

Winnipeg Free Press Sunday

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Classifieds Online

A Selkirk Franklin
wood-burning fireplace
with chimney pipes
is for sale.

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U.S. miners found alive

Rescuers make contact
after 3 days of drilling
/ A8

Shaky start stalls Bombers

New papa Khari unable to deliver
second road victory in a week
/ C1

The Weather / B8
Mix of sun
and cloud.

High 25 Low 16



'Biggest sleepover ever'

Half a million
come to pray,
listen to Pope
at all-night vigil

TORONTO — They were a sea of sunburned humanity, illuminated by the flickering of hand-held candles and moved by their faith and love of an old man in the twilight of his life.

A half-million strong, they had come to pray and, in the words printed on the bright yellow shirts of some pilgrims, to "Hang with the Pope."

And hang on every word uttered by John Paul II they did, cheering him and his call to World Youth Day.

Day pilgrims to build the "city of God within the city of man."

"Allow me, dear young people, to consign this hope of mine to you," the pontiff urged in a voice that grew stronger as the night grew longer.

"You must be those builders. You are the men and women of tomorrow. The future is in your hearts and in your minds. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love."

Last night's vigil, held on an old-airfield in the city's north end, was one part party and two parts prayer with a dash of suffering as a result of the unforgiving heat and humidity that would have caused even a priest to become hot under the collar.

"It's the biggest sleepover we have ever had," said Jill Tomey, 16, who came from Boston for the event.

In makeshift tent cities that stretched for more than a quarter-mile from the foot of a massive stage adorned by a large gold cross, they had waited for hours for the chop of their hero's helicopter to herald his arrival.

Some had brought tarps to protect themselves from the elements. Many more, perhaps remembering that the Lord helps those who help themselves, turned the cardboard boxes that were to be used for collecting recyclables into temporary shelters.

And everywhere — in a group of Ecuadorians playing soccer on the runway, in the tanning bikini-clad girls, bags of munchies at the ready — there was a festive air.

But although they knew how to



A World Youth Day participant gets up close to Pope John Paul II at the vigil at Downsview Park yesterday.

have fun, they also knew there was something much more meaningful happening last night.

"The social aspect is fun, but we are here for the spiritual," said Greg Quinn, 16, another pilgrim from Boston.

The back of Quinn's shirt borrowed from the advertising pitch used by MasterCard to drive that point home loud and clear. In bright pink lettering, it read: "Bus ticket to Toronto —

\$800. Passport — \$65. Mass with the Pope — Priceless."

Last night's vigil with the Pope was a show full of music, mystery and multicultural splendor, a ceremony that saw young people from around the globe play a part.

Winnipeg's Richard Frechette got his turn at centre stage, introducing the vespers' liturgy by making reference to the theme of World Youth Day.

"As salt, let us give back the taste for life to those who have lost it, and let us disperse the darkness of sin and division by being the light of the world," Frechette said.

In his sermon from a high-backed white chair, the Pope talked about the inspiration that led him to create World Youth Day in 1985.

Continued
Please see VIGIL A2

Games athletes arrive 'excited'

By Kevin Rollason
and Mary Agnes Welch

THOUSANDS of young aboriginal athletes from across the continent streamed into Winnipeg yesterday eager to begin competing in the North American Indigenous Games.

The athletes, who came from as far away as New York, New Mexico, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories, said they were excited to be taking part in the continent's largest competition of indigenous athletes.

But they also said they were looking forward to the opportunity to be around their aboriginal brothers and sisters from far-flung communities at the athletes' village.

"I didn't come here to lose," said Lance Tomah, 18, a pitcher on the New Brunswick juvenile baseball team, as he prepared to jump on a bus taking him and his teammates to their accommodations.

"But I'm also here for a good time. I've already met new friends on my team."

Tomah's comments were echoed by many others.

"I'm looking forward to having fun and meeting a lot of people," said 16-year-old Cary Paul, a member of Nova Scotia's midsize boys' basketball team, as he waited for his bags to emerge from the luggage carousel at Winnipeg International Airport.

"Everybody is excited. We play New York's team right away. We're hoping to do well."

Continued
Please see ATHLETES ARRIVE A4

Fighter jet kills 78 at air show in Ukraine

138 injured as warplane shears into crowd

LVIV, Ukraine — An Su-27 fighter jet clipped the crowd and sheared through a crowd of spectators at an air show yesterday before exploding in a ball of fire, killing at least 78 people and injuring 138 in one of the world's deadliest air show accidents.

The two crew ejected and survived, the Defence Ministry said, just after the aircraft first grazed the ground and slid backward on its wingtip and nose through hundreds of spectators at the Sknyliv air base in the city of Lviv.

Boleslav Hupalo, 18, said he was posing for a picture when the plane came down. He dived to the ground and saw the jet race over him, missing by only a few metres.

"There weren't any survivors among those who fell down late — they were cut down like grass," he said. When Hupalo opened his eyes, he said he was surrounded by human remains.

"I will never forget this tragedy," he said from his hospital bed, where he was

being treated for an injured back.

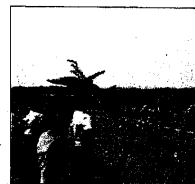
After the crash, parents frantically searched for missing children and used the public address system to call out their names. One group of children with cuts on their faces and arms sat stunned on the ground.

Severed body parts littered the tarmac at the air base.

The Emergency Situations Ministry said 138 people had been treated at hospitals in Lviv, and 24 who were lightly injured left for home after first-aid treatment.

The plane was in the sky for about two minutes and had been performing advanced aerobatic manoeuvres, but just before it hit the ground it went silent and banked left — its wingtip shearing trees and touching another plane on the ground.

Video of the crash showed the jet then sliding backward along the ground on its left wingtip and nose before it began cartwheeling and then exploded, throwing off flaming debris.



Photos taken from TV show the Su-27 diving into the air-show crowd at Lviv, Ukraine, then exploding in a fireball.

The Defence Ministry's western operational command said engine failure was the preliminary reason for the crash, but ministry headquarters in the capital, Kyiv, declined to comment on the cause and refused to confirm an engine malfunction.

President Leonid Kuchma, who cut short his vacation in Crimea to rush to the accident scene, implied that a tech-

nical fault could have been to blame, saying after his arrival in Lviv that "this equipment has already functioned to its technological capacity." Much of the country's air force arsenal is left over from the Soviet era and in poor condition.

"We don't know anything absolutely, except that the pilots were the most experienced, of the highest class," Kuchma said in comments shown on state

television.

Ukrainian officials have been especially sensitive about military accidents since October, when an errant missile fired from a Ukrainian military base shot down a Russian plane, killing all 78 people on board, most of them immigrants to Israel.

Continued
Please see AIR SHOW A2