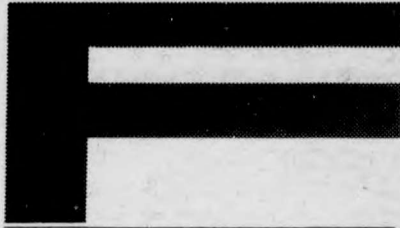


York TV studio gives students a marketable skill



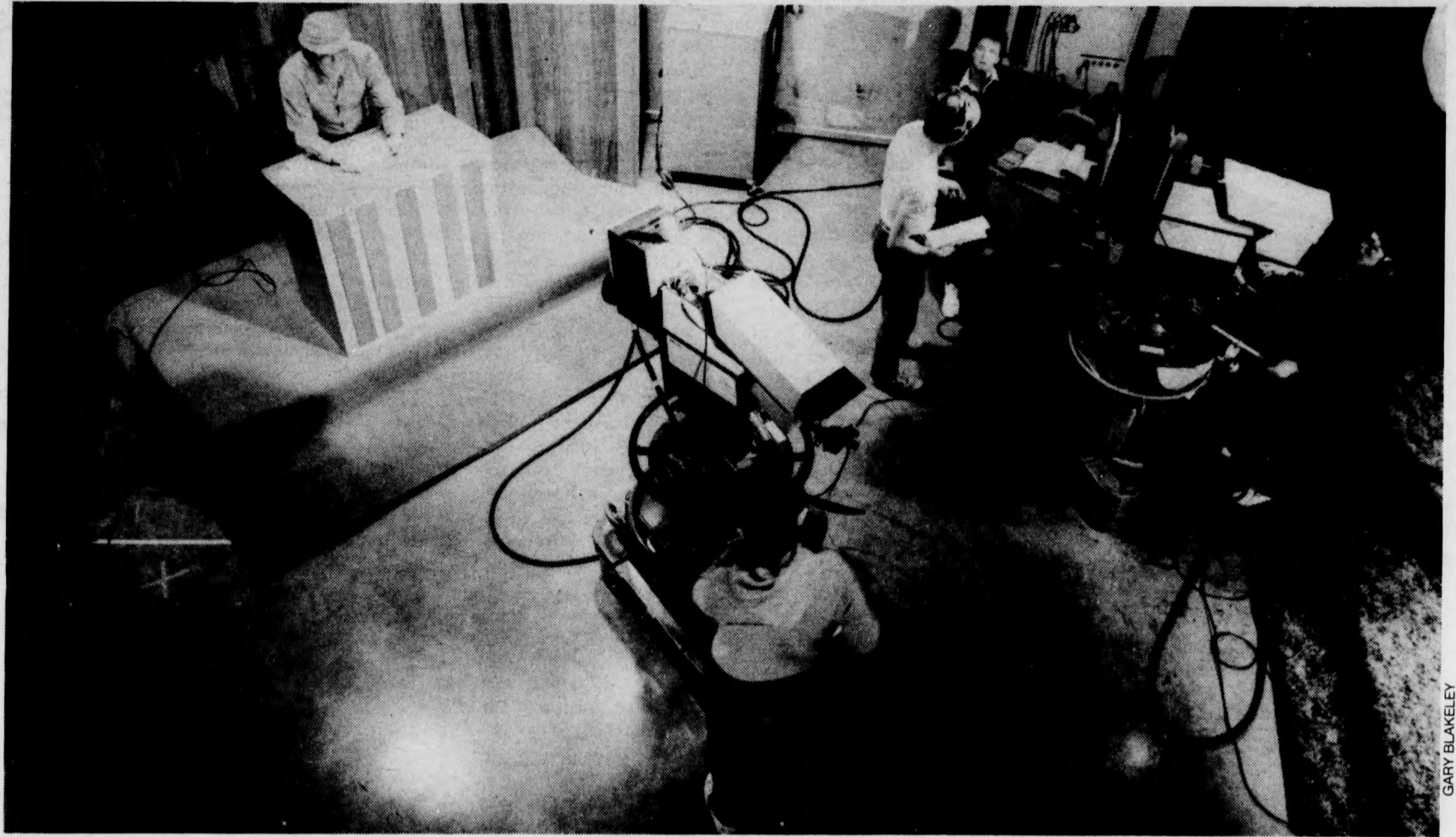
By CLARK HOSKIN

Like an industrious little ant colony, York's TV studio is buried deeply under the passageways of the Stedman Lecture Halls. David Homer, director of the Department of Instructional Aid Resources (DIAR), likes it that way.

The studio consists of a small soundstage, a lighting control room, an audio control room, a master control room, a video editing suite, and many storage and research areas. Homer's eyes seemed to sparkle as he led me through the labyrinth, proudly introducing all of the impressive technology. There are professional video cameras and recorders, 120 individually controllable lighting units, as well as a newly built post-production room.

The equipment doesn't collect dust but is used continuously. At present, DIAR, a separate departmental entity which doesn't work directly with the Department of Film/Video, has nine programs in production, seven in pre-production, and eight on Homer's "launching pad" awaiting approval.

The TV studio was built in 1966. Homer, who was director of Instructional Materials at Glendon at that time, helped to co-ordinate the building of the video facilities on the Keele Campus. He explains that York decided upon a television studio because "every university has a responsibility to keep the community aware and informed." Using television, other York faculties, such as

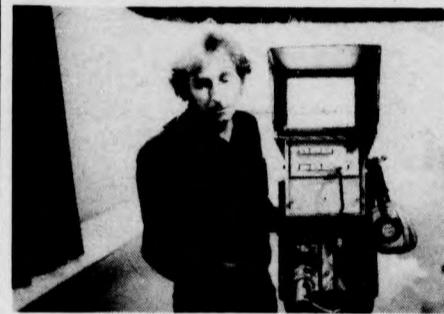


GARY BLAKELEY

Arts and Sciences, could produce instructional materials for their own use, as well as public affairs programs which would interest the community at large. The studio has also produced York promotional tapes which are used in Ontario high schools to lure in prospective students. DIAR has won many awards and its productions have been broadcast over TV Ontario, CBC, and CBS.

In 1968, when the Faculty of Fine

Arts was established, programs were set up in film and video production. Today, York offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree to film majors, and the Department of Film/Video is presently phasing in a new system whereby students are exposed to both film and television. The Department hopes that students emerging from the York film program will have marketable skills in both aspects of the visual media industry.



Above: moth's eye view of York's TV studio in action. Left: Technical director Jim Poole.

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