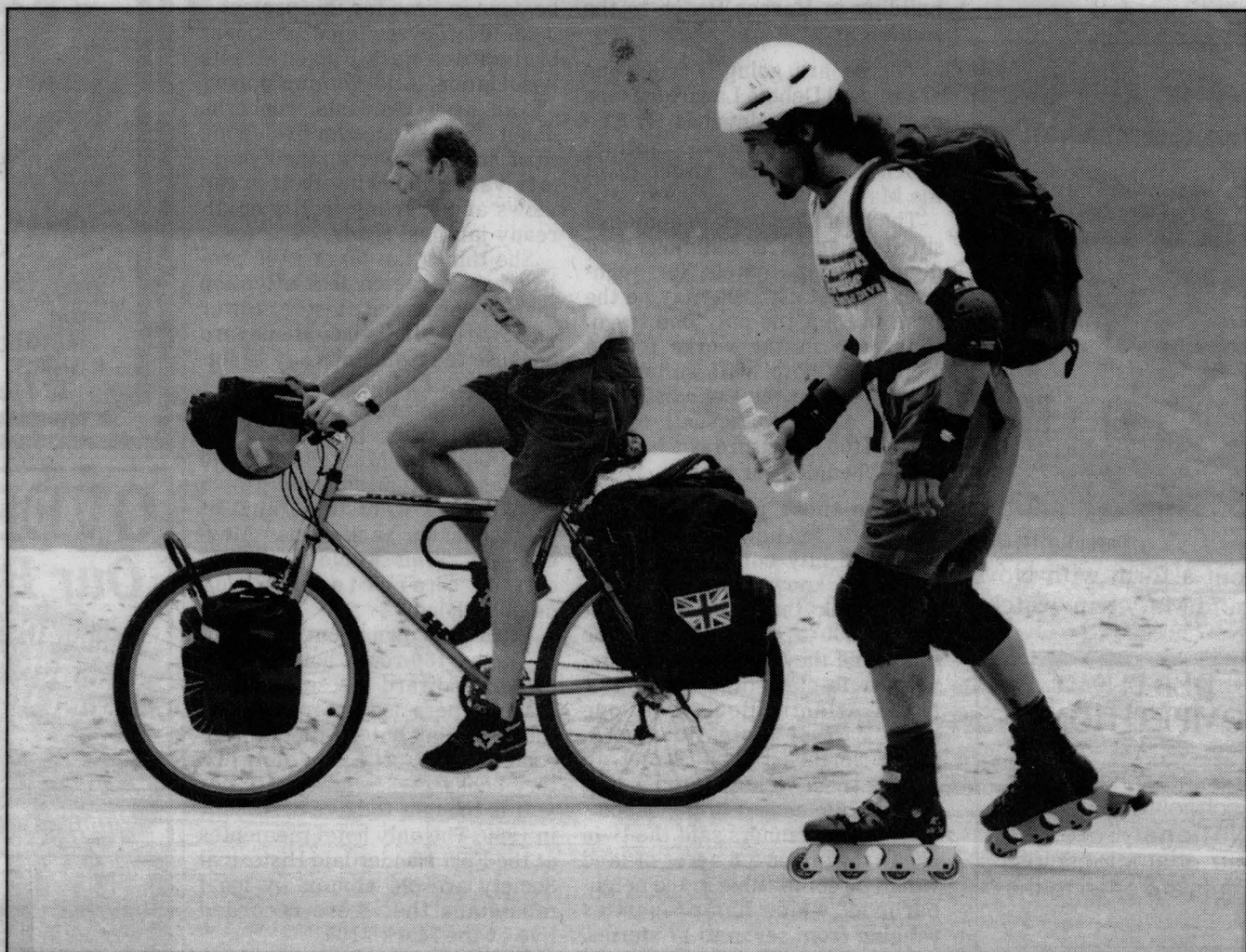


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BROWARD METRO

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Staff photo/ELIOT J. SCHECHTER

Steve Smith, on bike, and Jason Lewis head north on State Road A1A, after leaving Fort Lauderdale

for San Francisco. The Englishmen are circling the globe by leg power.

FEET FIRST

Pair that pedaled boat across ocean heads west on bike, skates.

By LORI CROUCH

Staff Writer

Steven Smith and Jason Lewis are doing a lot of leg work.

They pedaled the Atlantic Ocean from Portugal to Miami in a 26-foot boat. On Sunday, they left Fort Lauderdale on bike and skates for San Francisco.

From there Lewis will try to cross the Pacific Ocean in the pedal-operated boat, while Smith will bike and kayak across Alaska and down the coast of Siberia. They will reunite in Honk Kong and then begin a mountain bike trek across mainland China, Tibet and Afghanistan.

The Englishmen landed in Miami in February after a 111-day, 4,500-mile voyage across the Atlantic.

They call their circumnavigation of the globe, using only leg power, Pedal for the Planet, sponsored by UNESCO.

The pair spent the past four months raising money and visiting classrooms to tell tales of high-seas adventures. The fund-raising hasn't been as successful they hoped.

"It's not a masochistic, make-it-

as-hard-as-we-can trip," Smith said. This "is the part we look forward to the most: the overland travel. We love company, appreciating the countryside."

On Saturday at the Children's Museum of Boca Raton, they gave their last educational talk before resuming the journey.

Their boat, *Moksha*, only 5 feet wide, drew attention as it rested on a trailer.

Bruce Rector of Coral Springs looked into the cramped hull and asked, "Can you imagine being locked in this for a year?"

"After the ocean, I'd think the biking part would be a breeze."

Lewis likes the solitude of the boat, which is why he'll make the 6,000-mile voyage alone.

"It's very meditative, in a way," he said. "I've enjoyed the crossing by boat, the effects — what is does to the human psyche."

As they traverse the country on inline skates and a bicycle respectively, Lewis and Smith will stop to talk at summer camps along the way.

Smith, 28, got the idea for the jour-

ney about five years ago as he grew restless in his job as an environmental research scientist in Paris. He and Lewis, 27, a musician, planned the trip for three years, which included spending a year getting the boat built.

"I underwent a period where I was not feeling totally happy with what I was doing, a niggly feeling that I ought to be doing something worthwhile," Smith said.

Of the two close calls the pair experienced in their voyage across the Atlantic, one involved a whale and the other an oil tanker. The whale came up directly under their boat at 3 a.m. The oil tanker missed their boat by only 20 feet at 4 a.m.

But Christmas, three months after they left Portugal, turned out to be special. They were expecting to spend the day eating beef granules and water when they met up with an AT&T cable-laying boat. The crew invited them in, gave them a turkey and stuffing dinner with wine, and allowed them to call their parents.

"We had not seen a soul for 68 days," Smith said.