

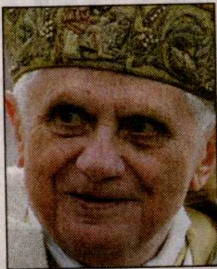
## BusinessNews

**High returns from start-ups:** Investors who backed start-up and developing companies received an average annual return of 15.7 per cent between 1994 and 2005, a survey to be published this week will show: **page 17**

**Providence to raise €25.8m:** Irish exploration group Providence Resources expects to raise about €25.8 million through a placing of 368.2 million new shares. It will allocate the funds to a number of projects: **page 17**

## WorldNews

**Iraq funds:** Democratic leaders in Congress have rejected an offer by President George Bush of talks to resolve an impasse on funding the Iraq war, claiming that the president wants to dictate terms rather than negotiate: **page 10**



**Evolution:** Pope Benedict has rejected speculation that he could be moving in favour of the controversial "intelligent design" theory of life over Darwin's theory of evolution: **page 11**

## SportsThursday

**Soccer:** Liverpool secured a Champions League semi-final tie against Chelsea with a 1-0 (4-0 on aggregate) victory over PSV Eindhoven at Anfield last night: **page 19**

**Lotto:** One winner of jackpot of €3,367,625. The winning numbers were: 12, 16, 24, 25, 27, 42 (44). Lotto Plus 1: 5, 11, 22, 28, 31, 35 (13). Lotto Plus 2: 4, 5, 15, 26, 28, 35 (19)

## Weather

It will be mainly dry with periods of sunshine and the possibility of the odd shower later in the day. Temperatures will reach a high of 14-18 degrees: **page 26**

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Business 675 8048. Advertising 675 8002.  
Online: [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com)

The recommended retail price of **THE IRISH TIMES** in the Republic of Ireland is €1.60  
Subscriptions: Tel: 675 8894; Fax: 675 8077  
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