

New Beginnings in Precocious Times: Letter from the Senior Editor

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New beginnings, what is it that we mean by this term? How is one to have a new newness? *Codgito* as an idea is not something I can say I am responsible for or was in any way a part of. This student journal of philosophy has been around longer than I have been alive. However, while it may have existed for a long time, it has been a long time since this journal has truly been “alive.” Nearly a year ago, as a means to help bring life back into our student department, I undertook the task of trying to revive the journal. However, for those who know anything about group work, there is no I who can truly do things alone; perhaps a bit ironic considering our name. And yet, it is precisely not that we are *Cogito*, as we were once before, but we are *Codgito*: with a history to our name, a relation to the world, and a connection to more than just the I which dominates the *Cogito*.

With the help of two other students last year the journal began the slow and painful process of restarting and becoming something new. While this process has been arduous, we would like to believe it has been necessary and useful. We have grown as a collective, and with the help and support of those who have been with us along the way, we believe we have become a better version of what we once were. Prior to this expression, *Codgito* was a journal of philosophy; today we have become a journal of philosophy and theory, expanding our horizons and broadening our understandings. And in the academic environment we find ourselves within today, we feel it necessary to come together, to understand the power of transdisciplinary analysis and theory. Not only an epistemological widening, but a possibility of collectivity without limits.

While it is not our place to tell the story for those directly involved with the voice of the administration—that being the goal of our letter to the editor—we can speak of the case of the student Matt Barter and see how we find ourselves publishing in an academic environment in which students are being silenced by administrators for voicing their opinions. Matt Barter is a political science student at Memorial University who was banned on 3 December 2021 from being on campus excluding classes and exams. He was told to check in with campus security every time he did enter on campus. So we ask, what was the crime that befitted this punishment? On 2 December 2021 Matt Barter attended a public conference held by the Memorial University President Vianne Timmons. At this conference he held up a sign with a very simple message: no to student hikes and no to

Vianne Timmons. This was in relation to MUN's plans for a tuition hike on local and international students of nearly 240% starting in Fall 2022 for new students. He was neither aggressive nor vocal, he simply stood there, and at no point was he asked to leave. The next day he privately received the memo that he was banned from most of the campus.

After a month of very public outrage, media coverage, and Barter threatening legal action, the ban was eventually dropped. While MUN Administration may claim arbitrary claims of harassment or such, neither his message nor his actions were harassment on Vianne or the Administration as people. The university tried to quietly silence a vocal student and dropped it when suddenly it was no longer private. This, we feel, sets a very dangerous precedent for the university. While Barter was thankfully privileged enough to use legal action and make his case heard, not every student has this luxury, especially international students and students who can barely scrape up the means to attend university who will feel the brunt of this decision.

Thus, we are at a point at which many of the fundamentals of our university are shifting, and we feel it is not for the better. For members who have been privy to what is going on behind the curtains, many can feel a changing tide in our institution. At meetings with the arts faculty the direction is being shifted to focus on bigger projects which will attract more investors, with a lack of emphasis on creating jobs for professors, and more on the side of the corporate and administrative. At one meeting administrators claimed that by merging departments together they would be able to make one new job, yet in the same breath multiple new upper administrative positions were created seemingly at the drop of a hat when Vianne Timmons came to MUN. At one point during these monthly meetings a known conservative economics professor claimed that MUN was becoming too privatized. And while perhaps a little facetious, when the canary starts chirping, it is high time we stop for a moment and try to understand what is happening.

It is at this critical point that we feel it necessary we come together not only as thinkers, but as people with common interests. Thus, while this issue of *Codgito: Student Journal of Philosophy and Theory* has no overall theme, we feel the essays selected are a very fine sampling of the variety of theory and analysis that is to be offered through the humanities and social sciences. Thus it is here we find our answer to the question we asked, how is one to have new newness? Simply put, Codgito itself has been born anew; sampling from its roots, burning away the old, and giving the world something different, something necessary in these times where our administration is changing for the worse and the question of our future and our capacity to express ourselves is being raised as a question.