

## PEDAL FOR THE PLANET

\*\*\* Press Cuttings \*\*\*

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### ● PAIR PLAN 25,000-MILE CHARITY TRIP

# Around the world — on two wheels and a boat

By MAUREEN HYMAS

SEASONED traveller Jason Lewis from Askerswell and his friend Steve Smith from Wolverhampton are planning a mammoth charity trip around the world using mountain bikes and a specially built two-man pedal-powered boat.

London-based businessman Jason (26) and Steve (27) face a 25,000-mile journey on the trip likely to take 27 months.

Another West Dorset man, Hugo Burnham (25), a shipwright from Powerstock and Megan Lander (34) from London form the back-up team.

Jason and Hugo have been friends since childhood, and Jason, said his mother, Mrs Gillian Lewis today, is well travelled, having spent time in America and East Africa.

"The inspiration for the trip came from his friend Steve —

they both did a geography degree at university and the idea was born around that time," she added.

The foursome hope to raise sponsorship for the £70,000 expedition which will raise money for the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

Jason and Steve will start their journey from London next April cycling across Europe, Central Asia, northern India and Tibet before the Himalayan mountain passes become closed by bad weather.

They will cycle through China and then use their hardwood, self-righting pedal boat, currently being built at Exe-

ter Maritime Museum to cross the Sea of Japan.

The boat is now in Lowestoft being fitted with steering equipment and on completion will go to Aberdeen for sea trials, added Mrs Lewis.

The pair will then face a formidable 5,000-mile crossing of the north western Pacific, planning to reach Alaska and a huge cycle ride along America's west coast to Los Angeles, and eventually to Montreal.

The final leg of their journey will be a 5,000-mile trans-Atlantic crossing by pedal boat which they hope to complete in less than the 41 days recorded by American Dwight Collins last year.