

Seminar Held On Literacy In Mexico

LEIDEN, MEXICO—Students from 15 Mexican universities participated this month in a seminar designed to train them in the techniques of literacy teaching. The seminar, held from Feb. 18 to 28 in Mexico, is the first stage of a nation-wide literacy campaign initiated by the National Union of Mexican Students (CNE).

Organized by the CNE and the Coordinating Secretariat of National Unions of Students (COSEC), the event received the full support of the Ministry of Public Education in Mexico, the Latin American Regional Centre for Fundamental Education, and UNESCO.

Later this year, the students will teach in remote villages where illiteracy remains a constant problem as part of the anti-illiteracy campaign being launched by the CNE.

Featurette

Couple Forced To Steal And 'Hustle'

By Ray Biggart
Ex-Ryersonian Editor

"I'd rob my own mother to get money for a fix."
"I have."

This is part of a conversation that took place last summer between two narcotic addicts and me. They had come to the newspaper where I was working because they could not get help anywhere else.

Al and Mary had been turned away from Toronto's St. Joseph's Hospital the night before when they asked for help in kicking their habit. Ontario hospitals will not give medica-

tion to addicts who want to quit. **CLEAN BREAK AGONY**

The addict must go off the stuff (heroin)—cold turkey—without the help of medicine. Cold turkey is unspeakable agony. All you want to do is die. Gut-searing cramps tear at your insides; daggers of pain stab through your brain; the flicker of a match becomes a searchlight, burning your eyes.

Most addicts are such quiet and taciturn types that they wouldn't harm a fly. They feel an uncanny sympathy for all things, leading, for what to them, is a normal life. And when they get so sick—in need of drugs—that they might in desperation resort to violence, they are physically incapable of it.

He is 29, has no job and has been an addict since 19. Mary lives with Al sometimes; the rest of the time

she's a prostitute.

HOOKED HUSTLER

"I'm not the best of all possible girl friends," she says. "After all, who wants a seven-month-pregnant prostitute dope addict for a daughter-in-law?"

The child she is carrying will be her third. Her first, born when she was 16, was the only legitimate child she had. Her husband married her when she was 15 and left her on her 17th birthday.

Mary started taking dope when a "friend," using her to support his own habit, introduced her to it. She supported both drugs needs as a prostitute. In six months she was hooked.

FAST ROAD DOWN

Mary left her home town when she was 14 and moved to Toronto where she soon gravitated to the China-

town area. She was working as a waitress when she was introduced to heroin but soon had to find other means to make enough money for drugs. (At that time heroin was selling at \$5 a cap and four caps made a day's supply. Today it costs \$15 and six caps are needed because the quality has decreased.)

Mary got her first trick (customer) as a prostitute when she was 15. She was a virgin and received \$100 for the night. But prostitutes, like cars, depreciate quickly. The next night she was worth only \$15 a trick.

She gets the price because at 19 she is still a good-looking girl with long, natural blond hair and a well-developed body. She hides her pregnancy well, until a customer gets into a room with her. She must then try to talk him out of what he came for, while still keeping the money he paid her. If he insists, she has intercourse with him anyway.

INFANT JUNKIE

Her child, when born, will be a narcotics addict. It will, like her two previous children, have to go through withdrawal pains and symptoms before it becomes a ward of the Children's Aid Society.

Soon, Mary won't be able to go out on the streets. Al, who steals now to support his own habit, will have to steal to support her as well. He now steals about \$300 worth of merchandise from large downtown department stores every day. On days when he or one of his friends can get a car, they take their business out of town.

Al started on narcotics 10 years ago when a girl friend, who had then just started herself, introduced him to morphine. From morphine it was a short move to cocaine and heroin.

WRITES FOR A FIX

A writer, he has sold stories to The Montrealer magazine and has written for many trade publications. He left high school in Grade 12 so he could steal to support his habit.

As I talked to Al and Mary, they grew nervous and jumpy; their eyes watered and they started to stare at the corners of the room. They needed a fix.

