

The Pueblo Chieftain

128 years...and still on the job

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THURSDAY

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Students support human-powered trip

By YVETTE S. PADILLA

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Englishman Jason Lewis, 28, is back on his feet.

Since last year, he and Steve Smith, 28, have been traveling the world by in-line skates, bicycles, a pedal boat and a kayak for "Pedal for the Planet," a 29,000-mile, human-powered trip around the world.

On Sept. 10, however, the trip came to an abrupt halt when Lewis was hit by a car on U.S. 50 Bypass near Troy Avenue in Pueblo. His legs were broken.

Lewis has remained in Pueblo since the accident and has been making the most of his time by visiting local schools.

Two weeks ago, when Lewis was in a wheelchair, he and Smith visited Heritage Elementary School.

The students were so impressed

that they held a one-day fund-raiser for Pedal for the Planet.

Fifth-grade teacher Bob Jacobs said the students collected cans, sold candy, donated spare change and paid 50 cents to wear a cap of their choice for one day — something they're normally not allowed to do.

The fund-raiser was called "Cans, Cash, Caps and Candy."

On Wednesday, Lewis and Smith made a second visit to Heritage Elementary School and were presented with a check from the school for \$250.

With the help of a walker, Lewis went from classroom to classroom thanking the students for their unexpected contribution.

"I just want to say 'thanks a million' for what you have done," Lewis told the students. "We have visited a lot of schools and have received a lot of donations from

all over the world. But we've never received a donation that was raised by the students themselves, and that means 10 times more to us than just a check."

Jacobs commended the students for an "amazing response" to the fund-raiser.

"Some of the kids even offered to donate their allowances," Jacobs said. "The amount they raised was pretty impressive for one day's effort."

In each class, Lewis and Smith fielded questions from the students about the trip and presented a map to the school that will help the students monitor the progress of Pedal for the Planet.

"This is nothing compared to what you've given us, but it's a little something to thank you for raising all that cash," Lewis said.

Smith explained to the group that, although Lewis' legs are

healing rapidly, his trip could be delayed for up to a year.

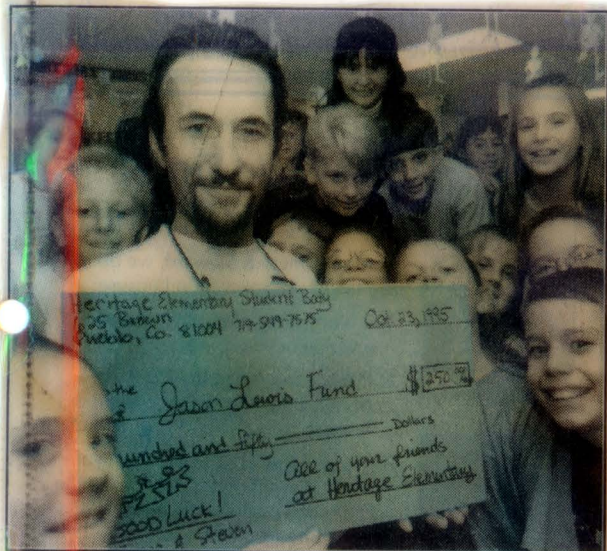
"We just ask that you be patient," he said.

As another way to say thanks, Smith and Lewis told the students they will try to bring their pedal boat, which is in Florida right now, to Heritage for the students to see.

"If we can arrange it, you can be sure we'll bring the boat here for you to see," Smith said. "Your school certainly deserves it."

In order to complete the expedition, Pedal for the Planet depends on sponsors and donations. For \$20, a person's name is printed on the side of the pedal boat, as well as receiving a regular newsletter with expedition updates. T-shirts are available for \$20.

For more information, or for an Internet address, call 1-800-943-0114.



Chieftain photo by John Jaques

Jason Lewis and some Heritage Elementary School students were all smiles after the youths presented a \$250 check to his Lewis' human-powered trip around the world.