provide a forum for artists to exhibit their work - those with studios in the building and the community at large. The Gallery, located in Studio 240, is available for rental on a weekly basis. For information call 416-506-9595.

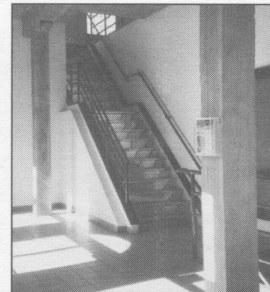
City TV's Gord Martineau and Colin Vaughan were among the many guests at Gallery 401's opening.



## Renovation/Leasing Update

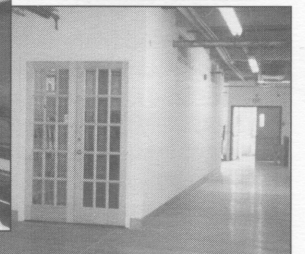
**W**e are pleased to report that lobby renovations are completed, and new plexiglas signage has been installed along the south brick wall. The last section of carpeted flooring and grey walls (on the third floor - Section C) will be renovated by the end of May, and an automatic door opener

*Continued on Page 2*



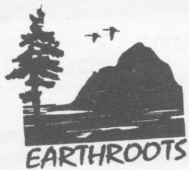
Completed renovations to front lobby.

Renovations to fourth floor.



# Earth Day

April 22, 1995: It was the 25th anniversary of Earth Day and tenants at 401 Richmond played a major role in spearheading the day's events. **Earthroots (Studio 410)** and the **Wildlands League (Studio 380)** organized the 'Shadow Project' which took place throughout downtown (the activity involved using biodegradable chalk to write environmental messages on the pavement and sidewalks). Both groups took part in the march from Queen's Park to Nathan Phillips Square and had information booths open to the public.



Back at 401 Richmond, educator Ann McTaggart and her artist/sister Lesley Graham held an Earth Day Banner Making activity in **Studio 376**. Ann gave us her enthusiastic report of the event: "Our Earth day banner making was a great success! Approximately 40 adults painted three



12 foot long canvas pieces while nine children painted squares which will be stitched together as part of the completed banner. Studio 376 was alive with creativity, curiosity and courage as each participant allowed the earth to "speak" through their brush or pen. We experienced the Sunrise, Day and Sunset gradually coming to life as each person put his or her touch to canvas. The age range was from 2 years to 78 years...from professional artists to absolute beginners!!! It was truly an experiment in community building for all of us. We are so grateful for the nurturing and supportive space that made this event possible." If you are interested in participating in any upcoming art activities or would like to borrow the banners for a special event, just give Anne (416-481-4780) or Lesley (416-652-0238) a call.



## Art Activities Scheduled for Studio 376

- **Sunday, April 30 and Monday, May 1** - Prayer Flags. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **Saturday, May 13** - Gathering to Acknowledge Mothers. 1 pm - 4 pm
- **Sunday, May 14 and Monday, May 15** - Clay Pots and Forms. 10 am - 5 pm
- **Sunday, May 28 and Monday May 29** - Bird Houses. 10 am - 5 pm
- **Saturday, June 17 and Sunday June 25** - Painted Floor Cloths. 10 am - 5 pm

# Ernie & Suki

Guard dog by day, guard dog by night. That's the way we'd like to think of this dynamic dog duo who live at 401 Richmond Street West. Ernie, a nine month old Maltese Terrier owned by Building Manager Mike Moody, has been everyone's favourite mascot since he arrived here last October. Not only do many tenants like to 'borrow' 5 lb. Ernie, but he's great for leasing: at least one prospective tenant left a message on our answering machine saying, "I'm interested in the 1500 sq ft space, and, oh, by the way, would you say hi to Ernie for me." Suki, on the other hand, is an 85 lb. female Bouvier. Originally from Edmonton, she was shipped by plane to her 'parents' Sam Kump and Mary Sutherland (our in-house security team at 401) in Toronto. Suki consumes 4 cups of dog food daily in addition to 1 1/2 pounds of treats (biscuits, carrots, criminals, etc.). Ernie and Suki are best friends and visit each other regularly. "Suki's a wimp when Ernie's around," says Sam. "Ernie likes to dominate the scene."

We're thinking of breeding them



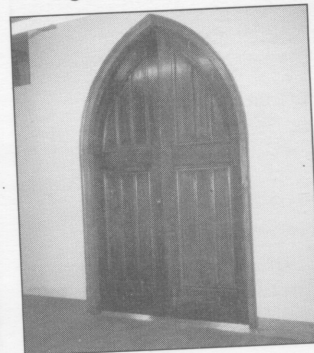
Ernie in a T-shirt provided for him by Tamiyo Tomihiro of Element of Fashion (Studio 255) and Michael Murphy of The Graphic Underground (Studio B105).



