

publishing this book. I was hauling my partner out in front of total strangers. As I heard Bill say these words, the image of Brian, which had formed in my mind as I read *Outbound*, fit comfortably with a partner who has been 'hailed in front of total strangers.'



Viewing the Scottish life through an individual such as Brian revealed the strengths of a different culture. The uniqueness of character that he shows, whether in his ability to stay focused as a

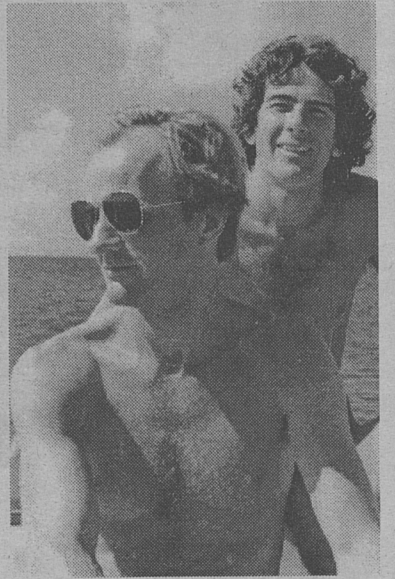
sleep-deprived sailing companion during a frequently unscheduled shift in weather and sails, or as a supportive partner, gently prodding Bill out of periods of gloom, reassured me as to Brian's ability to meet the challenge of sharing a published persona.

A friend of mine recently noted "no matter where I am traveling...I am always home." Three men sailed across an ocean while each of them continued journeying inside themselves. *Outbound* reminds us of how lives are so intertwined. The other people in Bill's life moved through personal passages as well.

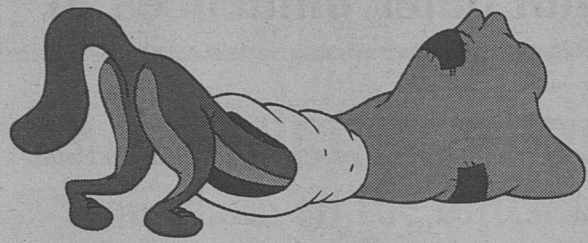
"One of our first mail pick-ups included a note from my mother—brief, chatty, wishing us well. The last line startled me to tears. 'I'm so glad you met Brian in time to share this wonderful experience.' Mild words, but, to me, [it was] a bolt from the blue. So she knew who he was to me and blessed us. They have chosen instead to show me, in their muted Lutheran way, that they like, respect, and accept Brian, because our life together makes me happy. I used to assume that some day we'd need to push on to a real face-off, clear the air; but I've come to feel that would be a selfish, possibly hurtful, indulgence on my part, and yet...and words like these on a page therefore take us into uncharted territory.

In spite of his family traveling through new territories upon reading the final version, Bill received further validation from his parents. They had wisely agreed to read the book in its entirety before discussing it with one another.

My Mom called saying "I loved your book, Bill. Frankly I didn't think you should be writing all that but now I have read all of it and it is great." My Dad, member of church council and past University Admissions Director, said, "I certainly learned a lot about you and Brian. I support you and applaud your courageousness."



Recognition from those who love us can be vital in our ability to accept ourselves and the lives we lead. *Outbound* introduces a perspective of choices and responses. The hopes we nurture within us grow as we acknowledge their worth. Believing in our abilities and moving within our own timing can foster and strengthen our sense of self.

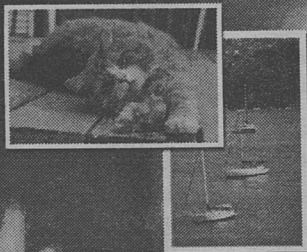


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