

# Results of annual reader survey

Well, the results are in. We've tabulated the results of the readers' survey that we ran in the October 4 issue. The number of completed surveys received was disappointing, but we attribute that to the fact that the surveys had to be dropped off at our offices in SUB, which is a fair hike for many students.

We received a total of 43 replies, with this faculty breakdown: Engineering (6), Arts (8), Education (5), Commerce (3), Science (6), Grad Studies (6), Pharmacy (1), Dentistry (1), Phys. Ed. (2), Law (1) and others (4). Of all the responses, only two were meant to be humorous, and even a casual glance at those responses says a lot about the lack of good humorists on campus.

Statistically speaking, fifteen respondents said that this year's *Gateway* is better than last year's, six said it was worse, and eleven said that it was about the same. Twenty-six people indicated that the news is "well-written," while it rated "poorly written" by only seven. Twenty respondents said that we are not covering enough campus news, thirteen said that we are not covering enough outside news, and only two people said that we are covering too much campus news.

In the editorial section, the *Quixote* column received fairly balanced responses. Thirteen people said that the column is "valuable," though they don't always agree with it, twelve people replied that the column is poorly written and distasteful, and three considered it propaganda. Most of the people who found *Quixote* tasteless had similar comments about *Gateway* editorials.

As usual, the most interesting part of the survey responses were the written comments of participants. Opinions ranged from flattering compliments; "The professionalism and intelligence shown this year has impressed me greatly," to horrible insults; "Usually editorials are just one person's

opinionated drivel not worth reading."

In the middle were thoughtful comments like "the biggest problem with the paper has been the lack of a science section," "a few more 'human interest' stories would help lighten the news pages," "Keep up the analysis of international events — it's interesting and tends to spark lively debate," "There are too many letters which approach feature length," and "The grammar is sometimes poor, as in the survey itself," to mention but a few.

There were some unusual things mentioned as well. Old Robert Raynard, eleventh year education student, couldn't resist poking fun at Gordon Turtle's name: "Maybe he is just slow like a turtle?" Well, listen, a little revenge is required. Robert Raynard happened to be in Gordon Turtle's Grade One class, and he remembers distinctly that Raynard was then nicknamed Robert Retard. So take that, Bobby!

One of our favorite comments was made by an engineer: "This paper should concern itself with university issues, and not care about boat-people, IRA wars, ect. ect. ect." The "ect., ect., ect.," is especially amusing.

We were quite surprised by one comment: "You have a tendency to maintain the status quo, supporting the no-thought P.C.s, but that is better than last year's Marxists." It's pretty difficult to imagine anyone thinking that last year's paper was Marxist-dominated, but, perhaps it is necessary to reassure readers that there are no card-carrying Tories on this year's editorial staff at least.

Generally, it seems most respondents want more humor in the paper, more and bigger photos, more "light" material, less advertisements, and more campus and campus-related news.

