

100th ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

STORMY PASSAGE FOR PAPER'S BOAT

IAN COXON, Editor of Leeds Student last year, traces the paper's history.



FIVE years ago a group of enthusiastic student journalists had the idea of publishing a newspaper to serve both the Polytechnic and University Unions.

It was one of many inter-collegiate concepts that were being discussed, including the development of a single union for all students in Leeds. But only Leeds Student has stood the test of time, riding periodic storms caused by angry union officials and a constant shortage of people to produce the paper.

Since it first appeared on the union newstands on November 20th, 1970 the paper has made its mark as one of the best student newspapers in Britain.

Product of boom

Leeds Student owes its creation to the development of the city's polytechnic in 1969 on a site close to the rapidly expanding university campus. The paper was the product of the boom in higher education when money was no object for universities and polytechnics.

The basic format of Leeds Student was ready made. Union News, a twelve page weekly tabloid, had been keeping university students up to date with campus news since 1947. This was merged with Pact, the Poly Union's newsheet. After great deliberation it was decided to call the new publication Leeds Student and it was billed as the "Independent Newspaper of Leeds Students".

The new paper had joint editors, one from the Polytechnic and one from the University, and was intended to be sold in colleges all over the city. Apart from a minority at the university who disliked the idea of sharing their paper with the Poly, most people were enthusiastic about the new venture. But despair soon set in as staff resigned and the small group running

the paper found the task of collating stories from the two unions virtually impossible, never mind the dozens of other colleges in the area.

The job of running Union News had been much simpler because from an office in the basement of the university union reporters only had to run up two flights of stairs to the executive office to gather the big news of the day.

It was at the Poly where interest in Leeds Student waned most dramatically after its first few weeks of publication. At the university there were thousands of ex-Union News readers eager to buy the paper every week and its strong tradition prompted sufficient people to take part in the production of Leeds Student. But down the road at the Poly a shortage of staff meant a lack of news about the college and a consequent drop in sales.

For reasons that seem inexplicable, interest in writing for the paper has always been low at the Poly apart from a period of a year between 1972 and 1973 when the Poly office became a hive of activity, stimulated by Leeds Student's larger than life American columnist John Bradley. Sales rocketed back up to their early levels and such was the success that the University began to complain of the excess of Poly news in its paper.

University bias

During this period the inevitable university bias in the paper's outlook, which had developed through the lack of interest shown elsewhere, was eradicated and Leeds Student began to ap-



Table of contents for the 100th Anniversary Supplement, listing sections like NEWS, EDITORIAL, REVIEWS, MUSIC, LETTERS, PERSONAL COLUMN, and SPORT with their respective page numbers.

Complaints about accommodation lead to threats to academic future

HEAD IS ACCUSED OF INTIMIDATING GIRLS



LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR LEFT-WINGERS

MONDAY and Tuesday's University Union Council by-elections produced a moderately heavy poll (17%) and a landslide victory for the left-wingers.

PAPERS MERGE

At Monday's meeting of the University Union Council the merger between Union News and Pact was discussed and accepted.

have never in my life seen such frightened girls. Paul Gantlett, President of the Polytechnic Union, made at last week's O.G.M. when he said that girls in halls of residence run by the Poly School were subject to continual threats to their academic future if they complained about their living conditions.

Following a visit to the Halls of Residence, the girls asked Mr. Gantlett what he could do to ensure a satisfactory living environment. He said that the girls should write to the Poly School and ask for a meeting with the staff to discuss their complaints. He said that the girls should also write to the University Union and ask for a meeting with the staff to discuss their complaints.

When asked to comment on the girls' complaints, Mr. Gantlett said that he would do his best to ensure a satisfactory living environment. He said that the girls should write to the Poly School and ask for a meeting with the staff to discuss their complaints.

