

# Adult Learning Center To Open Jan. 3 In Asheville

What is believed to be the nation's first comprehensive adult learning center will be launched January 3, at T. C. Roberson High School. The center, an outgrowth of the Mountain Area Education Information Network (MAIN), will bring together secondary, post-secondary, public, private, two and four-year institutions and organizations in a central place to serve the adult learner.

Initially, the center will offer high school equivalency preparation by Asheville-Buncombe Technical College, non-credit and enrichment classes by UNC-Asheville and Western Carolina University, and four-year degree programs from Mars Hill College. These classes will begin January 3, 1985. Other members of MAIN will add programs in the near future.

Establishment of the Asheville-Buncombe Adult Learning Center marks a significant new stage in MAIN's three year effort to improve

access to learning services for adults. As a model project, the center demonstrates what can be accomplished when public and private organizations join forces in a cooperative attempt to eliminate barriers to adult learning and end wasteful duplication of services.

MAIN has also applied to the U. S. Department of Education for a grant through Funds for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education to extend the services of the center. If awarded, the grant will allow the center to staff an office for approximately 14 hours per day, offer low cost child care services for parents of small children, and include testing, advising, information referral and promotional services in one central location.

As currently planned, the administrative responsibility for the center will be lodged in the office of the Buncombe County Community Schools Coordinator. Each MAIN in-

stitution or agency providing services at the center will appoint a representative to a governing board which will work with the Buncombe County School System to formulate and administer policies and procedures. By placing the administration of the center in an existing office, it becomes an integral part of an established structure. The commitment of the Buncombe County School System and MAIN ensures the continuation and full development of the center's program.

Roberson High School was chosen because of its facilities and because MAIN and Buncombe County School administrators believe the environ-

ment is less threatening than a college or university setting. The school's location in the southern part of Buncombe County is readily accessible to adults in surrounding mountain communities via Interstate Highways 40 and 26, and the area is one of the fastest growing in the region.

As presently planned, the center will offer classes between 4 and 11 p.m. These times will be expanded to accommodate student needs and as other MAIN members schedule their programs into the center's activities.

Until the center's office is staffed, those interested in any of the programs offered by the four current

participating institutions should call the following: Mars Hill College, Raymond C. Rapp, Director of the Center for Continuing Education at 689-1166; Asheville-Buncombe Technical College, Lowell Smith, Director for Continuing Education at 254-1921; Western Carolina University, Linda Patton, Program Coordinator, WCU Division of Continuing Education at 227-7397; or for UNC-Asheville, Dr. Shirley Leckie, Director of Continuing Education at 258-6642. Harold H. Zeuhner, Buncombe County Community Schools Coordinator will also have information of the programs and may be contacted at 274-4266.

## Miss Seay To Wed Mark Freeman

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Seay of Marshall wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sheila, to Mark Freeman, also of Marshall.

The future bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Freeman.

The wedding is planned for Jan. 11. All relatives and friends are invited to attend.



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