

“In Defense of My Handlebar and Goatee.” Unpublished letter to the editor, *Vancouver Sun*, December 6, 2018.

With reference to Quan’s “Beard brotherhood...” (Dec. 4), in contrast to the grim downturn of most mustaches, the upturn of the handlebar mustache gives the impression of a friendly smile. When combined with a grey goatee, it evokes smiles from all generations and genders. A positive moment. It also invites conversation—another positive moment. It hides my double chin—more than just a moment. My being of rather plain appearance, the hair creates a more distinguished look. My mother used to read Bible stories with pictures of bearded saints. Now sporting my own, I am preparing to live with bearded saints above. Actually, the son of a barber, I just happen to like the goatee and handle.