

AllOne

(Barbara's dream worked out the next morning in an era where there were no blogs, window 3.1, no social media and mobile phones that just phoned...!)

11/12/2003

The inhabitants of the (western) world are not in their hum. There are some essential factors missing or they've been lost along the way. Two of these are the reason for my project, which evolved thanks to a dream I had quite a few years ago.

-Inability to express oneself and therefore lack of communication, quite ironic in this day and age of mass communication...

-Feeling of alienation and anonymity and therefore a general apathy, also quite ironic seeing as there's so many of us here...



Based on these two factors, I awoke from a dream with the words 'PHU' (personal history unit) and 'UID' (universal interactive diary) in my head and a name 'AllOne'

(read: alone, all one; you guys are smart enough to understand the harmonious duality) that I have been using since then for many beneficial projects.

So...

Writing a diary is a liberating experience, no matter how small the content. Doing this on a regular basis, encouraged by incentives to be discussed later, is a useful thing because reading back on it, you can discover patterns in your behaviour that are very often unconscious.



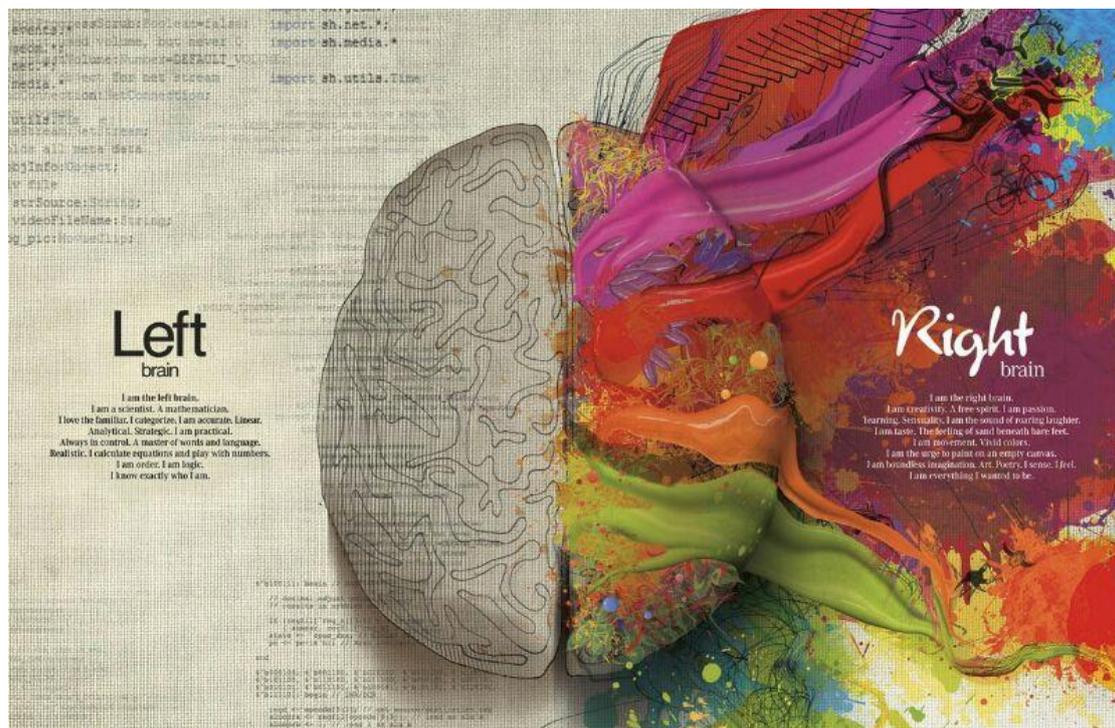
The **PHU/UID** is a **diary programme** that can be attained freely/downloaded freely. It guarantees anonymity but at the same time allows you to communicate with the whole world if you feel like sharing your stories or those of others. An intelligent programme, using a few basic selections such as title of story, age and culture (possibilities for now but of course open for discussion), will categorise these tales so that they can be commented on ('feedback'). This entails a huge server or collaboration with an entity (maybe ICQ) that has the know-how and capacity and one that is impartial and non-profit which brings me to a very important point; **PHU/UID** should be non-commercial, non-political and non-religious. A lot of very succulent information will be generated for hungry marketing research companies and such like but we must ensure the integrity of the programme. No banners and no pressure from sponsors. It is meant for the improvement of the universal pathos and thus our amazing world and not for the hungry sharks lurking around every corner. The first candidate that came to mind was the United Nations but this thought was catapulted into orbit when I pondered further about all the bureaucratic nonsense and corruption that exists there. We could begin small scale and do a test run in Europe to crease out the problems incurred.

The UID (Universal Interactive Diary) interface has, for now, three main buttons:

-Feedback: having written your daily/weekly story you have the possibility of putting your story online while safeguarding your anonymity. This story will be viewed and commented on by (voluntary) therapists, psychologists, teachers, plumbers or whichever profession is applicable depending on the title of the tale (one form of selection). This can aid your malaise and help you along your path as well as your surroundings that will surely profit from your improved disposition.

-Related Stories: you're not alone in what you feel and experience. Click on this button and you'll be able to read other stories related to your situation. You won't know who the author is but you will know that more out there are in your predicament. I must add that these stories may not necessarily be about despair and rejection. Positive stories are, of course, just as welcome and hopefully they'll be multiplying, partly thanks to PHU/UID. If people feel the urge to contact authors, they can go to the site and get into contact but it's crucial that privacy is not defiled. In fact, I envisage a very lively community with lots of advantageous outcomes but the writers must not feel pressured into contact with third parties because this could harm the fragility of the participation.

-Forum/Discussions: worldly affairs ranging from education (now so often archaic and based on irrelevant facts and figures that have little to do with the world we live in), sexual information and garbage disposal to consumerism and nuclear energy or themes such as humour, health and game boys. The idea is to get people to vent their feelings and find solutions amongst themselves, to be inspired by each other and themselves. Discoveries can be made and donated to the general good of (wo)mankind.



The PHU (Personal History Unit) is a place where people write down their life stories. It can be anything from an Internet café in London, a button on your mobile phone in Asia to a small cubicle in the outback of Australia. This information, having been submitted voluntarily by the authors, can be used by historians, sociologists or other disciplines to form an idea about what occupies us. What's on everybody's minds nowadays and what are our deeper fears and misconceptions. General patterns can be discerned and (political) policies can be based on these finds.

What is needed? Voice recognition programmes in places where the computer is not available or where illiteracy is prevalent, translation programmes for the stories, huge servers to process the information, hi-tech programmes for categorising the stories, volunteers for the feedback and maintaining the site, financing which could (ideally) be bartering of services and no doubt, more details that I've overlooked now.

It's a hell of an undertaking but such a noble and enlightening one, I believe. All ages could participate, all cultures and characters. The universal pathos has been in decline for quite some time now due to extreme individuality and ensuing egocentrism as well as to lack of communication and misunderstandings. It's a case of All for One but not One for All. PHU/UID can hopefully alleviate our general malaise and make us feel more at home in our global home...

Love and laughter,

Barbara (del Court König)



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