PURCHASE SIMPLE

They offered to take me with them to show me how easy it is to buy drugs in Toronto. We went to a corner in downtown Toronto, where we parked the car. Al waited inside while Mary and I walked to the restaurant where the connection was to be made. To avoid suspicion, I was to be Mary's trick for the night.

We walked into the restaurant, took a seat in the back and waited about 10 minutes until a lesbian came in. She raised her eyebrows at Mary, who nodded and followed her to a basement washroom, where the narcotics and money changed hands.

Mary came back with the heroin, wrapped in aluminum foil, in her mouth. We returned to the car, then drove to a midtown drugstore where Al bought the hypodermic needle and eyedropper needed for the injection.

Later, I watched Al and Mary prepare the narcotics for injection. Into a teaspoon, Al placed one cap of heroin and two caps of water. He heated the spoon with a match until the heroin was dissolved, then sucked it up into the eyedropper attached to the hypodermic needle.

Then he squeezed a handkerchief around his arm to make the veins stand out, jabbed the needle directly into a vein. His arms and hands were badly scarred, as were Mary's, with needle wounds.

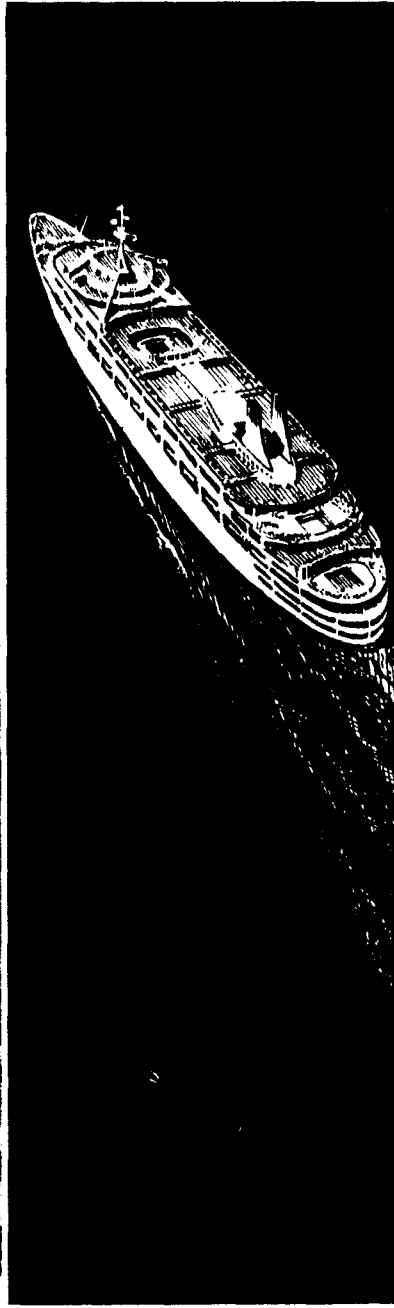
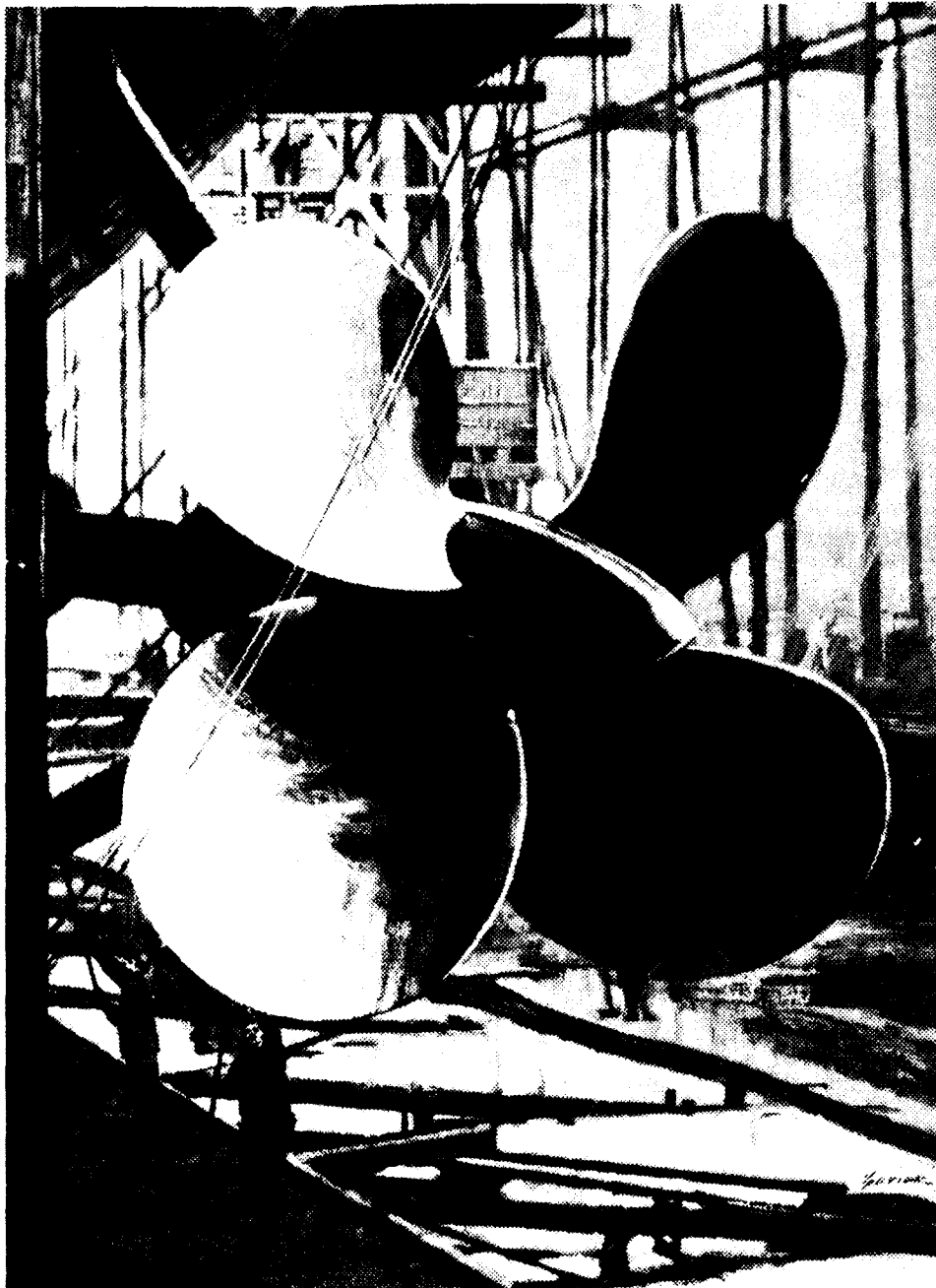
GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

After Mary had taken her fix, they put more water into the spoon, heated it again and took another injection of the water. They were making sure they had got all the heroin from the spoon.

They became more calm and willing to talk after taking the heroin. But another day was coming, and with it another craving for the drug. They came that night asking for help. There was no help for them.

I've since heard they are getting help from a sympathetic suburban doctor.

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HOW INCO HELPED MAKE PROPELLERS LIGHTER YET STRONGER

The 45,270 ton S.S. Canberra is the largest liner to be built in the U.K. since the Queen Elizabeth. The fifth largest liner in the world, the Canberra features many innovations, including twin streamlined, side-by-side funnels; engine rooms located aft, instead of amidships; and huge propellers that can be locked together in any phase relationship, thus solving the problem of hull vibration. The Canberra's two 29-ton propellers

are constructed of a nickel-aluminum-bronze alloy, developed by Inco. They are lighter, yet stronger than other types of propellers, and they are extremely resistant to corrosion and cavitation—long problems with marine propellers. The development of this special alloy is another example of Inco's continuing research contribution which, for some sixty years, has led to improved techniques and products.

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