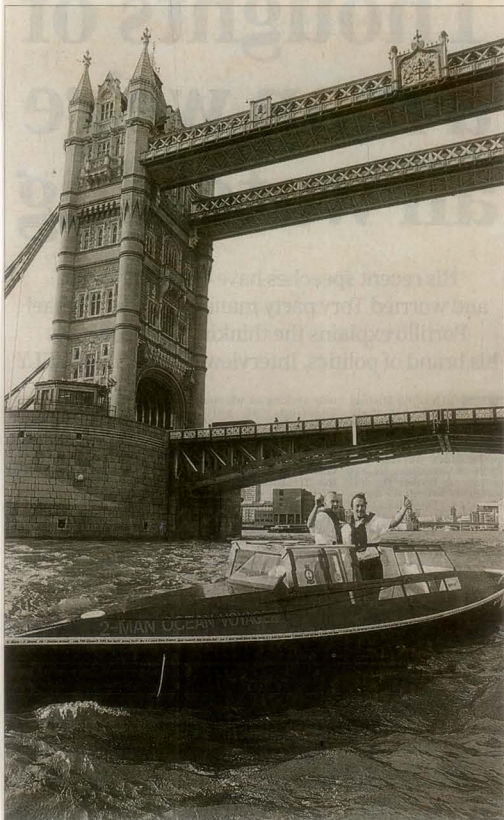


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NEWS



Under their own steam: Steve Smith, left, and Jason Lewis *Picture: Brian Smith*

Pedal power takes on world

THE Duke of Gloucester launched and named a pedal boat yesterday that is to help two men complete the first global circumnavigation using their own power. Mr Steve Smith, 27, from Wolverhampton, and Mr Jason Lewis, 26, of Bridport, Dorset, are to use the 26ft wooden craft named Moksha — Sanskrit for liberation — to cross 11,000 miles of the English Channel, the Atlantic and the Pacific

By Robert Bedlow
oceans. The rest of the 25,000-mile Pedal The Planet expedition will be overland on mountain bikes and the trip will take almost three years to complete. The hardwood self-righting craft, which will carry supplies for 90 days, was built by specialists at the Exeter Maritime Museum. Solar energy powers its navigation and radio

systems. As it bobbed on the Thames in a brisk wind at St Katherine's Dock, east London, it looked flimsy but the two men were confident. The aim of the £70,000 expedition, which leaves in April, is to raise £500,000 for the charity Council for Education in World Citizenship, which promotes international understanding. A two-man television team will provide back-up and transport the craft on land.