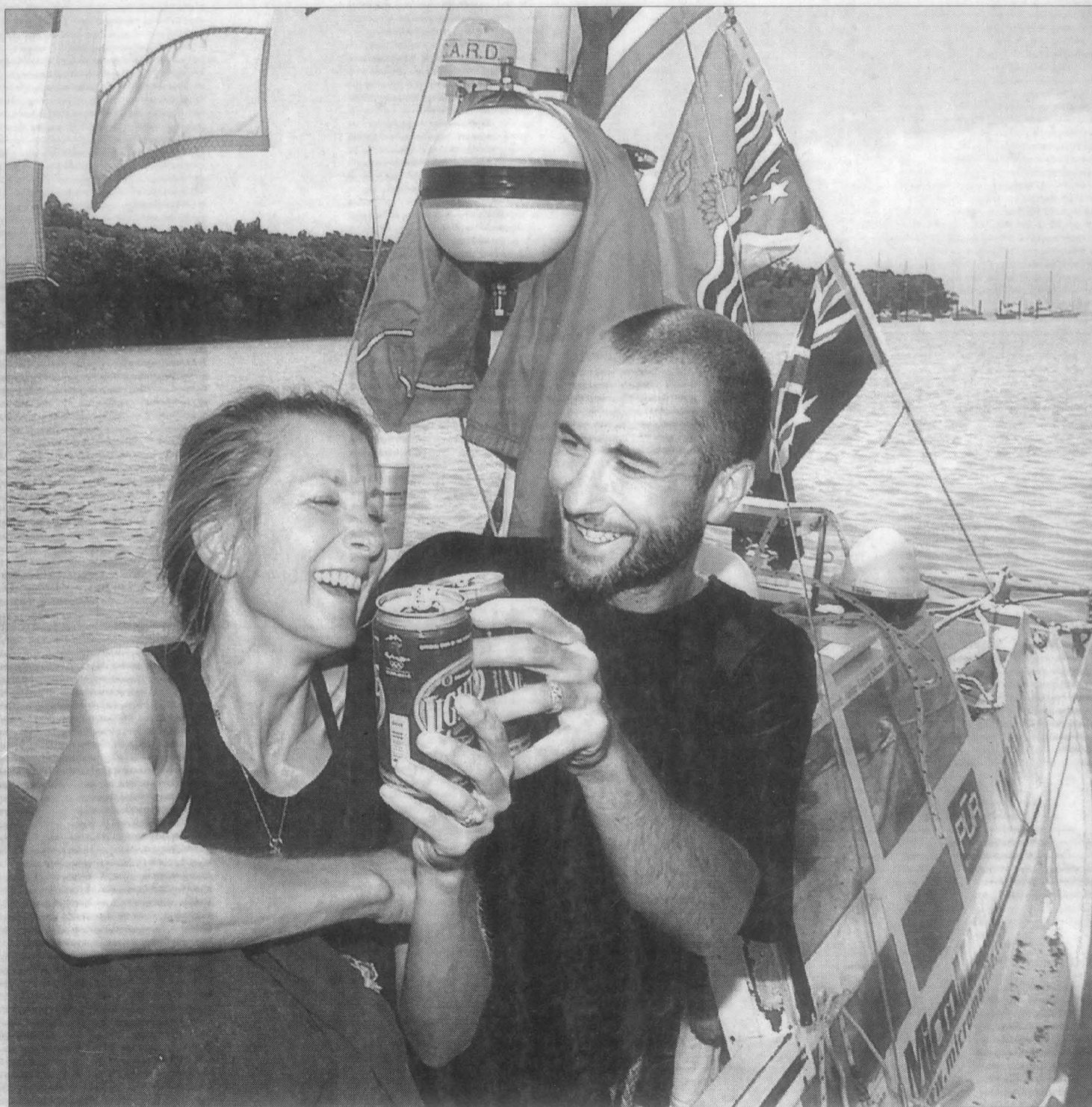


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Bold pair's feet of endurance



CAN do ... pedal-boat adventurers April Abril and Jason Lewis enjoy a cold beer in Port Douglas. Picture: Anna Rogers

Sara Bradford

Cairns bureau

A BRITISH adventurer and his American schoolteacher companion yesterday arrived in Port Douglas completing a perilous two-year pedal-boat journey across the Pacific Ocean.

But when asked what the highlight of their historic trip was, Jason Lewis and April

Abril were strangely silent. Instead, they spoke of their toughest physical challenge and their healthy respect for the ocean and the Great Barrier Reef.

"The ocean ... she handed us one thing and you could yell and scream and do that but that would not do anything, you just had to keep on going," Ms Abril said.

Ms Abril, a school teacher from Rye, Colorado, joined Mr Lewis on the latest leg of his

six-year trek around the world over one month ago.

But what began as a purely physical challenge 17,000km ago turned into an endurance test with Ms Abril suffering from sea sickness and fatigue.

She said she was forced to leave their boat, Moksha, on Wednesday to seek medical treatment but was ferried back to the boat early yesterday so she could accompany Mr Lewis into Port Douglas.

Mr Lewis said the difficulty

of negotiating the Great Barrier Reef was something he was aware of ever since he left San Francisco two years ago.

"It (the Reef) was always an issue that was looming over us — the Great Barrier Reef, this legendary set of jaws we had to negotiate," he said.

He said his next challenge was to skate down the coast before mountain biking to Alice Springs and Darwin, where he will set out for East Timor onboard Moksha.