

ID cards...

terrorism by adding a further 'legitimacy' to these terrorists.

Despite these facts the government is still sending out erroneous mixed messages. In *The Observer*, on 7 August, the Home Secretary Charles Clarke was quoted as saying (soon after 7 July) that ID cards would clearly have prevented the 7/7 atrocities. In the same article Sunder Katwala, Chair of the left-wing think-tank Fabian Society, said: "They [ID cards] wouldn't [have prevented 7/7], and everybody knows they wouldn't, and by saying so he [Clarke] takes the ground away from his opponents and is in a position to make an honest case for them later."

The government also suggest that ID cards will be used to prevent benefit fraud and other fraudulent activities. Combining all personal data on to one card –all your eggs in one basket- makes the entire system easier to defraud. False ID is known to be only a small part of benefit fraud. In Australia only 0.6% of benefit overpayments is a direct result of fake ID. Other benefits such as preventing illegal immigration are equally as tenuous. And then there's the issue of human rights. How much should the state know

about your personal details? How much do they need to know and would this really help other than to fuel an atmosphere of mistrust? Errors in the NIR system could mean that 'legitimate' persons could lose all of their rights. The Identity Card Bill is effectively creating a 'license to live'.

Everyone will have to pay £85 to get their card and even though it is voluntary if you refuse to sign up you will be fined £2500!! In total its estimated that the scheme will cost the taxpayer around £15 billion. All in all it seems like a catastrophic waste of money for no ultimate benefit. Proposals for ID cards in Canada and New Zealand were refused outright.

You can add your support for NO2ID by signing their online pledges. **NO2ID will be campaigning in Churchill Square on Saturday 27 August** and they will be lobbying our local MP's in early September. To find out more about ID cards, the NO2ID campaign and how you can help visit www.no2id.net or email: brighton@no2id.net

Information about the id card system was gathered from the no2id website (web address as above.)

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Mad Hatter Monthly

Free

August 2005

ID or not ID? That's the question.

Last month NO2ID, a campaign group against the introduction of identity cards, held their first community meeting at the Mad Hatter. Over 35 people attended a lively debate that expounded the flaws of the government's plan to introduce a new identity card system.

The government first produced its Identify Cards Bill in November 2004, since then it has had two readings in the House of Commons. All three MPs for Brighton & Hove supported the Bill at the second reading. On the 21 July 2005 (last month) the bill passed committee stage and all of the opposition amendments to the bill failed. The bill is due to go under a third reading in October this year.

The government claims that the bill has many benefits (which can easily be passed off in a time of 'terror') such as reducing illegal immigrants, providing security, fighting terrorism and improving public services. All of which is (supposedly) in the interest of national security. But is this really the case? The NO2ID campaign clearly points out: "*The Government has not made a case. There is no evidence the system will produce the stated benefits. Less liberty does not imply greater security.*"

First of all it must be understood that ID cards are just one part of the bill. What the government is proposing is a far more complex system of logging personal data and is different to many other Western

European ID cards. The main points of the Bill include

1. **National Information Register (NIR)**– The secretary of state will compile a central database of everyone aged 16 yrs and 3 months. It will contain vast array [currently at 50 categories] of info on every UK citizen.
2. **Code** – every person will be given a unique serial number (sounds like prison) – this number will be the key to access the NIR and use the information.
3. **Biometrics** – physical data 'tagging' such as fingerprints and iris scans.
4. **The card** – generated from and containing info on NIR
5. **Legal obligations** – have to produce the card by law to get public services
6. **Administrative convergence** – the code number and the card are used by a number of organisations and agencies for admin use to bring together all numbers e.g. NHS, NI number etc.
7. **Cross notification** – agencies are required to inform each other of changes to personal details to update the NIR
8. **New crimes** and penalties – a number of new laws will be introduced to enforce

(Continued overleaf)

Say NO2ID
and the database state

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ID CARDS

(Continued from front)
use of the card.

