

Former driver wants to sail world — alone

United Press International
NORTH YARMOUTH, Maine — It's easy sailing these days, says Bill Dunlop, a former truck driver who crossed the Atlantic in 78 days in a 9-foot boat — a feat that etched his name in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Since then, he has been paid to appear in magazine ads and on TV talk shows, shake hands and sign autographs for a fee of \$1,000 a week plus expenses. Dunlop picks up \$100 a day from a drink company to visit bars and tell kids about his adventures.

"I travel around the world, and I'm not getting any younger," said Dunlop, who is planning to leave July 31 for a 29,000-mile voyage that will take him the better part of three years.

His Atlantic voyage took three years to plan and cost about \$15,000, about half of it was paid by sponsors. With the same sailboat and sponsors, he expects it will cost more than \$15,000 for the round-the-world trek.

For his feat, Dunlop was made a lifetime member of the International Explorers Club, putting him in a class with Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to conquer Mt. Everest, and John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth.

Such hero recognition makes Dunlop a popular speaker at schools, especially in his native Maine.

"We don't have many heroes today, and I personally regard (Dunlop) as a hero," said Merle Davis, a Memorial School teacher who arranged Dunlop's visit.

Dunlop doesn't see it that way.

"I'm the furthest thing from what you call a hero — I'm not super anything. I'm not super-smart, I'm not super-strong," he said. "I'm just a regular person that does some amazing things."

Criticism may spark reforms

School leaders applaud report

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Boys and girls may not go along with reform ideas from the National Commission on Excellence in Education — especially those calling for an 11-month school year, a seven-hour school day and more homework.

But leaders of the nation's public schools — 16,000 independent school districts — are applauding, a sampling of responses shows.

The report by the commission, created 18 months ago by Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell, was issued April 26. It flunked the schools, saying:

"If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war."

Signs of mediocrity include a skid in Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and declines in reading, science and mathematics performance.

Other deficiencies — in math, science, foreign language education and compu-

tion, Science and Culture.

By comparison, in 1981-82, about 4 percent of the U.S. gross national product was spent on schools.

The commission's report came out during the annual

"Schools can improve, and that is a fact that principals, other administrators and teachers must realize. But we can't wave a magic wand to create improvement."

"Society must understand that education is an investment in America, and that everyone has a role to play."

Thomson made note of the numerous comparisons in the report between U.S. schools and those in Japan.

"If people believe that the Japanese get greater productivity from their educational system than we do, the simple fact is that they contribute greater support to their schools."

In the 1978-79 Japanese fiscal year about 7.1 percent of the national income was spent on elementary and secondary education, according to the Ministry of Educa-

tion, Science and Culture.

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convention of the National School Boards Association in San Francisco.

A series of resolutions followed and recommended local school boards:

— Review high school graduation requirements and course offerings to bolster programs in English, mathematics, science, social studies,

computer science and foreign languages.

— Develop written school board policies that call for "more rigorous and measurable standards and higher expectations for academic performance and student conduct."

— Explore ways to add more instructional time, either by lengthening the school day and year or by using currently available time more efficiently.

— Design and implement plans to gain public support for educational reform and a commitment to provide money needed.

Dr. Paul Salmon, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, hopes the commission's report is an indication that President Reagan has finally realized the nation has a stake in education.

The association frequently has expressed concerns about White House proposals to reduce funds for public schools. The administration proposals include tuition tax credits for a portion of money spent on

tuition paid to private schools — plus the voucher plan.

The latter, favored by private schools, would provide a voucher good for "X" number of dollars for education per student every year. The student or his parents would decide whether to put the money into public or private education.

Willard McGuire, president of the National Education Association, the teacher's union, said the commission's report is exciting.

"It calls for far greater national leadership in education," he said. "It urges local-state-national partnership."

Implementing commission recommendations will cost billions, McGuire said.

He said the public school bill now is something over \$100 billion a year and includes \$50 billion from the states, \$7 billion from the federal government and \$43 billion from local sources.

The federal contribution will go to \$22.7 billion a year if commission recommendations are carried out, he said.

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