

Hindustan Times

on
Saturday

November 25, 2006

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Round the rugged rock

Mumbai hosts Jason Lewis who is pedalling his way around the world

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The first thing Jason Lewis wants to do once he finishes his 13-year expedition around the world, next summer, is get on a motorbike and rev it up to a 100 miles an hour. The idea thrills Lewis because for over a decade, he's travelled the world powered only by his feet.

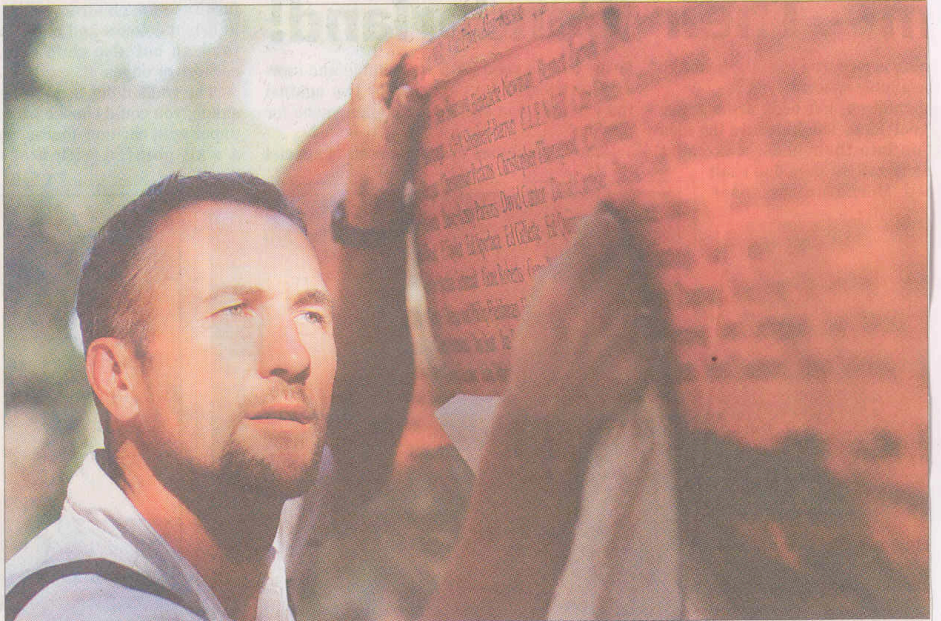
Begun in July 1994, Expedition 360 has taken the Englishman across countries, mountains and oceans on a bicycle, roller blades and a pedal boat called *Moksha*. When he began, he was 26, had long, dark hair, a shy demeanour and a geography degree from London University – and he sang in a local rock 'n roll band. Now, he's 39 and in Mumbai and has collected himself a seafarer's tan and a head full of stories – and the journey's not over yet.

Lewis has crossed America, Europe, the Caribbean, Australia, Hawaii and Asia and pedalled across the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans in a custom-designed, unsinkable, wooden boat that doesn't even have a sail. He entered India via Varanasi and will exit it from Mumbai in January, heading for Djibouti, East Africa. He's yet to cover Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, which is up next after he leaves Mumbai before reaching London by summer next year.

"This story has been unfolding for such a large part of my life and I've been attached to this monster for so long that once it finishes, it's going

to leave a hole – but I'm ready to finish this now," says Lewis, who is currently repairing his boat at the Royal Bombay Yacht Club. The RBYC has offered him full use of its facilities while in town.

Lewis started the journey with fellow traveller Steve Smith. "Not being an expert is never a good enough reason not to try," he says. Smith returned home after finishing the Atlantic leg, which saw the two crammed in the small boat for 111 days at a stretch. "Steve and I fell out. We were both in our mid 20s



Jason Lewis has put names of all the people who have helped him through the journey, on the sides of his boat *Moksha*

with egos flying everywhere. Humans are not designed to be so close to each other for that length of time."

He's already set three records. Besides being the first man to pedal across the Pacific and the Atlantic (East to West) and roller-blading across the US, Lewis's final record will be his circumnavigation of the globe. He says he's kept himself going by concentrating on the present and dangling psychological carrots for himself in the form of the next tea break or bar of chocolate.

And if you're wondering why you haven't seen this man on reality TV or magazine covers, he explains: "Marketing managers want to see a return on their investments in a couple of months and 13 years is too long for them. He quips that Hollywood might be interested in him if he contracted a killer disease or died before finishing.

Lewis's journey may not be as historic as Ferdinand de Magellan's 500 years ago, but as a voice for environmental harmony and human grit, it is as epic and sweeping of spirit as the original.

Not being an expert is never a good enough reason not to try, believes Lewis

Other globetrotters



On motorcycles: Americans Chris and Erin Ratay rode 101,322 miles around the world in 51 months to finish in August 2003

In a car: Swiss couple Emil and Lilianna Schmid have covered over 364,745 miles around the globe since 1984

On a sailboat: A five-member crew covered 34,000 miles in 32 months and finished in May 1999