

EAGER NADIM IN THE PINK!

NADIM Assouad does not mind waiting in line, even on a chilly morning like today.

Nadim, 21, arrived at the Sydney Entertainment Centre at 11am yesterday armed with sleeping bag, pillow and money to buy tickets to see British supergroup Pink Floyd.

He was the first in line but he was not alone for long.

By 2am today, there were more than 100 eager fans camped outside the centre and by 5am the line had grown by hundreds more, the queue stretching the length of the centre and down Day St. Fans had built a pyramid of empty beer cans and most were sleeping while others murdered their favourite Floyd tunes.

"I'm a very big fan of Pink Floyd - I've been wanting to see them for years," Nadim said.

"I knew I would have to line up to get tickets but I don't mind - I lined up for David Bowie and Simply Red too.

Queues stretching for pop group

Pink Floyd - minus founding member Roger Waters - play the Entertainment Centre on January 27 and 28.

The tour is the group's first in seven years, timed to promote their new album *A Momentary Lapse Of Reason*.

An earlier album, *Dark Side Of The Moon*, has been in the album charts



SHIVERING PINK: Rugged up fans wait for Pink Floyd tickets today

in the US for nearly 70 weeks.

"I was lucky to be the first in line because I know I'll be able to get good seats," Nadim said.

"You can tell how many people want to go by the length of the line."

"Everyone wants to see them - it will be a great concert."

Meanwhile on the Lon-

don pop scene, Freddie Mercury is furious with his opera-singing partner Montserrat Caballe because the 25-stone prima donna refused to appear on *Top Of The Pops*.

Freddie, 41, believes that 53-year-old Montserrat's snail stopped their op 'n' roll single *Barcelona* from reaching the top spot.

An insider at Freddie's

record company, Polydor, said: "Freddie is sure that if Montserrat had made the effort to appear live with him there would have been no stopping the record."

He pleaded with her to spare a few hours and fly over but she wouldn't listen.

"She told him she was too grand a singer to appear on a run-of-the-mill pop show.

"She doesn't like pop music at all. When Freddie continued to put the pressure on she told him she would feel silly singing with her leg in plaster."

"She broke it when she slipped on stage in Miami last month. But that was just a feeble excuse. She has been performing most nights on crutches to packed-out opera houses."

- Whoops aporkalypse — it's a pig in space -



The runaway pig drifts past the Opera House on its way south

PIGS, it seems, do fly. The crew of a Sydney police helicopter thought they had proved the old saying true during a routine flight over Sydney yesterday.

"We couldn't believe our eyes," said pilot Constable Phil Gornoll.

By **SCOTT COOMBER**

"Here we were, pigs with wings, looking at a big pink pig flying by."

The giant fluorescent porker wasn't a "pigment" of their imagination; the Polair chopper crew had spotted a runaway promotional balloon

for touring rock band Pink Floyd.

Commercial aircraft were put on alert after the 12m by 7m helium-filled pig broke its mooring at Fort Denison, where promoters were holding a function for the band.

"Last seen, it had flown over a jet, passed the Harbor Bridge and was heading for southern Sydney," said Fleur Sarfaty of CBS Records.

"It certainly wasn't intentional. It cost \$3000 and we wanted to use it for further promotions."

Aviation Department spokesman John Death said aircraft in the area were alerted after the pig broke loose about 3.15pm.

"It didn't cause any dis-

ruption but we have to issue these warnings," Mr Death said.

"It drifted south-southwest about 4000ft over Stanmore and was last seen over Holdsworth about 5pm.

"No one has spotted it since."

At first Constable Gornoll thought he had seen something even more bizarre.

"I thought it was a pink elephant," he said. "But when we got a bit closer, we saw it was the pig."

"We weren't getting too close though. I was concerned it might burst and get sucked into our rotor blades."

If you see the flying pink pig, don't go and



have a stiff drink, it could be worth something.

The promoters have offered a reward of a double pass to a Pink Floyd concert and a full set of the band's records for the balloon's safe return.