

# HUMAN RIGHTS



# ALERT

July 6, 2001

ISSUE # 16

A Psychiatric Survival Broadsheet



JULY 14-22, 2001

## SPECIAL REPORT

### **Survivor Pride: nine years of celebrating triumph over adversity**

*Toronto* - It was the summer of 1993 when a small group of psychiatric survivors first explored the idea of a celebration to honor the resilience, diversity and talents of persons who have encountered the 'mental health' system of oppression and prevailed.

Inspired by the annual celebrations of lesbian and gay pride that take place in many major cities, the first annual Psychiatric Survivor Pride Day took place on September 18, 1993. On this day nearly 200 people came together at a public library in Toronto's west end for workshops, theatre, music, a Native healing ceremony and a shared meal, followed by a march to the grounds of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, where a memorial for those who have died in institutions took place.

Following the success of this first event, somewhat smaller gatherings took place in

the early fall through the next several years. In 1998, a march was again held following a day of workshops and other events - this time to the site of a large rooming house that had recently been destroyed by fire, claiming the lives of two women.

Last summer, the scope of the celebrations expanded considerably with workshops occurring over a period of several days, along with a video screening, a historical walking tour of the grounds of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, a candlelight 'Vigil of Voices' to honour the dead, and capped off with a march and rally on Bastille Day (July 14)



Also for the first time, last year saw 'Mad Pride' celebrations take place in a number of other locations in the United States, Britain, and even the Congo!

With the rapidly escalating repression

aimed at persons with psychiatric labels, these celebrations of resistance are assuming an even greater importance. Draconian forced 'treatment' laws are being pushed through in jurisdictions throughout the United States and Canada, parts of Australia, and a number of European countries. 'Family advocacy' organizations like the **Schizophrenia Society of Canada**, the **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** in the States, or **SANE** (Schizophrenia: A National Emergency) in the UK are collaborating with psychiatrists, media, and multinational drug companies to promote this particularly insidious facet of the globalization agenda.

With the World Bank now involved in creating a 'global template' for mental health 'services' and policy, this spread of repression is likely to become an unstoppable juggernaut - unless survivors and allies take a firm stand.

This year's events get underway with the 'This Belongs To You' theatre workshop July 6 to 8. This event will offer previews of two works in progress from the Friendly Spike Theatre Band (**The Edmond Yu Project**, and **The Girls of Grandview**) with an opportunity for audience members to contribute to the development of both plays through post-performance discussion. The Friday will officially launch this year's Pride events, with members of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty being the honoured guests on the Saturday. The Sunday afternoon performance is dedicated to women survivors of psychiatry and other institutional abuses. **<Cont. next page>**

**SURVIVORS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!**

# HUMAN RIGHTS ALERT - PAGE TWO

## <Survivor Pride - continued>

Subsequent events will include a 'rant in the park' (a quasi-theatrical event focusing on police misconduct), a repeat of last year's historical walking tour and 'Vigil of Voices' at QSMHC, and several days of workshops. The July 22 **March against the Globalization of Mental Health Oppression** will cap off the events by making important links between the expansion of coercive psychiatry and the corporate globalization agenda.

### Psyche Survivor Pride Events Toronto, July 2001

**July 6, 7, 8**

This Belongs To You Theatre Workshop  
Friendly Spike Theatre Band  
Joseph Workman Theatre, 1001 Queen St. W.

July 6, 7 PM - Official Psychepride Start

July 7, 7 PM - OCAP Night

July 8, 1 PM - Women Survivors Day

\* \* \*

**July 14 4-7 PM Rant in the Park**  
Committee to Stop Targeted Policing  
Trinity-Bellwoods Park  
Queen St W. at Strachan Ave.

\* \* \*

**July 14 7 PM Second Annual Historical Walking Tour** - grounds of Queen Street Mental Health Center  
Assemble Ossington Ave./Queen St. W.  
**9 PM Second annual Vigil of Voices** in front of QSMHC

\* \* \*

**July 15 7-10:30 PM Edmond Yu Kick-off Cabaret @ Parkdale Activity & Recreation Centre, 1499 Queen St. W.**

\* \* \*

**July 17 - Two Workshops by People Against Coercive Treatment**  
Toronto City Hall Committee Room 3  
100 Queen St. W.

**10 AM-1 PM Psychiatric Drugs: 'Safe and Effective' - or a Hazard to your Health?**

**2 PM - 5 PM Electroshock - A Crime Against Humanity**

\* \* \*

**July 18 7-9 PM Women and Psychiatry forum**  
Masaryk/Cowan Community Centre  
220 Cowan Ave. @ Queen St. W.

(Note: To ensure a safe environment for participants this forum is open to women only)