Ernie and Suki at play

## Renovation/Leasing Update Continued from Page 1

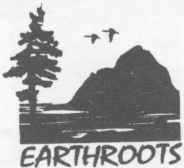
has been added to the Richmond Street loading dock doors. (We encourage all tenants to use the Richmond Street loading area for pick-up and deliveries). As for the fourth floor, where much of the activity has taken place as of late, renovations are essentially finished. The fourth floor is entirely leased except for a 750 square foot space (which may be gone by the time you read this!). Since last May, when we were experiencing a 50% vacancy rate, we have been successful in leasing out most of the space at 401 Richmond. We are now almost 100% leased and have a waiting list - great news for management's 1st anniversary!



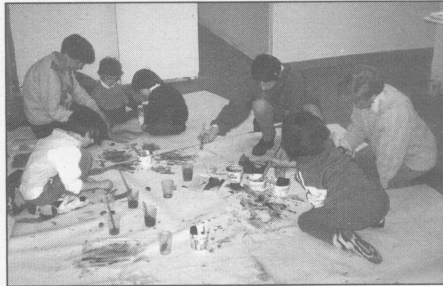
Historic doors on the fourth floor.

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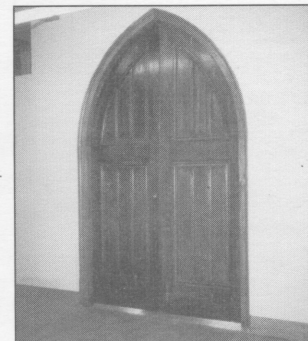
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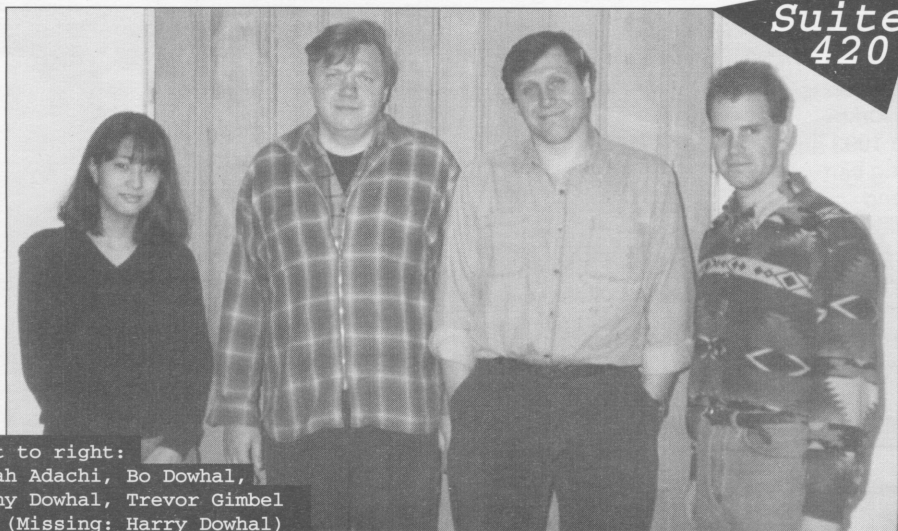
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Historic doors on the fourth floor.

## The Learning Edge

THE LEARNING EDGE CORPORATION



Left to right:  
Sarah Adachi, Bo Dowhal,  
Danny Dowhal, Trevor Gimbel  
(Missing: Harry Dowhal)

the types of people who are in the building. There are all kinds of skills here."

To the uninitiated, the word "multimedia" can still be an intimidating one, although Danny makes it sound so simple: "All the media in the world is going digital. It started with words and text going on-line and then illustrations and graphics were the next development. Today, digital audio is the ultimate quality in audio and there's a similar explosion of video. In the meantime, as all the media has been going digital, computer power has been growing exponentially, and the cost has been dropping exponentially.

"We seem to be at this point all of a sudden, where you have phenomenal amounts of data/information on-line in digital form and a cheap mechanism for delivering it to people."

The Learning Edge has delivered information for clients as diverse as IBM, the Durham Board of Education, the Kitchener Waterloo Hospital and of course, the Hockey Hall of Fame, and they've done so via demo disks, training systems, touchscreen kiosks and CD-ROMs.

According to Danny, the latest and greatest technology on the multimedia menu—and one they feel will be particularly useful in industrial training packages—is virtual reality. "You can actually put people into situations—obviously very coarse, cartoon-like representations of industrial scenarios—where they can't break anything or hurt anyone. They can move around in it and experience it."

Now that's edutainment (the marriage of education and entertainment). "A big part of it is to make it fun," agrees Danny. "And that works both ways. Anything that's fun for the users is fun for us to develop."

Three years after coming to 401 Richmond and just weeks after moving into a new suite on the fourth floor (Studio 420), The Learning Edge finds itself in the hub of multimedia activity in the city. "I guess it's because of the proximity to the CBC and City tv and Queen Street," says Danny. "Someday they're going to tear down the signs that say "Fashion District" and put up ones that say "Multimedia District."

When Danny Dowhal says that he and his two brothers used to hack around together all the time, he means it in the most modern sense of the word.