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The first edition of Leeds Student - November 20th, 1970

proach student life in the city from a general viewpoint not restricted to one particular college. Some of the people who edited Leeds Student in its early days are probably amazed to see its one hundredth issue published. Splashed across the front page of the paper's seventh issue was the headline: "SERIOUS FEARS FOR PAPER'S FUTURE." Underneath was a story describing how the publication of the paper was in jeopardy because a number of senior staff at the University had been forced to resign because of the pressures of their academic work. Such dramatic stories continued to be written but the paper never failed to appear on time.

General interest

Now even news of union presidential races is relegated to the inside pages in preference to stories with greater general interest. Even so the same stories loom large every year. There is always an accommodation crisis in October which is bigger than any in previous years and people constantly swear that refectory food is declining in standard. Not to mention the drugs problem that rears its head every spring, the annual rape, and the question of will this years Rag be the last?

Rent strikes, occupations and executive no-confidences can now be added to the list of annual events to be reported and it is always time for a good demonstration.

Having made the post of editor sabbatical, Paul Valley unwittingly managed to involve Leeds Student in one of the most serious threats to its future. The University Union decided to freeze the paper's funds because he

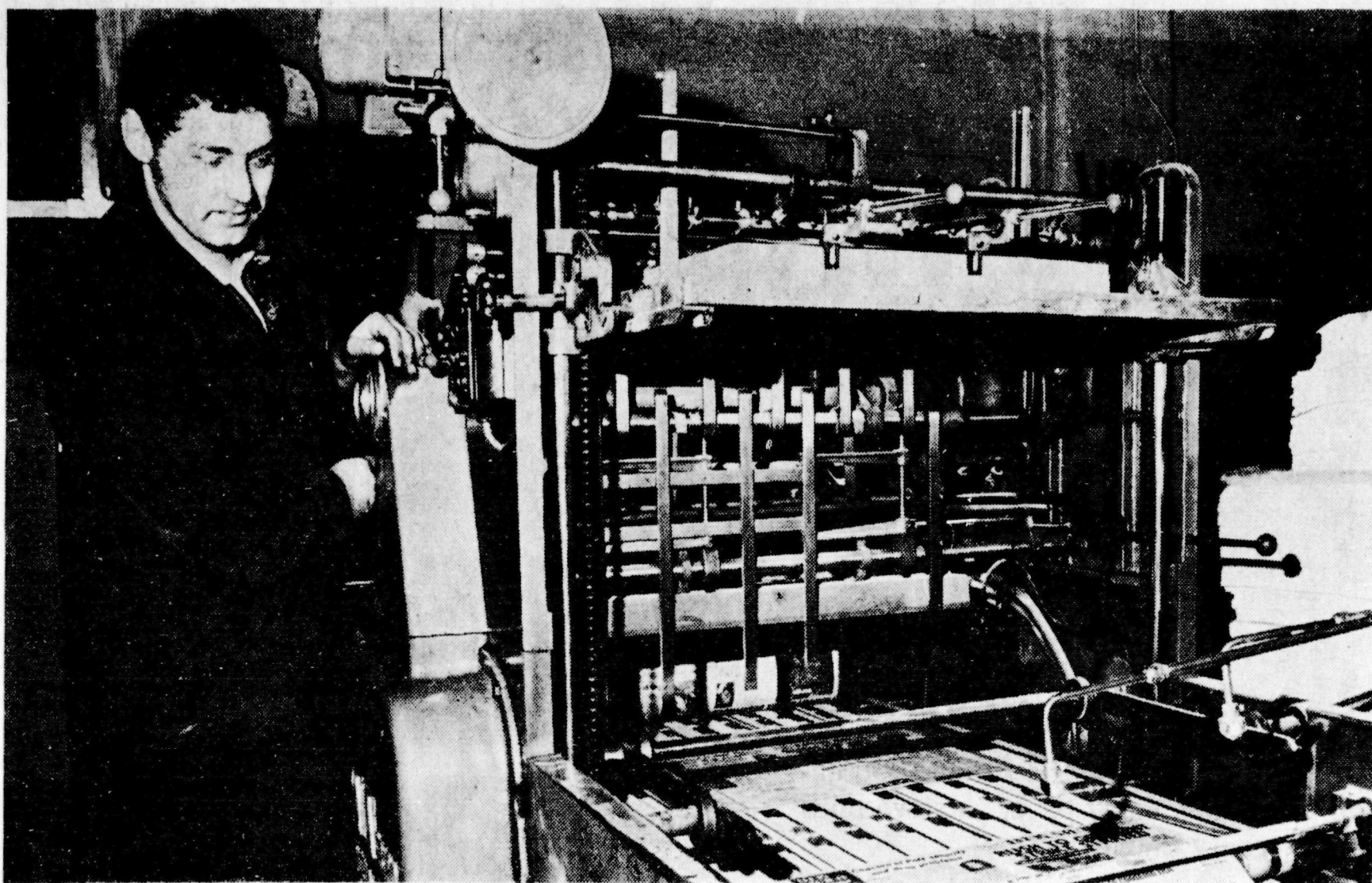
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College grievances headlined - November 23rd, 1973

