UNC International center helps foreign students here

By GEORGE JETER Staff Writer

For many students, the closest they will come to the International Center is when they pay their bills - the center is across the hall from the University cashier's office in the basement of Bynum Hall.

But for about 250 foreign students at UNC and a large number of American ones, the office is an absolute necessity. The center not only helps foreign students adjust to America and life at UNC, but it also helps UNC students take part in programs overseas.

Peter Topping, programs assistant for the International Center, says foreign students at UNC come from diverse backgrounds. "They are from all over the world. Many come from Taiwan, Japan, Nigeria and Western Europe - but less Europeans are coming than used to. Also, more Third World students are applying to UNC."

The center provides personal counseling to foreign students having difficulties adjusting to their new life style. Topping says problems are as diverse as are the students. "One of the saddest things is when a student is here and the spouse is back home."

Because about 80 percent of foreign students are graduate students and many have families, the center offers a course in basic English so that non-English speaking families will not feel isolated in the Chapel Hill community.

Foreign students are required to take a SAT-type test for Englsih. But, Topping said, many foreign students still have trouble when a professor uses American expressions or idioms on

Overall, Topping says, "They have about the same problems as other students here, but they are magnified a

The International Center also helps American students go overseas. "The best time ever to go abroad is as a student," Topping says. "There is really no reason not to there are opportunities for anyone."

Topping stressed that work and study stays in England and American schools in other countries make it possible for many kinds of students to go overseas.

Students of any nationality are encouraged to become involved with some of the center's social activities. "For cross cultural communication, there is no better learning center than here," Topping says.

Here is a list (courtesy of WXYC) of concerts tentatively scheduled for early

Aerosmith	Tonight		Greensboro Coliseum
Woody Simmons	May 8	Monday	Gerrard Hall, UNC
Little Feat	May 10	Wednesday	Elon College
Little Feat	May 11	Thursday	Fox Theatre, Atlanta
Foghat	May II	Thursday	Charlotte Coliseum
Harry Chapin	May 12-13.	Friday. Saturday	Fox Theatre
Average White Band	May 13	Saturday	Capital Center, Largo, Md.
Foghat	May 17	Saturday	Cumberland Arena. Fayetteville
Aerosmith	May 15	Monday	The Omni, Atlanta
Foghat	May 17	Wednesday	Richmond Coliseum
Foghat	May 19	Friday	Greensboro Coliseum
Foghat	May 20	Saturday	The Scope, Norfolk
Willie Nelson	May 20	Saturday	Greensboro Coliseum
Foreigner	June 2	Friday	Greensboro Coliseum
Kool Jazz Festival	June 17	Saturday	Greensboro Coliseum
R.E.O. Speedwagon	June 23	Friday	Greensboro Coliseum

THE Daily Crossword by Norton Rhoades

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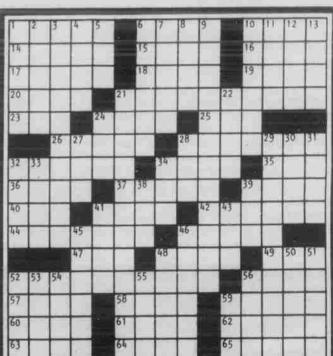
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