



STUDENT Features

Sickle cell has strong impact on blacks

By **Tanisha Blakeney**
ARGUS REPORTER

Scientists have shown that African-Americans are more susceptible to having a heredity disorder known as sickle cell anemia.

Sickle cell occurs when a person gets a defective gene for hemoglobin from both parents, according to Center for Disease Control. One in 500 births to African-American parents result in sickle cell disease, and one in 12 African-Americans carry the sickle cell trait, which is about 2 million people.

According to the March of Dimes, "Most parents who are certain that they both carry the gene usually have a blood test performed of the newborns." When this occurs, parents are notified ahead of time, which means that the disease can immediately start to be treated. If both parents have the gene for Sickle cell, there is about "a 25 percent chance of the newborn to be diagnosed with it."

Sickle cell anemia also has major dangers and complications. If children have the disease, they become more versatile to many different kinds of infections.

Fiesta for the Senses

Alesha Lackey immerses herself in Mexican culture for semester abroad



Photo courtesy of Alesha Lackey

WSSU student Alesha Lackey stands in front of the Temple of the Sun (above) in the ancient city of Teotihuacan. Below, 'Bienvenidos' welcomes visitors to the city.

By **Anthony Nelson**
ARGUS REPORTER

The other day, Alesha Lackey ate elote, which is corn on the cob with mayonnaise and cheese. The next day she had Cocoa Krispies, Oreo's, Cornflakes and Lucky Charms - all in the same bowl!

The meals prepared for Lackey, a senior mass communications major and Spanish minor, are far beyond traditional. In fact, the food is one aspect of her cultural experience that has required some getting use to.

Lackey is spending the first semester in Queretaro, Mexico as part of the International Program offered at Winston-Salem State University. She's learning the Spanish language while experienc-

ing Mexican culture. At the completion of this semester, Lackey will receive 15 credit hours at WSSU which will be transferred from El Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey Campus Queretaro in Mexico.

Lackey is living with a family that is accustomed to hosting exchange students, women in particular.

The family includes five people: Eduardo (father), Nerea (mother), Kendrick, Karl and Ulrich (their sons). The father speaks English,

German and French in addition to Spanish. The three sons know how to speak English, but other than saying "bye," they rarely do.

"Nerea likes doing mother-daughter stuff, but she speaks

See MEXICO, Page 6



WSSU sophomore competes in county pageant

By **Anthony Nelson**
ARGUS REPORTER

Denise Fountain, a sophomore from Fayetteville, last month competed in the Miss Forsyth County Pageant held at the Arts Council Theatre on Oct. 26.

Fountain, who is majoring in molecular biology,

was one of two African-Americans in the pageant. Contestants ranged from ages 18-24 and competed for a chance to become Miss North Carolina and then Miss USA.

The winner, Heather Hamby, received a \$2,000 scholarship, a \$1,000 wardrobe allowance and

the crown.

Fountain, who plans to further her education at Wake Forest University to become an anesthesiologist, said she was excited about being in the pageant. She has been involved with pageants since she was 14.

"I enjoy them because

they are about more than beauty. They test your poise, help you learn more about yourself, and teach you to respect yourself," said Fountain.

Contestants competed in the categories of lifestyle

See PAGEANT, Page 6



Photo courtesy of Media Relations
Denise Fountain