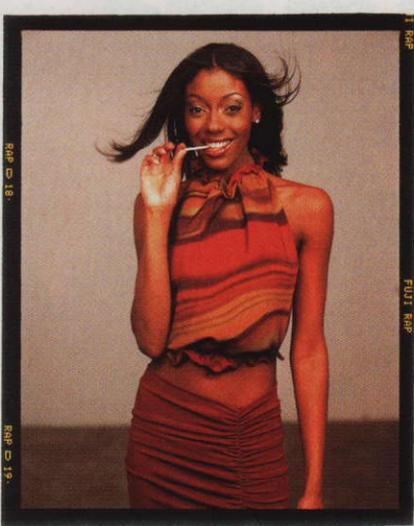
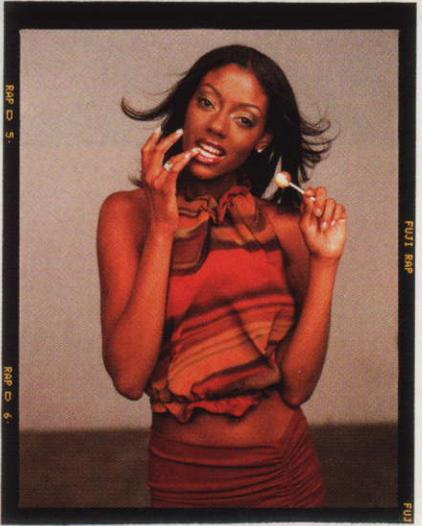
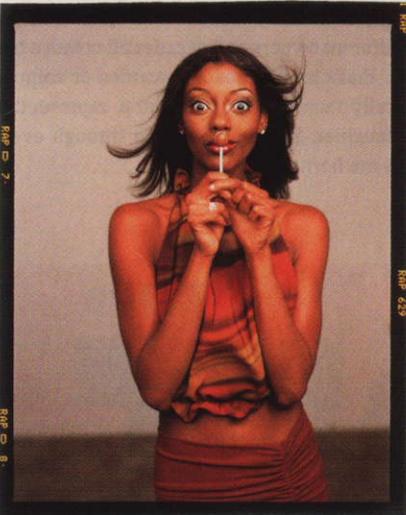
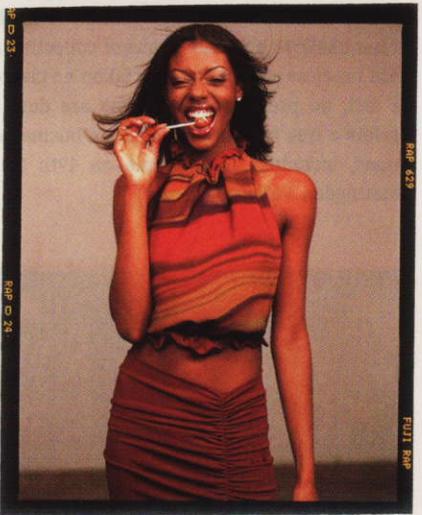
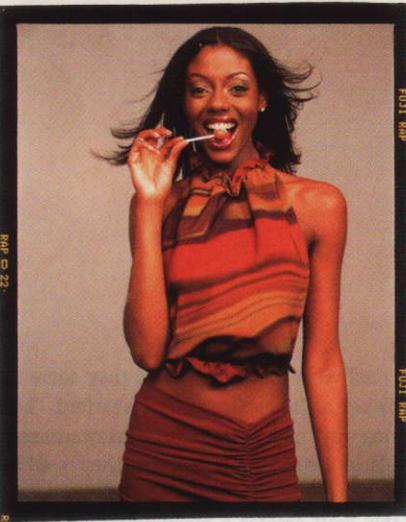
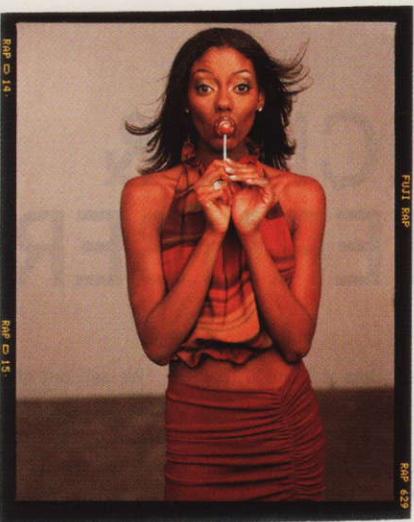
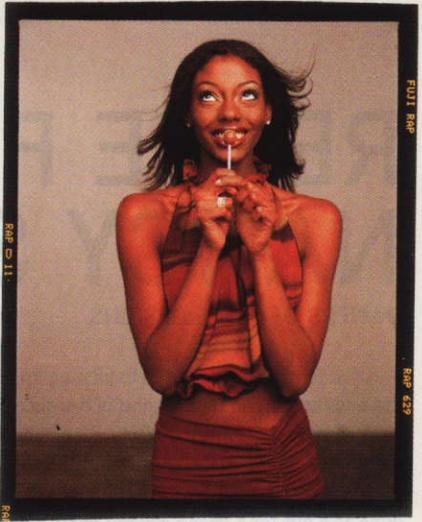