The expose of the NDFM - May 10th, 1974

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH LEEDS STUDENT BRITAIN'S TOP STUDENT NEWSPAPER



The front and back pages come off the press

... Storms and setbacks but paper continues

Continued from front page

revealed the existence of a secret committee on drugs.

However the national press came to our rescue and the funds were flowing again after Mr Valley had been quoted in the Daily Telegraph as saying: "I would rather go to prison than reveal the source of my story!"

Ever since, Paul has denied uttering that statement.

Hot Water

He also landed himself in hot water with the University Union's Disciplinary Tribunal when he scotched Martin Scicluna's bid for the University Union Presidency in 1973 by printing a story about Scicluna's involvement in a "Vac Pay Scandal" the week before the election. None of the allegations of bias against Valley were ever proved.

Paul Valley's explosive style of journalism did much to make Leeds Student the best paper of its kind in Britain. A newspaper is only

as good as its staff and it is important on a student newspaper for the present personnel to train those of the future in order to maintain and improve standards.

Two years ago the affairs of the University received good coverage because of the high standard of reporting of Andrew Baldwin and a number of particularly impressive features on social services were produced by Nick Clarke. Last year John McMurray lifted the standard of the review pages, and music criticism to new heights. But there are many more people who have spent hundreds of hours contributing to the paper such as Richard Munro (Xenopus) and Chris Elliott (Arthur) who between them have produced numerous crosswords.



