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Roller skater stops in Ulysses on his way to San Francisco

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Would you leave your job, family and country to see the world? Jason Lewis (27) and Steve Smith (28) did.

Both Jason and Steve are from London, England, where Steve was an environmental research scientist and Jason was working in the music business. "I had a small record label in England entitled 'God Recordings.' 'I also played guitar and sang with my own band but we just made ends meet.'"

After being fed up with their life-styles in England, the two set off to see the world. For six weeks they bicycled down to Portugal.

On October 13, 1994, Steve and Jason began paddling in a small paddling boat across the Atlantic Ocean. It took 111 days to cross the Atlantic and reach Miami, Florida.

"We stayed in Miami for four months, raising funds by selling exhibition t-shirts," Lewis said. "Also, for \$20 we had people's names signed on our paddling boat."

While in Miami, Jason and Steve visited schools and talked to young people about the choices there are in life. This is another big reason for the decision of traveling the world. "I see the world and how it's going, and I want to somehow change it for the bet-

ter," Lewis said. "I believe by talking to our youth we can make the future better. I want them to know of all the possibilities in the world."

Jason and Steve split up after being in Miami. Each have a different route to take, but the same destination-San Francisco.

Jason, now 8 weeks on the road, plans to go through Pueblo, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and finally San Francisco.

Reaching San Francisco will not be the end of this long voyage. In April of 1996, the two travelers will leave San Francisco on their paddling boat headed for Hong Kong. "We plan to go through several islands in between there," Lewis said. "By the spring of 1997, we should be in Hong Kong. We'll then leave on mountain bikes to go through China into India."

After reaching India, Jason and Steve will go through central Asia, east and west Europe and then back to the U.K. in early 1998.

The trip all together will take four years to complete. Being together for such a long time in the paddling boat and then biking through Europe means spending a lot of time together.

"You get tired of the other persons sometimes," Lewis said. "There were days when we would say nothing to each other. It seems strange, but it was the only way to give each other space, since the

paddling boat is so small."

While on the boat the two took plenty of dry food and a desalinizer to take the salt out of the ocean water. "The paddling is much more mentality draining," Lewis said. "While, roller skating is more physically draining."

When Jason travels alone he only carries plenty of water and a sleeping bag. "I used to listen to a walk-man, but I found myself not paying as much attention to the traffic as I should," Lewis said. "So now I spend lots of time thinking."

One problem for Jason is his roller blade wheels run out on him every 300 miles. "I have to replace them because they get so worn out." Another problem is the weather. Jason sometimes gets caught in rain and he tries to look for shelter but sometimes it can be difficult.

Jason has no definite plans for when he returns to London. "I might get back into music, but if I do, I want to make sure I'm making the type of music I love," Lewis said. "The main reason I left my music was because I wasn't making the songs that came from my heart. They were just songs from my head that were trying to become top 10 hits."

Jason is very interested in working with young people in the future and will take this trip as a growing experience.



SEEING THE WORLD—Jason Lewis will be roller skating across Colorado, Utah, Nevada and finally California to reach San Francisco. Jason will also travel to China and Europe.—Photo by Michael Alcala