Other legitimate complaints concerned the occasional lateness of the

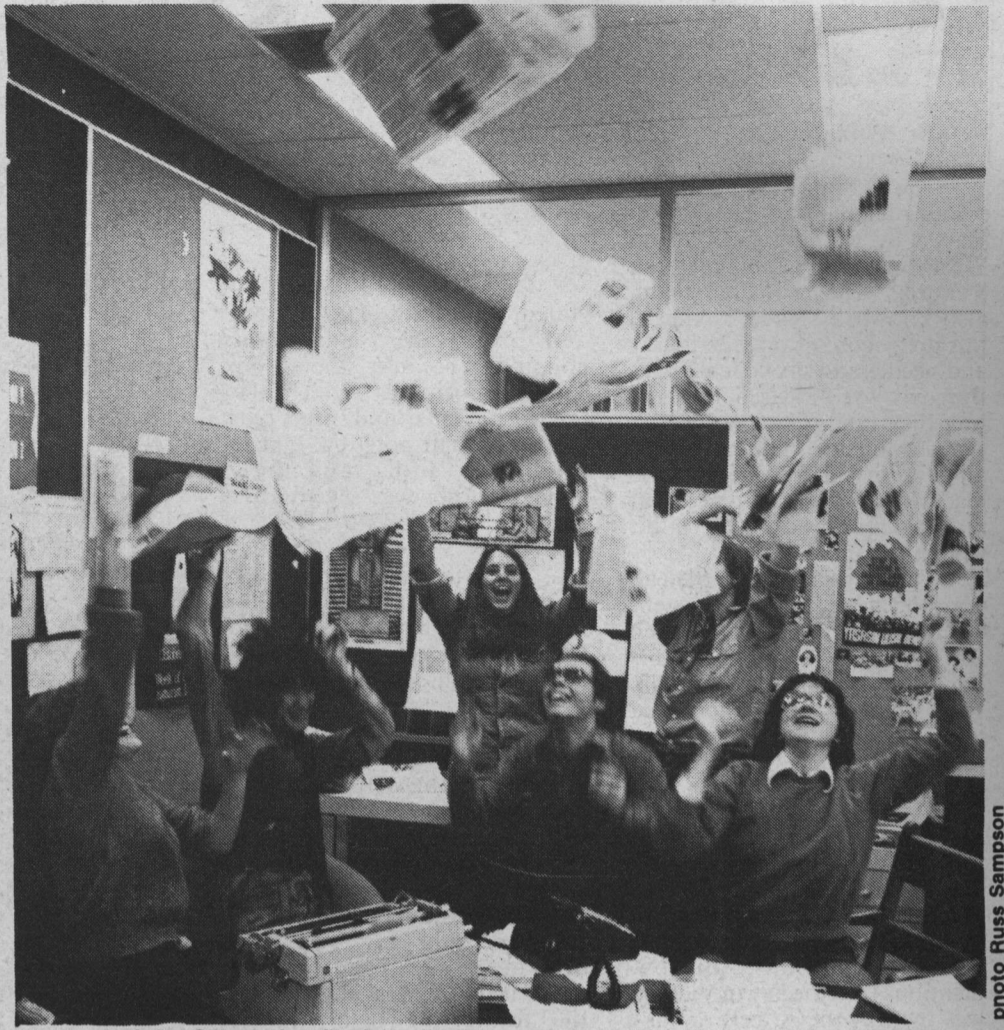


photo Russ Sampson

Members of the *Gateway's* editorial collective carefully analyze the mountains of data compiled from the reader survey.

paper, the fact that the ink on the paper invariably ends up on readers' fingers, and that we don't print enough letters to the editor.

It was heartening to see that most of the people who responded to the survey took it seriously. We expected a lot of frivolous replies from jerkoffs, but

only got two. The rest were, by and large, well-considered thoughts and positive criticism.

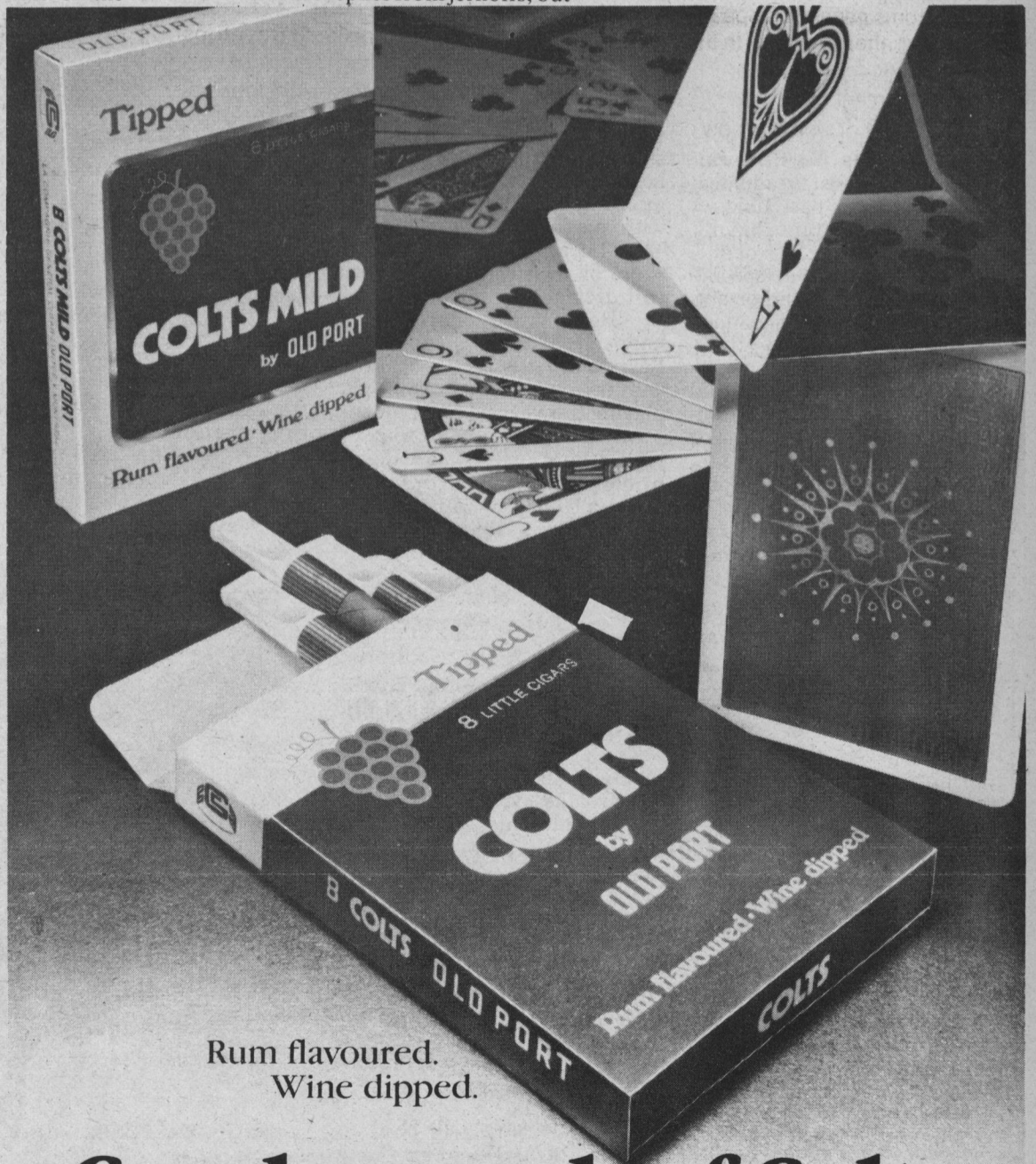
Perhaps the heart of the survey can be summed up with a comment from an engineer, who said: "Should have less bleeding heart liberal communist bullshit."

Hey, buddy, we're trying.



## TEQUILA SAUZA!

NUMERO UNO IN MEXICO AND IN CANADA



Rum flavoured.  
Wine dipped.

# Crack a pack of Colts along with the cards.