

# Students still striking in Mexico

**Associated Press**  
**CHIHUAHUA, Mexico** — Thousands of students continued a sit-in strike in the administration building at the Autonomous University of Chihuahua here Wednesday to press demands for the rector's resignation. But authorities denied reports of major violence.

Gov. Oscar Ornelas was trying to arrange a meeting Wednesday morning between student leaders and the university's administrative council at the Executive Mansion, but representatives from both factions said no solution appeared to be in sight.

About 2,500 of the university's 6,000 students invaded the building Monday, saying they would not leave until university authorities agree to a reform of the state education laws limiting the rector to one four-year term.

By law, the university is autonomous, in that it runs itself with state financing but no outside interference, and the rector is elected by the university council made up of faculty, alumni and student representatives.

Current rector Carlos Humberto de las Casas Duarte was recently re-elected to the job. Re-election of state university authorities is allowed by the law.

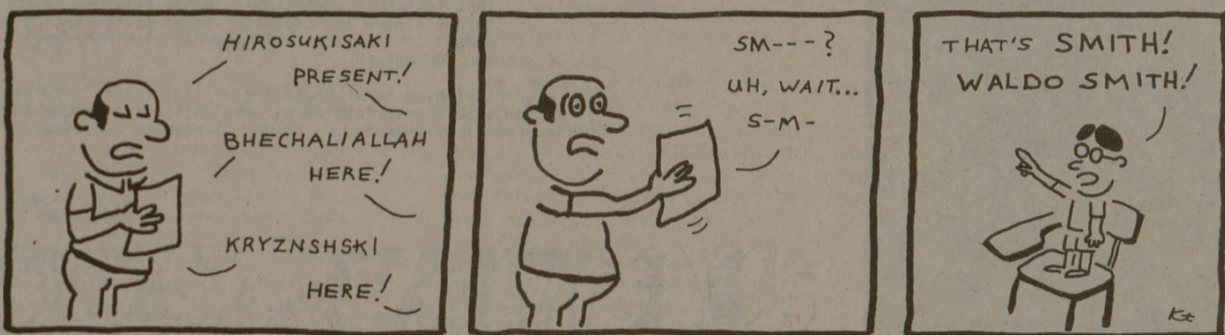
News reports Tuesday night said groups of striking students seized a number of buses, trucks and taxis, virtually paralyzing public transportation in this northern state capital, with some going on a rampage and sacking supermarkets and stores.

Excelsior, an independent national morning newspaper, said in a front-page story that striking students seized 260 buses and trucks and "dozens" of taxicabs, "and sacked businesses and supermarkets, with authorities being unable to stop them."

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Ornelas' press secretary, Luis Ochoa Minjares confirmed that "dozens" of buses and vehicles were seized by the strikers, but denied there was any sacking or damage to property.

Alfredo de la Torre Aranda, a strike leader, said in a telephone interview the students plan to "step up the pressure with new measures," which he did not disclose, if their demands are not met by Thursday morning.

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

# Research reveals courage of unknown World War I hero

**Associated Press**  
**MOUNT CARMEL, Ill.** — The tombstone gives no indication that the man buried beneath it was a true World War I hero and one of only three Americans to receive England's highest decoration for bravery.

It simply reads: "Hutcheson, Belenden S., Died April 9, 1954." The humble epitaph says nothing about the life of the quiet physician, who returned to his native southern Illinois after the "war to end all wars."

As a captain in the Canadian Royal Army Medical Corps, Hutcheson became one of only three Americans to receive the Victoria Cross — Great Britain's highest award for valor, instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria.

According to Dr. F.J. McHugh of Cheshire, England, who is researching medical recipients of the V.C., the other two are: Ordinary Seaman William Henry Seeley, who received it in 1864 and is buried in Massachusetts, and the Unknown American Soldier from World War I.

Hutcheson, who was born at Mount Carmel in 1883 and became a soldier in 1915, never touted his military background. But the British records tell a story of almost superhuman acts of bravery.

Like many Americans in the early years of World War I, before the United States entered the conflict, Hutcheson joined the Canadian armed forces and found himself in a bloody new world.