Paul Valley, the first sabbatical editor — now working on the Yorkshire Post

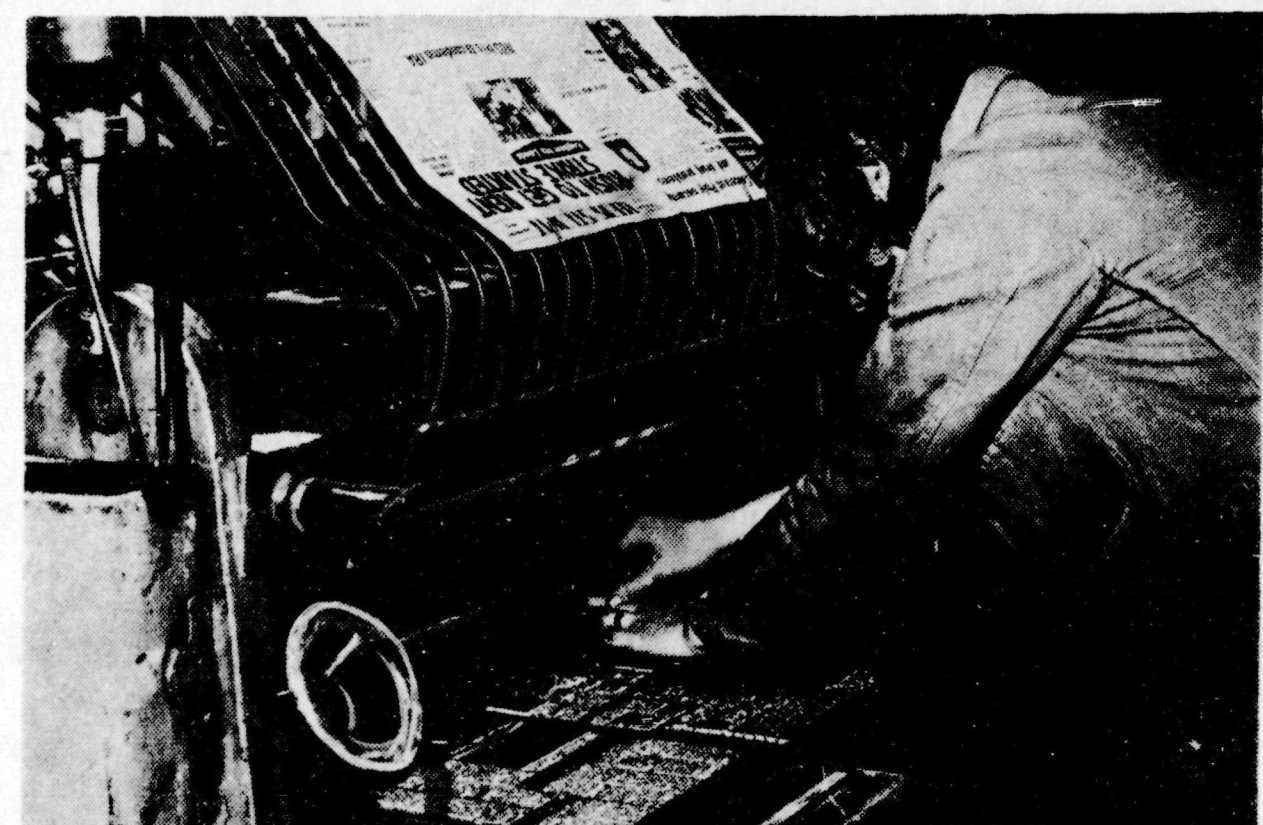
Most of the reasons for Leeds Student's success must stem from tradition. A tradition going back not just to 1970 when the first copy was published but back to 1947 and the inception of Union News. Since then there has been a flow of ideas and transmission of techniques which have made Leeds Student what it is today.



Staff at work in the main Leeds Student office in Woodhouse Lane

EDITORS OF LEEDS STUDENT

- 1970/71 University
Richard Munro
Vic Parker
- Poly
Paul Wetherall
John Josephs
- 1971/72 University
Paul Valley
Andrew Baldwin
- Poly
Graham Isley
- 1972/73
Paul Valley
- 1973/74
Ian Coxon
- 1974/75
Nick Wittchell



The forme full of type is placed in the press ready for printing

"Not an outright disaster"

by Ian Morrison, University Information Officer; former President of the University Union and staff member of "Union News"

Although Leeds Student has yet to outclass its predecessor, the Union News, looking back now after 100 issues, it has not been an outright disaster.

In exchange for a much diluted interest in University affairs, most of the student population of Leeds have the same weekly newspaper. But each time one or other institution has grabbed the headlines, it has been necessary for the other institutions to be appeased in subsequent issues.

Leeds Student is more independent than its predecessors. It now seems to be 'outside' all the institutions it serves — even to the extent of neutral editorial premises in Woodhouse Lane.

This greater separation has meant that although initially its ideological causes and campaigns were sometimes blunted by incorrect and insufficient information it has recently shown itself as a major force to be reckoned

with within the University. Naturally somebody like myself, whose stock-in-trade is to hand the press the right end of a succession of sticks, would remember better than most those occasions when Leeds Student editors have preferred the other. Ignoring the facts, I agree, sometimes throws the truth into greater relief. But the most knocking copy is often just the facts presented objectively.

