

# Ms Scharansky: "We have to carry on..."

**By Maxine Kopel**  
The wife of Russian dissident Anatoly Scharansky told a group of students last Thursday that efforts to release her husband from a Soviet prison camp must not stop.

"When they prosecute a Jew in Russia, it is not against the individual but against all Jews in Russia. We have to carry on until my husband is free," she said.  
Natalia Scharansky, who changed

her name to Avital, the feminine version of Anatoly, has made the struggle to free her husband a worldwide around-the-clock endeavor, conferring with politicians in her three-year battle against the Soviet government.

Unable to speak fluent English, a student translated Scharansky's message from Hebrew for the attentive, small audience.

"There is something very simple about the Soviet's problem. A person wants personal things. He wants to go to his own country and live with his own people. The Soviet problem is a problem of Jews in the Soviet Union. There are three million of them, the second largest in the world. Scharansky's case is not only personal.... as a con-

sequence of suppression one might as well assimilate or disappear.

"If you want to leave, it's like you're against the country, you're spies. The Russians don't worry about justice, just about the political system."

Mrs. Scharansky claims that the Helsinki Agreement, a human rights agreement which Russia signed and which her husband helped monitor, raised the hopes of "Jews, Latvians and others. Now the whole monitor group is in jail."

"I don't know when he will be brought to trial. The Russians create this anxiety to build up pressure. Anatoly's mother was told to have a lawyer by January 13 or the interrogator would appoint one." Scharansky points out that a

Western lawyer is prohibited, and an attorney who would allow her husband to plead innocent could not be found.

"Finally she (his mother) found one (who would permit a not guilty plea). He was expelled. His mother received an unsigned letter that said 'you won't see your son until after the trial.' She goes to his cell every day and pleads with the guards to let her see him but she is not allowed to see him." Mrs. Scharansky claims the letter was from the KGB.

Scharansky's visit to York followed talks in Ottawa with Minister of Multiculturalism Norm Cafik, Secretary of State John Roberts, MP Robert Kaplan, and York student and hunger striker David Gotfrid.

She cited the hunger strike by students at York in December as a catalyst in Canada's course of actions against the Soviet's breach of human rights.

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## Ryerson unions hit cutbacks

By Harvey Pinder

The students, staff and faculty of Ryerson Polytechnic held a meeting this past Tuesday to protest the administration's plans to cut \$2,430,000 from next year's budget. After the seats and aisles were filled with 400 people the doors were barred.

The two and a half hour meeting was addressed by the presidents of the faculty, graduate assistants, staff and student unions.

Most speakers felt that the provincial government should be forced to increase university funding at least as fast as the inflation rate. A prepared statement by the groups said, "the current government has adopted a fatalistic attitude which accepts a decline in educational quality as a necessary sacrifice. This we cannot accept".

As Dave Reason, president of the staff association, put it, "it is purely political. The government thinks it is popular to cut us back. We need to prove this is not true. We need to find the delicate parts of the government and press until they relent".

The attitude of Ryerson administration was described by Peter Kirby, president of Ryerson's GAA, as, "the province said 'jump!' and Ryerson replied 'how high?'". Kirby further said that up to 160 part-time faculty will lose their jobs. He advocated, "let us fight Queens Park together and join together with other faculty, students and staff across the province to do so." This was echoed throughout the meeting.

The common statement agreed to by the four organizations put forward the following points,

- 1) The institute must be prepared to carry a manageable deficit beyond 1981 ... (its period of) cumulative break even budget (should be extended) from three years to at least five years.
- 2) It must balance its efforts to find internal economies with external effort to alter funding arrangements.
- 3) We oppose any reduction in teaching staff.
- 4) Current balance between professional ... and liberal arts subjects must be maintained.
- 5) We oppose any arbitrary reduction in program hours.
- 6) We oppose cutbacks in academic support services.
- 7) We must actively oppose the government's intention to savage the post-secondary system and further voice this opposition to the public.

The various suggestions for further action ranged from writing letters to MPPs and newspapers to holding teach-ins, marches, and demonstrations. The definite sentiment of the meeting was for the latter.

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