

# New berth in UL Arena for Atlantic rowboat

By PETULA MARTYN

THE transatlantic rowing boat that carried the first Irish people to row across the Atlantic in 1997 has been donated to the University Arena at UL.

Eamonn and Peter Kavanagh, brothers from Arklow, Co Wicklow, traversed the Atlantic during the first transatlantic rowing race over ten years ago. They arrived in Port St Charles in Barbados finishing fifth in their boat, Christina, which was named after

their late mother. Limerick man and UL graduate, Paul Gleeson and his Canadian girlfriend, Tori Holmes used the same craft when they competed in the same race in 2005. They completed their crossing to Antigua in 85 days, finishing 13th in the boat that Eamonn and Peter loaned them.

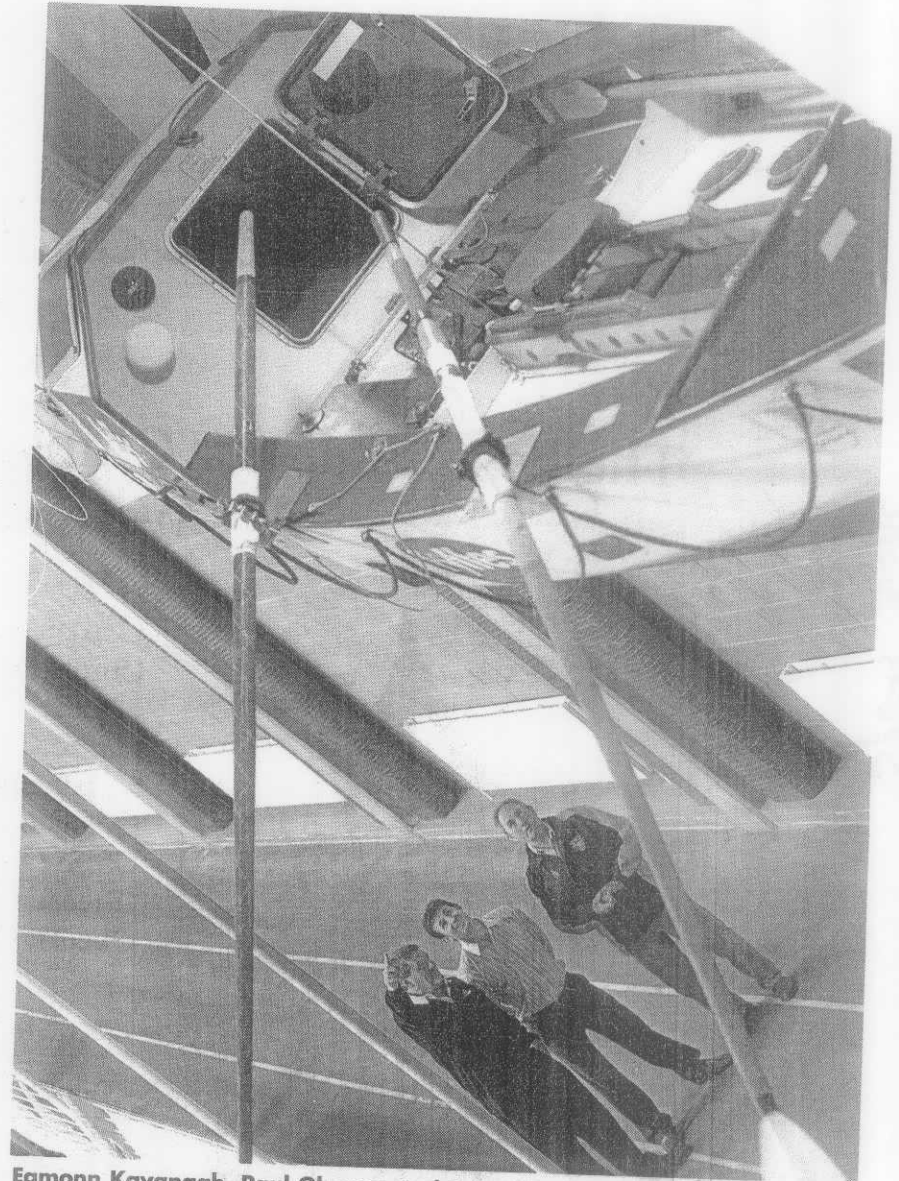
Christina was bought by Irish Life Investment Managers and generously donated to the University of Limerick.

The boat was hoisted to its display position in the arena watched by the

only three Irish people ever to have rowed the Atlantic Ocean as well as Gerry Keenan, CEO of Irish Life Investment Managers. The boat will remain suspended from the Arena roof just above the indoor running track so that runners and the general public can see it and be inspired.

David Mahedy, Arena director, said that UL was very grateful to Irish Life Investment Managers for recognising the tremendous strength of spirit of those who rowed Christina across the Atlantic by allowing UL

to display the craft. "We have tremendous athletes in Ireland and we need to celebrate their achievements. Displaying the Christina will give people an idea of the test of endurance these rowers undertook and the incredible courage it must have taken to complete their journey," Mr Mahedy said. "Christina will have pride of place at the University Arena and will complement the Hartman Collection of sports memorabilia already on display here," Mr Mahedy said.



Eamonn Kavanagh, Paul Gleeson and Peter Kavanagh watch the Christina safely moored in the Arena at UL

GLEN TAVERN



## Small improvement in city