It is always interesting to gauge the level and direction of fashionable late teenage fixations by reading the arts pages. But so many other nationally available magazines offer this too. Rising occasionally into prominence above the continuum of youthful obsession, Leeds Student's message, when based on

reason, has been difficult to ignore.

The signs are that it is now read by an encouragingly wide spectrum of students, and even some staff, and this is no mean achievement considering those attractive alternatives (*Daily Mirror*, *The Reporter*), but the number of students who produce it is surprisingly small considering the growth of readership.

In the mid-60's there was a staff of about 20 serving a readership of not much more than 2,000. Now there must be twice the number of readers, yet by this time of the year responsibility seems to fall to a handful of devotees.

A question of Policy

by The Editor

Since its inception over four years ago, Leeds Student has consistently followed a policy of independence.

We believe it is vital that in the student union structure there should be a free platform, unhindered by any factional allegiance, to monitor and, when necessary, criticise the actions of those appointed to positions of responsibility.

Such is the basis of the free Press, where material is judged not by any brazen political criteria, but by objective standards of interest and importance to an audience as a whole.

Thus Leeds Student attempts to provide the service of a newspaper and strenuously avoids the role of an organ of political propaganda, unlike many so-called student "newspapers". Publications of a political nature are produced by the various Union societies and are available for those who wish to read them.

That is not to say that Leeds Student is politically unaware. We have, in the past, scored notable successes in areas of political activity whilst at all times advocating a fair deal for students in terms of grants, housing and all other facilities necessary for a tolerable academic life.

In terms of specific issues, it was, for instance, the exposure by this newspaper of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Freedom Movement which eventually led to demands for a public enquiry into their activities. Last term, the publicity we gave to the University Union Council decision on the IRA led to the correction of a very dangerous abuse of power within the Union.

Therefore, to those who advocate a tighter control by the Unions over this newspaper, we point to the fundamental right to a free Press enjoyed in this country and the most hazardous consequences of any attempt at censorship by those with no experience of newspaper production.

In serving the four main institutions of higher education in Leeds, this newspaper helps to keep the main sections of the city's large student population in touch with each other. How often it is said that university or college life can be very impersonal. Leeds Student tries, by keeping people abreast of news, both of general events and of an artistic and sporting nature, to foster links and co-operation between students of different colleges.

A centenary celebration is, by tradition, a time to look back and assess achievements and failures. Among the former we can list the successes in the national student journalist competition, which was won every year by Leeds Student until the competition was discontinued. Among the latter, are the occasions on which we have not operated to as high a standard of journalism as we aspire to.

The establishment of Leeds Student was hailed as "a brave new concept in student journalism". I hope that the publication of this, our 100th issue, proves that the faith which launched the paper was not misplaced.

Finally, it is only right that this opportunity be used to publicly thank all those who have contributed to the success of Leeds Student. Prominent among them are our printers and blockmakers, whose forbearance over the years has been matched only by their co-operation; our advertisers, whose contributions have kept the paper viable; our editorial staff, for the many hundred hours throughout day and night spent assembling the paper and, of course, our readers for their patronage and criticism, the continuation of both which are essential for the development and success of Leeds Student.

Congratulations to Leeds Student on their 100th Edition from Regent (Printers) Ltd.

Enthusiasm is the key to success of Regent (Printers) Limited. Enthusiasm for the interest of customers. Enthusiasm for producing printing of the right quality on schedule and at a competitive price.

As the Printing Division of The Examiner Group, Regent (Printers) Limited have works situated in Huddersfield and Leeds, with a London office in Fleet Street. Together three plants employ over 150 skilled personnel, administered by a young and highly competent team who appreciate the importance of providing customer satisfaction.