"All three of us used to work in the computer industry in different areas," explains Danny, the creative director of The Learning Edge, a developer of multimedia products and four-year veteran of 401 Richmond. "Both Harry and Bo were contract programmers. I was in programming for a while and then I went off and got a journalism degree from Ryerson."

Straight after school Danny went to IBM where he worked for seven years as an "information developer," a job that combined technical writing and the development of on-line information. It was the precursor to what is now called multimedia.

It was in the time after Danny left IBM in 1988 to pursue freelance work that the three brothers would get together in the evenings and on the weekends to hack around together. "We all shared a common interest in computer graphics technology," says Danny. "That was sort of the common thread between my brothers and I. But what really brought

us together as a corporation and also brought us to this building in 1992 was our first major commission to do some multimedia kiosks for the Hockey Hall of Fame. It really got us jump started." The Learning Edge was on its way.

Any multimedia organization worth its weight in CD-ROMs blends a variety of skills and disciplines and offers a range of services. The Learning Edge is no exception. Full-motion video and animation, digitized images, 2D and 3D computer-generated graphics, text and hypertext, choreographed stereophonic sound—you name it, they can provide it. Because beyond their similar work histories, the brothers brought their individual interests and talents to bear in the family business: Bo, the company president is "into film", Harry is experienced as a traditional animator, and Danny is a cartoonist and illustrator. Their in-depth computer expertise, combined with an ability to "entertain, explain, market and inform," is their unique stock in trade.

Occasionally, they have to look outside the company for specialized help. And the next time they do, says Danny, 401's monthly newsletter could be of great use: "It makes you more aware of

# bulletin board

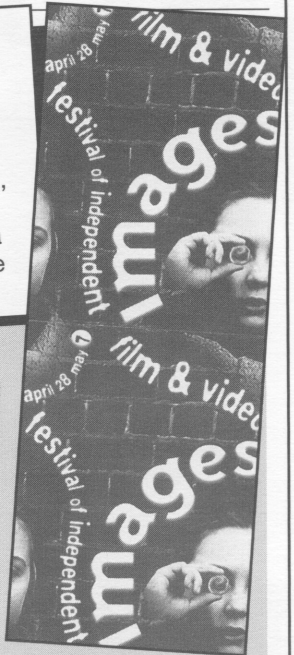
A regular feature of 401 UPDATE, the Bulletin Board is your opportunity to communicate with other tenants and keep them in touch with what is happening in your organization. If you are having a sale or exhibition, or just want to tell others about your product/service, simply supply Lesley Soden in the management office with the written information and we will print it here.

**JEANNIE THIB:**  
Body Works



**Jeannie Thib's (Studio 362)** artwork is on exhibit once again, this time at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. The presentation of recent works deals with images of the body as a site for mappings, both cultural and historical. This is the first major exhibition to examine Jeannie's works completed between 1993 and the present, including carved objects, drawings and installations, as well as linocuts. The show, entitled *Body Works*, is on display from April 27 - June 4, 1995. Jeannie will give a free public lecture at the gallery on Thursday, May 11, 1995 at 7 pm.

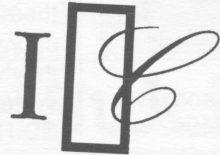
The Eighth Annual **Images Festival (Studio 228)** of independent film & video is taking place from April 28 - May 7, 1995 at the Metropolitan Cinema at 394 Euclid Avenue (at College Street).



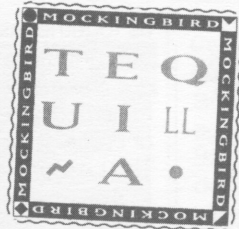
Open House:  
**Q Music (Studio B106)** invites everyone to drop by their Open House on Thursday, May 11, 1995 from 11 am to 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.



**Inside/OUT's (Studio 456)** Fifth Annual Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival is taking place May 18-28, 1995 at the Metropolitan Cinema. For more information call (416) 977-6847



This Spring's One-of-a-Kind Craft Show proved to be very successful for participants **Kilim Crafts (Studio 130)** and Kelly Winsa of **Tequila Mockingbird (Studio 208)**. Kelly will also be involved in a designer's clearance sale on June 7 - 8, 1995 at the Design Exchange.



**Sylvia Sweeney of Elitha Peterson Productions (Studio 385)** is one of the hosts of the Women's Television Network's successful current events show *POV: Women* (check listings for summer times). EPP is also producer of two shows on WTN: *Landed*, a documentary series on women who have immigrated to Canada (Fridays at 6:30 pm and Saturdays at 8:30 am); and *Sports Today*, a two hour sports show covering women's basketball which starts this September.

**Esmeralda Enrique's Spanish Dance Company (Studio B104)** presents *Concierto de Aranjuez* by the Spanish company Joaquin Rodrigo, as well as traditional flamenco works with live musicians at the Studio Theatre of York Quay Centre. Performances will take place June 1 - 3 (8 pm) and June 4 (3 pm). Call the box office at (416) 973-4000 for tickets.



**Published by 401 Richmond Ltd.**

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Printed on recycled paper