Liberal-Banner composing room foreman, Norm Stunden, is shown marking up one of the many incoming ads that will be appearing in a future edition of The Liberal. Besides publishing the two newspapers, the company also puts out various advertising flyers. To do this, foreman Stunden has eight full-time and 14 part-time staff.

Veteran linotype operator, Ed Lloyd, (foreground), and Dave Belanger paste waxed copy on layout sheets. The layout sheets, or page flats, go to Newsweb Enterprise Limited in Willowdale, where they are photographed. From the negative, a plate is made to go directly onto the press.
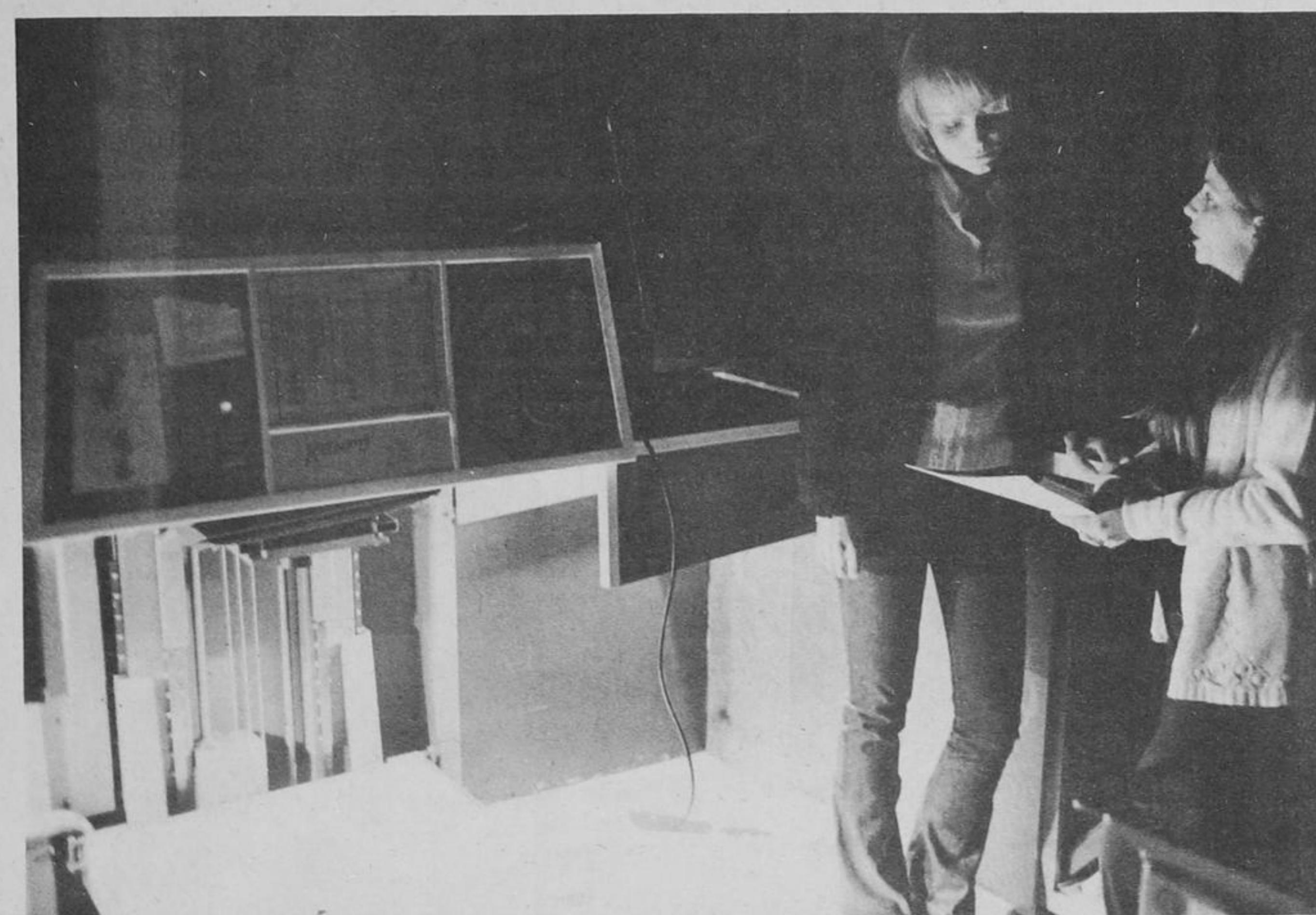
Photos by Susan Samila

. . . and goes to computers

Eileen Mitchell, one of the composing room typesetters, follows copy from The Liberal editorial office and types it on her keyboard. The result — a punched tape — can be seen flowing into the circular dish on the left. A little plastic box on the side of the machine catches the perforated pieces from the tape.

Instead of being heavy metal slugs as in old method of composition, The Liberal's headlines now are like long, thin, black and white photographs. Proofreader Jackie Heptinstall gives the headings the last once over as they roll out of the processor. The headlines are later dried, waxed and pasted on page-sized cardboard flats.

Milly Lemieux (right) who handles the processing camera for The Liberal and The Banner, may have to leave the lights low most of the time, but she's not really in the dark. Here Milly, explains some of the techniques to Renee Young, of the paste-up department. The large Kenro camera puts the small dots in prints so they can be reproduced in printer's ink.

Typesetter Jean St. John watches a tape roll off the Compugraphic 4961 in Aurora. The computer reads the tape and a light flashing through a spinning cellulose "font" prints the letters on photographic paper at 30 lines a minute. A high speed 2961 model prints at 60 lines per minute. At the end of each line, the computer decides if a hyphen is necessary and where it should go. It sometimes makes mistakes.