It was the day of Kaiser Wilhelm, Baron Von Richthofen, trenches, mustard gas and doughboys. Tanks were replacing horses, and crude

*"Without hesitation and with utter disregard of personal safety, he remained on the field until every wounded man had been attended to" — Victoria Cross citation awarded to Belenden S. Hutcheson.*

airplanes were changing forever the unforgetting face of war.

In August 1918, three years after leaving home to "make the world safe for democracy," the battlefield physician from southern Illinois was dodging shells about 80 miles north of Paris.

It was then that he received the Military Cross, to be followed a month later by the Victoria Cross.

"During the mopping up of a village, he passed through the streets several times (under heavy fire) attending to the wounded," said Hutcheson's citation for the Military Cross. "He also voluntarily dressed nearly 100 enemy wounded who had been left behind."

British records from 1918 indicate that on Sept. 2, Canadian forces broke a German entrenchment east of Arras in France. The Germans fell back to the Hindenburg Line, attempted to regain their offensive but failed, and the Allies eventually began a final drive to victory.

Hutcheson went through the line with his battalion on that day while "under intense shell, machine-gun

and rifle fire.

"Without hesitation and with utter disregard of personal safety, he remained on the field until every wounded man had been attended to," said the citation accompanying the Victoria Cross.

"He dressed the wounds of a seriously wounded officer under terrific machine-gun and shell fire and, with the assistance of prisoners and of his own men, succeeded in evacuating to safety," it continued.

"Immediately afterwards, he rushed forward in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, to tend a wounded sergeant and, having placed him in a shell hole, dressed his wounds ..."

"Captain Hutcheson performed many similar gallant acts and, by his coolness and devotion to duty, saved many lives."

Hutcheson lived out the remainder of his years in Cairo, far from the trenches of France and the sound of cannon fire.

He met his wife, Frances, while in Canada and had a son, Rand, who is a surgeon in Boston, said Hutcheson's cousin, John Henneberger of Mount Carmel. He said Mrs. Hutcheson died in the 1970s and also is buried in the family plot at Mount Carmel's Rose Hill Cemetery.

Henneberger remembers the doctor as a white-haired man, about 6-foot-tall and well-built, with blue-gray eyes and a quiet nature.

"He didn't talk about the war; he was a humble individual," the cousin said. "He was quite a man, a very ... kind and considerate man, active in civic affairs, a top-notch human being."

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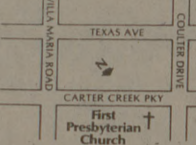
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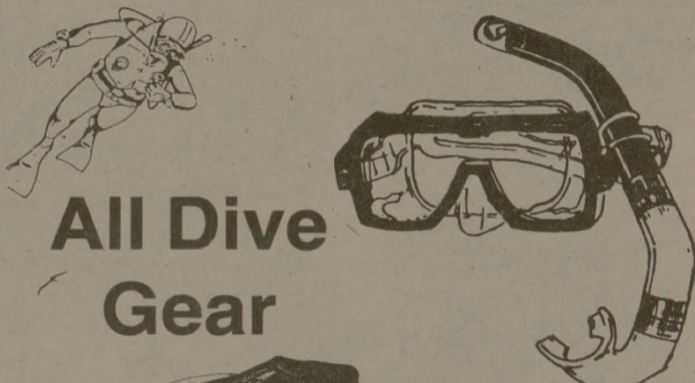
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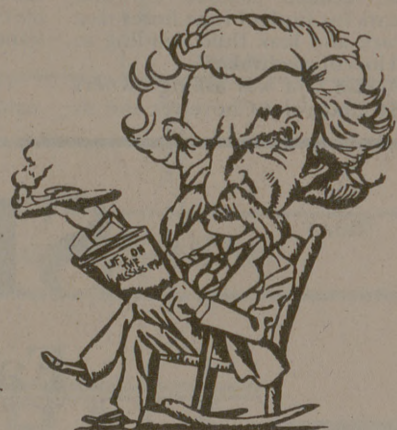
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