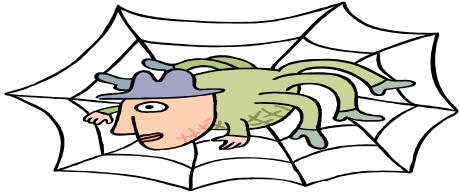
Police organisations, the security services, Inland Revenue, the Department for Work & Pensions, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Customs & Excise and other agencies all have access to the info without the individual's consent. It all sounds pretty Big-Brother-style scary. So do we need this system to make our lives (which are supposedly in danger) any safer?

Ministers agree that ID cards **will not** prevent any terrorist atrocities. In 2004 Privacy International published the findings of the only research carried out on the relation between ID cards and terrorism. The research concluded there was no proven link between ID cards and prevention of terrorism. The report

stated: "The presence of ID cards isn't recognised by analysts as a meaningful or significant component in anti terrorism strategies... Of the 25 countries that have been most adversely affected by terrorism since 1986, eighty per cent have national identity cards, one third of which incorporate biometrics. This research was unable to uncover any instance where the presence of an identity card system in those countries was seen as a significant deterrent to terrorist activity." The Spanish ID card system didn't prevent the Madrid bombings, and valid forms of ID were already found for most of the bombers in the 9/11 and London 7/7 attacks. The research also pointed out that almost two thirds of terrorists operate under their true identity. Experts agree, theoretically, that **ID cards would assist**

(Continued on back page)

Norris



Two month's ago, Norris, the Hatter's pet spider set off on a spiderdelic journey to space and beyond. He's now under the guide of the extreme surfers and he's fallen in love ...

Norris here,

I've fallen for Spinetta. I bought her a bunch of ultra-violet space roses in hologram form. Unfortunately she didn't like them as on the bottom it says 'press here to smell', and Spinetta says the writ-

ing makes the bunch look artificial.

Remember the stone of every atom I was given in a silver pouch – the one I've been told not to touch until I'm ready to meet the *Life Master* – well Spinetta's found out about it and is trying to tempt me to let her hold it. I've told her it could be dangerous but she's pushy so I'm worried it might happen – I'll keep you posted.

Finally a space surfer has taught me how to tune in to certain frequencies so I can go back in time and view events from the past. It's amazing because its so fascinating and it can be so time absorbing. The surfer has told me he's going to teach me how to look in to the future next – he says its simple.

'Til next time, Norris x

MHM review



The Globe, Middle Street, Brighton.

The Globe is a brand new drinking hole that has just opened in the heart of the city. It can be found nestling on middle street opposite Casablanca's and is where the old Squid & Starfish used to be. With two bars on two levels the Globe has a nice spacious feel to it whilst retaining a subtle blend of cosy warmth. Downstairs there are plenty of comfy sofas and, quite surprisingly, a well-stocked book shelf, or two. Upstairs there's a hypnotic oscillating oriental style fan on the wall that helps to keep the mind stable after three or four strong ones have taken affect and everything has become wobbly. There's a good selection of (well poured) ales on offer and there's soon to be a gastro menu that promises to provide a wholesome selection of food. It's a fine venue to check in on a night out and cosy place for a quite daytime topple. In fact a couple of the friendly old Mad Hatter staff can be found serving behind the bar (or propping it up). Drop on by.

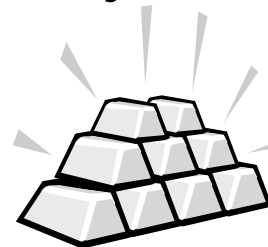
What's on?

****SPEED DATING:** With two hot nights of charity speed dating, this is the month to get yourself hooked up and loved (or frisky and fondled – however you choose). On **24 August** there's speed dating for those aged 32-45 yrs. On **1 September** there's speed dating for those aged 20 –35 yrs So get your love boots on and come along. Tickets are available from www.brightonbanter.com or ask at the counter.

****LIVE MUSIC:** Come along to our live acoustic set on **Thursday 11 August (8.30pm)** where Aseph (right) will pumping out some wild acoustic classics. Keep your ears peeled and get ya rocks off...



Crystal of the month



Silver

Cancer/Aquarius – lunar/feminine.

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