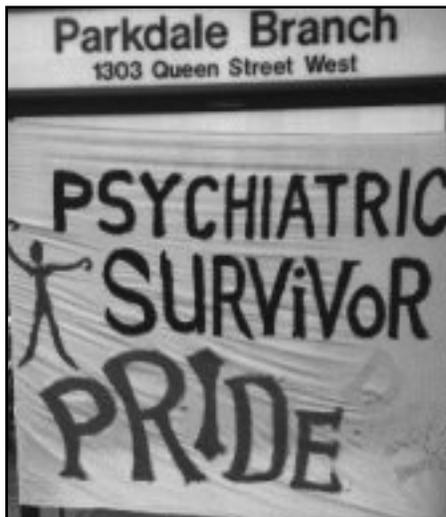
\* \* \*

**July 20 11 AM-4 PM Rights Forum**  
Masaryk/Cowan Community Centre  
220 Cowan Ave. @ Queen St. W.

\* \* \*

**July 22 11 AM March against the Globalization of Mental Health Oppression - Assemble 1001 Queen St. W. (@ Ossington)**

**1 PM BBQ and Celebration**  
Stanley Park - King St. W. @ Walnut St.



### OTHER MAD PRIDE EVENTS

#### Canada

"Globalization of Psychiatry" To Be Challenged By Human Rights Protest In Front Of The Vancouver, Canada Convention Center, Sunday, July 22, 2001, 3PM

#### Germany:

Russell Tribunal on Human Rights in Psychiatry from June 29 to July 2, 2001, sponsored by IRREN-OFFENSIVE, an SCI sponsor group based in Berlin.  
Free Booklet On German Mad Pride Event Now Available

#### USA

Prison Reform Actions on July 14, 2001  
A three-day vigil against involuntary psychiatric oppression in Albany, New York. This event is being hosted by an SCI Sponsor Group, one of the founding groups, Mental Patients' Liberation Alliance of Central New York (Syracuse). The Alliance first developed the use of Bastille Day (July 14) as a united day to speak out against psychiatric human rights violations. You are especially invited to speak out against forced electroshock by the New York Office of Mental Health.

For more information, send e-mail to <[georgebert@yahoo.com](mailto:georgebert@yahoo.com)>

Mad Pride will be celebrated Saturday, July 14 in the Community Village in the heart of the Oregon Country Fair near Veneta, Oregon. The local host is Support Coalition Northwest. Contact us for complete information. <[dendron@efn.org](mailto:dendron@efn.org)>

#### UK:

"Asylum in the 21st Century" is a conference to be held on Bastille Day, July 14, 2001, in Manchester, UK. This is being sponsored by Psychology Politics Resistance, a sponsor of SCI.

#### France:

Association Stop Abus-Psy's is a Sponsor Group of Support Coalition International based in Paris. For many years they have held a small vigil on Bastille Day to commemorate and remember people who have resisted psychiatric oppression. Of course, Bastille Day itself began in France, so it's especially appropriate that Association Stop Abus-Psy's holds these vigils at the Bastille itself. When the Bastille was liberated, at the very bottom were some psychiatric inmates, and this is why our movement has used this day to remember those still locked up unjustly in psychiatric prisons.

**Support Coalition International is an alliance of almost one hundred grassroots groups in 13 countries united to win human rights in the "mental health system."**

For full information on international Mad Pride events visit SCI's Mad Pride website at

[www.mindfreedom.org/mindfreedom/madpride/](http://www.mindfreedom.org/mindfreedom/madpride/)

Updated details on Toronto events are listed at

[www.tao.ca/~pact/Psychepride/pride2001.html](http://www.tao.ca/~pact/Psychepride/pride2001.html)

### HUMAN RIGHTS ALERT

319 Dundas St. E. #408

Toronto, Ontario M5A 2A2

Fax: (416) 368-5984

E-mail:

<[human.rights.alert@3web.net](mailto:human.rights.alert@3web.net)>

Contributions welcome!

(Contributions may be edited for space)

<http://bacque.graeme.tripod.com/HRA/HRA.html>

