

Book traces career of John DeLorean

United Press International
NEW YORK — The saga of John DeLorean is a tale of the power of self-delusion and investors who relied too much on other people's judgments, according to two journalists who coauthored a book on the embattled automaker.

The moral of the story, said financial writer James Srodes, may be that "it's too easy for us to turn over control of our lives to other people."

DeLorean lost \$500 million of "other people's money," he said, but every person and government that got involved had the means to check the truth behind DeLorean's self-promotion.

Srodes and Ivan Fallon, city editor of Britain's Sunday Telegraph, began following the DeLorean story when the former General Motors executive convinced the British government to bankroll an automobile factory in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

"The British government believed if the Securities and Exchange Commission felt the deal was okay it was okay," said Fal-

lon. "The auditors felt if the bankers said it was okay it was okay and so on."

In their book, "Dream Maker — The Rise and Fall of John DeLorean," Fallon and Srodes chronicle DeLorean's career as one of Detroit's most successful auto executives, and later as self-styled critic of American car construction and Detroit's corporate philosophy.

DeLorean's dream of founding his own car company came to a crashing halt last year when he was arrested for cocaine trafficking in California. The episode was portrayed as an attempt to save his foundering Northern Ireland car factory. Fallon and Srodes see it as just the last in a series of shady deals in which DeLorean became involved as he sought money for his own high-flying lifestyle and his ambitions to become a power in the automobile industry once again.

DeLorean promised to build an "ethical" sports car that would be long-lasting, safe and efficient. But the car itself proved to be a disappointment, the authors said.

Cutting corners to reduce the development time and costs, DeLorean insisted only on marketing-oriented features like the gullwing doors, and enough room behind the front seats to store a set of golf clubs.

"Jim and I saw three cars still stored in the factory the other day and they've got rust spots on them," Fallon said. "This car was supposed to be built of material that would never rust."

Srodes said he became suspicious of the DeLorean myth when he looked through previously published DeLorean stories and came across the same clichés over and over — "maverick," "swinger," "the man who fired General Motors."

A trip to Detroit, he said, produced a picture of a "totally different man" from the one described in the articles. "Ivan and I decided we had a book," he said. "The more we started working on the idea the more we realized it was not just a book for Britain — it was a very important story for America about the way we do business."

The British lent money to "a myth, not a man," said Fallon.



Spreading his word

Ron Tewson, the adviser to the A&M Christian Fellowship, picked a sunny afternoon

on Tuesday to speak to students by the Harrington classroom building.

Interest in sport keeps growing

Roller skating attracts 39 million

United Press International
FORT WORTH — An estimated 39 million Americans participate in a sport which is used to sell KoolAid and cupcakes, is endorsed by the American Heart Association and can be done while disco dancing.

It is roller skating. The 2,500 hard-core rink rats who came to Fort Worth recently for the 1983 United States Amateur Roller Skating Championships are proof that interest in the sport is growing.

"People have found that it is a real sport they can participate in," says Charles Wahlig, coach at both the Pan American

Games and the World Skating Championships. He also is a former world champion in both speed and artistic events.

"When I was skating in the early 1950s, there were about 500 contestants at the national championships," he said. "That figure has grown fivefold. We have more people competing and everyone is better. The more numbers you have, the higher the quality."

Wahlig said growing knowledge about the sport contributed to the United States men's team's phenomenal rise in world speed skating.

In 1978, the U.S. men's speed team was 12th in the world. In 1979, American skaters began working out at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., and, by 1981, the team had moved to first place — a position it retained in 1982.

"At Colorado Springs we learned things like weight training, technique and sports medicine, such as diet and keeping body fat down," Wahlig said.

Dean Huffman, a two-time gold medalist at the world meet, began skating at age 9 and spent

two hours a day on wheels during his childhood.

"I really enjoyed it," he said. "I feel more comfortable on my skates than on my feet."

Huffman, who retired at 23, works for a wheel manufacturer in Santa Barbara, Calif., and still skates a couple of hours a day.

"Because we have four wheels," skater Tina Kneisley said, "we can do things you can't really do on the ice."

"I wanted to stay as close as possible to the sport," he said. "It enabled me to do a lot of traveling all over the world. I got to see a lot of things I would never have seen without the sport and got to meet interesting people."

Tina Kneisley of Marion, Ohio, took third place in the artistic singles competition in

Fort Worth and will represent the United States for the sixth time at the World Championships in Fort Worth Oct. 19-22.

"We compete in the artistic events just like you would see on the ice," she said. "It's very similar, but you have different points of balance. Because we have four wheels, we can do things you can't really do on the ice."

She has skated competitively 15 years. "Really I've been on skates since I was 10 months old," Kneisley said.

The 20-year-old junior at Bowling Green State University said skating led to her decision to study public relations.

"I would say I'm a pretty outgoing person," she said. "To be able to go out there and compete before all those people and strut your stuff for the judges, you have to be aggressive and willing to put yourself forward and give it everything you've got. Personality on the floor is a definite advantage."

Past competitions have taken her to Portugal, West Germany, New Zealand, Columbia, Japan,

Italy and Puerto Rico.

The United States dominated the artistic competition on the world level for several years, Wahlig said.

George Pickard, general secretary of the U.S. Amateur Roller Skating Federation, said the sport reached the height of its popularity when the roller skating craze peaked in 1982.

"But it wasn't a fad like zled, like the hula-hoop," he said. "A lot of people stayed in it."

"Roller skating is a good cardiovascular exercise," he said. "And you don't have to jog because you're gliding."

Sports physiologists at the American Heart Association, which endorses skating, estimate that, at a moderate pace, it burns at least 500 calories an hour.

"The heart association for lifetime sports — active person could continue through adulthood," Pickard said.

"Have you ever seen a smile?" he said.

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METRO PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT INC

Classics to return in color

United Press International
Hollywood's black and white classics now can be converted into color videotapes with accuracy they look as if they had been shot with color film.

The September issue of Entertainment Digest reports the technique, developed by Videocolour Inc. of Toronto, uses a computerized process called "colorization." An artist applies color to the first frame of each scene with an "electronic palette" containing 1,028 colors. The computer then divides this into 525,000 points, or "pixels," and records for each pixel the color and the tone of the original black and white film.

Wilson Markle of Videocolour says colorization can bring back many of the black and white film shorts of the 1930s and 1940s. Many have been taken out of circulation because it was thought they would not hold the interest of TV viewers accustomed to

Three out of 10 people screened at National Heart Fair last year found they had illnesses needing medical attention, and 15 percent discovered abnormalities they didn't know they had.

The fairs, which are held by the National Health Screening Council for Volunteer Organizations, Inc., a nonprofit group, are expected to draw a million people across the country this year.

Height and weight measurements, blood pressure, cholesterol tests, and blood counts are free, as are screenings for glaucoma, sickle-cell anemia and Tay-Sachs disease in areas where their incidence is high.