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## 'Crazy' Brits travel world on blades, bikes, boats

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They have been called a couple of crazy Englishmen, but Steve Smith and Jason Lewis insist that traveling around the world using only leg power, is normal for them.

These two college buddies from London decided they were fed up with the monotony of an average life. So last July, three years after the idea was first conceived, Smith and Lewis set off from Portugal in a 26-foot pedal boat named Moksha and spent 111 days traversing the Atlantic Ocean on an expedition they have called "Pedal for the Planet."

Lewis began the trip because he was not pleased with the direction his life was headed.

Though he began college as a biology major, Lewis received a geography degree from a London university. The biology lecture hall, he said, was too large to walk across with a hang-over.

"Life can be very cool, you can run around and take a lot of drugs and have a good time, and that alleviates the problem for a short while," said Lewis, who's stopping in Tallahassee for a few days while Smith continues toward their meeting place in San Francisco.

"But there's this growing feeling that it will all be over in about 60 years and I need to maximize my potential now and do what makes me happy," he said.

Separated at the moment, both men are making their way across the country, on just a bike and a pair of roller blades. They plan on meeting up in San Francisco where Lewis will attempt to cross the Pacific Ocean in a pedal boat, while Smith will bike and kayak across Alaska and down the coast of Siberia. They reunite in Hong Kong and then begin a mountain bike trek across mainland China, Tibet and Afghanistan.

Lewis and Smith are already in the record books for crossing the Atlantic in a pedal boat

## Traveler from page 1

and will go down in the Guinness Book of World Records if they successfully make it around the world using only man power.

The expedition is affiliated with a non-profit educational charity, the Council for Education in World Citizenship and the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization. The trip was paid for by selling t-shirts and by giving slide shows and lectures of their adventures along the way.

If there's one message these guys exemplify with their 'round-the-world trek', it's to follow your heart

and be happy.

"We feel quite strongly that the best thing we can do to change things is to get to young minds. We basically say to kids to make choices based on their heart or their gut as well as intellect," Lewis said. "Being happy is more important than making a lot of money."

Lewis said traveling the world has given him a whole new perspective on life. He said, "You are continually reinventing yourself. You are meeting new people, new ideas."

Along the way, they have been to really get close to nature—on the Atlantic, their pedal boat was almost capsized by Moby Dick, and

Lewis was chased out of a lake by an alligator near Tallahassee.

Although legging it across the world is strenuous, Lewis said it has been a lot of fun—part of that fun is roughing it.

"I feel like I am living more fully if I am living on the edge—something like a near-death experience. That's when you appreciate things," he said.

Lewis said he appreciates the critics who dismiss the two guys as being crazy.

"Whenever someone says you must be crazy, that's a great compliment. Me doing this is normal to me and normal to Steve. There's nothing worse than indifference," he said.