

Survey Says

By Rob MacPherson
Campus Reporter

In view of new times the Cadre would like to flip a new leaf in the hopes of being more representative for the student body. We have re-buffed our staff and goals and have come out of an awkward situation into a new hope for a fresh beginning.

The Cadre survey has been completed and documented. The 45 people who filled out the survey are a testament to our righteous time and will go down forever in Cadre history as those who would not let their opinion get lost in the crowd. I'm sure the T-shirt and free beer got a few takers, but seriously, I know most of the people who filled out the survey did so because they knew their opinions would matter, and because they care so deeply from the bottom of their little fuzzy hearts. OK so it may have been the beer and the T-shirt, or probably just the beer - regardless, we still got quite a few surveys and the views expressed within them will help to continue the further growth of our paper. Whatever the reason for filling them out, thank you for helping our paper become more aware of our student consciousness and to prepare for this semester with a sense of direction. The whole point of the survey itself was to see if our student body was happy with the service we provide. Some students were happy with what our paper was producing and found it to be informative and entertaining. Some students were upset that the student voice was not being represented and that the paper was not taking advantage of the position it has. What is important is that we are here improving

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the student newspaper so that all students will benefit from its pages, whether it's to get a laugh, to get caught up or to just check out the local listings. We will continue improving our paper so that it better suits the needs of our campus community. In surveys like these you will always get word from both sides of the fence, but really there is no fence and the opinion from both sides equals a better paper -- and why not, really, why not have a better paper?

On the 45 surveys completed the Cadre received a score of 6.3 out of 10. Sounds like an average, I know - anyway, that means that a slight majority are somewhat satisfied. Those who were not so satisfied shared their comments on a, shall we say, more constructive note. Among the most popular positives was the F+O column that easily had a dozen people who praised its creative, and humorous viewpoint. Other positives that were expressed consisted of any student-related topics, some front covers and pictures, the event listings for bar venues, and some of the reviews from those shows were very popular as well.

Some of the more popular critics of the Cadre stated that a student newspaper is not the appropriate place to air dirty laundry or to express an abundance of unnecessary individual opinion. In short, they suggested cutting the BS and to provide the student body with a vehicle for raising and discussing topics which are relevant to student life. People asked that the pages give way for more humor to counter the long stressful days we

endure as poor hard working students. There was also concern that other campus and community events (guest lecturers, for example) were not quite getting the attention they deserved. One of the questions on the survey asked about the importance of grammar in the newspaper and the response was clearly on side with the view that good grammar should be an obvious characteristic of any

school paper, but that without content grammar is irrelevant. Our paper has changed for the better. Help us to help you by sending us your thoughts, comments, and stories, and make sure this paper remains in the reins of its owners: you.

PS: the **winner of the draw is Grace Kimpinski**. Please see the Cadre office for details.

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Natalie McCabe, APAGraduate 2001, currently working with the Charlottetown Police Department

