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Is this fair for people who pay higher rent so that they can live close to campus and avoid buying transit passes and riding buses or trains? Many of these students also have to pay to park their cars. Is it fair to those who have no public transit available to them and have to drive or prefer to drive in order to save an hour on their daily commute?

Any effort to decrease the costs is great for students living on tight budgets, but the solution should not be on the backs of other students who are also on tight budgets themselves.

TRAVIS LIDSTONE
Via e-mail

Free tuition comes at a cost

I find it quite hilarious that Avi Lewis claims that postsecondary education should be free (re: "Lewis argues tuition is unnecessary," 8 February). Then [in "Streeters"] students claim they would "go boozing," "go shopping," "travel" and "have more fun" if this happened. Students as a group are supposed to be tomorrow's best and brightest and yet they can't seem to understand that there is only *one* pot of money out there.

If postsecondary education is made free all that that amounts to is a transfer from one group of people (taxpayers) to you, or more likely Molson. Being on the receiving

end of the transfer, this sounds like a great idea. The problems begin to arise when you same people start complaining about your high tax rates after you graduate. In case you haven't figured it out, there is a link between the two policies.

A smarter way to think about this is to ask yourself "on average, how much of the benefit of education accrues to the individual and how much accrues to society?" Well, the average university graduate gets benefits from his or her education in several ways, and society as a whole also benefits. Government should only really be paying for the portion of the cost that relates to the portion of the benefit society receives. This way society pays for the portion of the benefit it accrues and the individual pays for the portion he or she accrues. Education would then be a fair investment in the future of our great country, not a transfer payment to the relatively few people who attend university.

Free postsecondary education would imply that all the benefit of education accrues to society and none to the individual, which is clearly false. Are we paying for our portion of the benefit with current university tuition? There isn't room for a rigorous look at the math, but if you think about how much it costs to run a good university and how much you're paying, the answer is probably no.

CHRIS QUILLEY
Economics and Finance I

Gateway comic sets a double-standard

I was recently extremely disappointed in the Gateway's disregard for others' religious beliefs. In the 6 February paper, the comic "Queer" professed outright hatred towards the Christian religion. The two things that struck me when I read it was, one: how could any even half-respectable paper print such a discriminatory cartoon? And two: why did that comic need to be so discriminatory in the first place?

At the bottom of the [Letters] section there is a note saying that the Gateway could refuse to print anything that "it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature." It seems though, that the latest comic by Marie-Annick Jean is blatantly hate-filled and portrays an ignorant view of the Christian religion. In fact some students I spoke to, who were not religious at all, were offended by it.

Whenever any other religion is discriminated against, for example Judaism or Islam, there is a very strong voice of opposition; in fact I would go so far as to say that the Gateway would not have printed an article or comic with that kind of content in it. However, when a Christian gets offended we are supposed to shut up and let it happen. Christians are supposed to love, right?

That brings me to my second point. While love is certainly fundamental to our belief, it does not mean we cannot stand

up for what we believe in. Miss Jean's portrayal of Christianity goes against everything that is Christian. We do not hate homosexuals, [and] any Christian who says they do, cannot call themselves a Christian. For those denominations that are in opposition, they are because of the biblical understanding that it is not an appropriate way of life. This does not mean we hate homosexuals: "Love thy neighbor" is God's command, whether we agree with their views or not. We just don't accept their lifestyle, and we believe it is against God's will.

So the next time the Gateway has a choice between printing an anti-Christian article or upholding its own set standards, I vote for the latter.

TRAVIS SCHOEPP
Engineering I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via carrier-owl or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

THE BURLAP SACK

When attending an event titled "BeerFest," every female should expect that a good 90 per cent of the drunken, slobbering population is going to be male. Fine. However, what every female should *not* expect from an social outing like this—no matter how intoxicated the males are—is to have to dodge unruly pickup lines every two seconds.

It was sickening. Preppy, sleezy guys lingered along the walls, staring at the few girls there with reddened eyes and stupid, sex-thirsty grins. They'd walk up to you, tell you, "You're too pretty to be drinking that," then proceed to buy you a "drink"—also known as a Dixie cup of beer—that costs between 50 cents and \$1, depending on which vendor you were cornered at. Classy.

I've never been more disgusted at the opposite sex in my life. Beer is no reason to let your wang do as it pleases. Keep it in your pants, boys—and next time, approach me when you're not shit-faced and can actually scrape together a better pickup line. So into the sack you go—though before I slap you upside the head, I will gladly accept your two drink tickets.

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