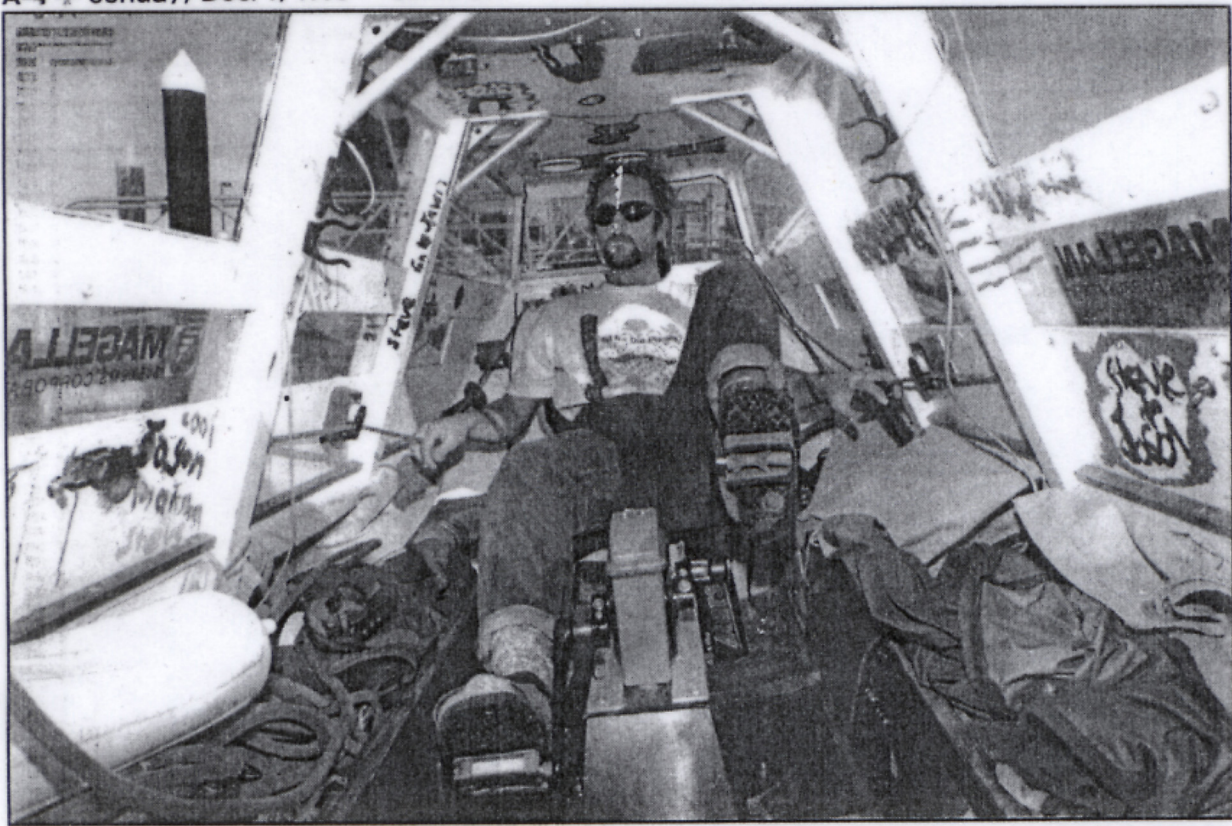


County Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

Monday, Oct. 7, 1996

A-4 — Sunday, Dec. 1, 1996 — Sentinel



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Jason Lewis paddles around the Santa Cruz harbor in his 26-foot boat.

Travelers muscling their way right around the whole world

By DONNA KIMURA
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Jason Lewis pedaled his boat into Santa Cruz on Wednesday — 22 hours after leaving Half Moon Bay.

It's the latest stop on his around-the-world journey, an expedition accomplished all on his own muscle power.

"It's a personal thing," said Lewis, sitting inside his 26-foot-long, bright yellow vessel.

Lewis, 29, and his friend, Steve Smith, 30, are going around the world by foot, bike, skates and pedal boat. They call it "the last of the firsts."

The two Englishmen came up with the idea more than two years ago during a conversation about their lives. Lewis is in the music business, and Smith, who is back in the United Kingdom now, is in environmental studies.

"It was a mid-life crisis early," said Lewis. "We decided to go and

grab the day now."

They have already pedaled across the Atlantic. It took 111 days.

It was grueling, but not nearly as tough as getting the Pedal for the Planet project off the ground, according to Lewis.

The men were able to get the Duke of Gloucester as patron and other notables to support the expedition.

Once the trip was under way, there were some painful setbacks.

Lewis was on roller blades last year in Colorado when he was hit by a car. Both his legs were fractured, and he spent four months in a wheelchair.

"I had my head," he said. "Bones mend, you know."

When he was well enough, he skated to San Francisco, where he met up with the boat.

Along the journey, Smith and Lewis have talked to community groups and schools. They have sold T-shirts and names on the

boat to fund the trip.

Lewis is willing to talk in local classrooms during the few days he is here. His number is (800) 943-0114.

A number of school children are following his travels on a map.

He is hoping for high-tech equipment that will allow him to update a log while at sea or on the road for a website.

With Smith back in England, a number of people have been joining Lewis on the boat. Zeb Nevins, 24, of Santa Cruz helped pedal from Half Moon Bay.

"It's getting others involved," Lewis said. "Every individual is capable of what we are doing."

When he is done with his journey, he said he plans to do something in education or something to do "with wide-open spaces."

From Santa Cruz, he goes to Moss Landing and Monterey and eventually Peru.

He figures it will take a year to cross the Pacific.