The beginnings of this company might be regarded as before the start of the 20th century, when Joseph Woodhead & Sons Limited, proprietors of the Huddersfield Daily and Weekly Examiner, found it expedient to print their own display bills, wrappers and stationery. From this small entry into the field of general print came requests from outside of the company for printing work to be carried out. After the end of the Second World War, Examiner Printers were established in Crown Works, Page Street, Huddersfield, on what is now the site of the multi-storey car park. In 1967, a new Crown Works was built at Aspley and at this time other works were also operating in Leeds and Brighouse, following a series of acquisitions of printing companies in a planned pattern of development.

In May this year a major step was taken by the acquisition of Alfred Jubb and Son and Preston Bros. Printers (1970) Limited, a Huddersfield company well known for their skills in quality colour printing, textile cards and silk screen work. To facilitate production flow, refinement and even further improvement of service, larger premises were then even more essential. Premises in Queen Street South, which had already been purchased to house the previously increased production capacity needs, were altered and refurbished, prior to the major operation of transferring machinery, materials and men from Aspley, Lindley and Brighouse.

In Huddersfield and Leeds, Regent (Printers) Limited produce a wide range of print by letterpress, lithography and silk screen process to high quality standards in colour and monochrome. Brochures, catalogues, leaflets, prospectuses, financial and company reports, magazines, newspapers, programmes and much more.

Specialised work, including silk screening on pulp-based and other materials, as well as manufacture of pattern sample cards and bunches supplied to tailors and fabric retailers by textile manufacturers and suppliers of other covering materials, is also carried out in Huddersfield.

Printing for livestock and agricultural shows is a prominent feature of Regent service and in addition to entry forms, schedules, tickets, catalogues, judging

books and badges, a wide range of rosettes in combinations of beautifully coloured ribbons are sent to customers throughout the world.

In 1974 in the region of 300,000 rosettes were eventually awarded to winners at equestrian, bird, rabbit, cat, dog and other livestock shows, making Regent one of the world's leading suppliers of quality awards.

Regent Printers Limited are one of the only two companies in the UK who have been granted a licence to print European Economic Certificates of Origin, which are produced under strict security.

The company's success in many of the specialised fields depends not only upon their attention to the actual production of the work, but on the initial assistance that they are able to offer from their knowledge of the customers' activities and markets. Sales representatives and other executives possess executive experience in shows, exhibitions, trades, political and local government affairs and conferences, as well as knowledge of the business and requirements of many industries and commerce.

Four divisions operate within the structure of Regent (Printers) Ltd., producing the diversified range of print and specialised products for customers throughout the U.K. and overseas. Regent House, Queen Street South is their headquarters with administration offices, accounts department and dining rooms. Here also is a modern studio where four graphic artists provide a complete creative design service, which can initiate and carry through all production stages, the formation of a client's print and graphic image.

THE COMMERCIAL PRINTING DIVISION handles printing by letterpress and lithography of high quality in colour and monochrome. Situated in Regent House, Huddersfield and at Leathley Road, Leeds, well equipped production departments include composing by Monotype and Linotype machinery and precision make-up methods. Machine rooms comprise conventional flat bed printing machines, mainly Heidelberg and Alberts for letterpress, with modern sheet-fed rotary litho plant printing from plates made 'on-site' by the latest photo-mechanical techniques. Finishing methods are highly mechanised, incorporating a bindery capable of collating and automatically folding, trimming and stitching magazines, brochures, etc.

Brochures, catalogues, leaflets, public and private company reports and financial accounts, commercial stationery, magazines and newspapers are produced by the Huddersfield plant in volume, whilst the Leeds works handle many programmes for sports and entertainments as well as booklets and a large H.M.S.O. contract.

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OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100th EDITION

HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO CONTRIBUTE?

Leeds Student needs more staff at all the colleges in the city. Particularly news reporters, photographers and feature writers.

If you are interested in working for Britain's top student newspaper, contact:

Nick Wittchell, Editor, Leeds Student,
155 WOODHOUSE LANE, LEEDS 2
Telephone 39071 Extension 58 (after 7 pm)

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