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CAMILLE YOUNG

MISS PENNSYLVANIA USA

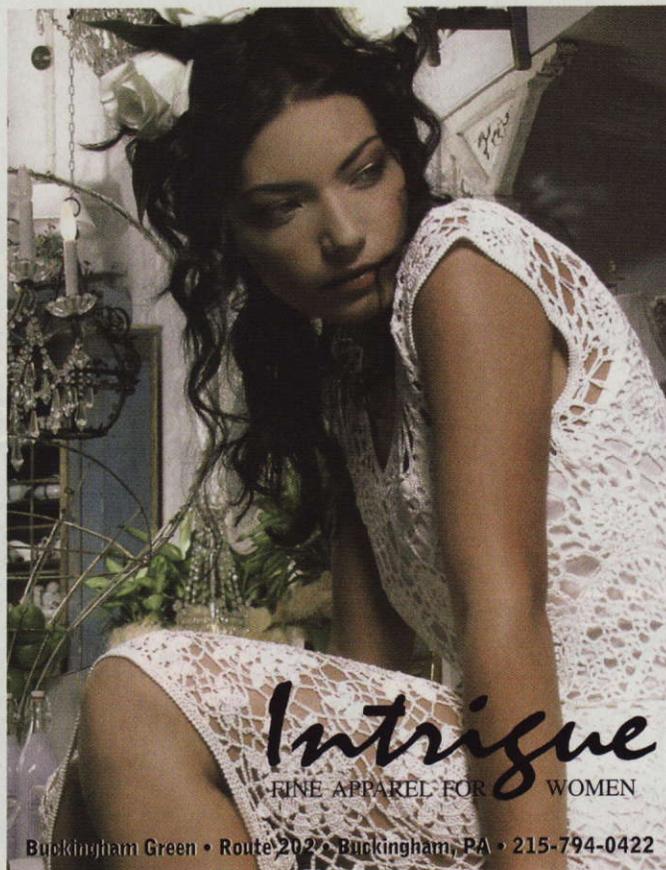
A striking, exotic, 5'10" beauty, with the never-ending legs of a runway model, Camille Young turns heads when she struts across campus at the University of Pennsylvania. Beyond studying communications and African-American studies, this 23-year-old Penn senior has found time to record an R&B/soul demo, take bookings from Philly's Reinhard modeling agency, perform with Penn's African Rhythms dance troupe, volunteer for the community and her church and be crowned Miss Pennsylvania 2003. This girl could give her over-achieving classmates a major inferiority complex.

"Miss Pennsylvania was the first pageant I entered," says Young, who became interested after a friend pointed out that the title brings with it many opportunities for community activism. Young's application and phone interview proved her passion for this type of role, and her photo spoke for itself. Young was invited to compete as one of the 58 contestants at the event in Pittsburgh.

"The categories are evening gown, swimsuit and personal interview," explains Young. "Swimsuit was the hardest. You have to exude confidence and be comfortable with your body." Young's poise, prayers, good genes and experience walking catwalks for clients like *Elle* helped her take home the crown. Now it's on to the Miss USA pageant on March 24 in San Antonio. Among her fellow Miss USA contestants is her cousin, Miss New Jersey. Young isn't concerned about cousin rivalry. "Having her in the pageant is making my year twice as fun. With her family and mine, we'll have a huge cheering section at the contest!"

Family is another major priority for Young, and thanks to her mom, Debbie Sledge of the famous '70s band Sister Sledge, she and her five siblings have the perfect theme song: "We Are Family." Like the rest of America, her family never tires of hearing the tune on the radio. "We love it. We get crazy!" says Young, who has inherited her mother's vocal talent. "I started writing songs at age 12 and recording at 15 or 16, without my mom's help," says Young, whose mother currently lives in Holland. "But when my mom saw my passion for it, she helped me make my own demo."

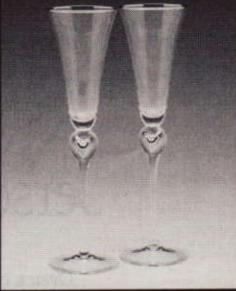
Young's father, who lives in Arizona along with most of her siblings, is a college professor. "He really taught us the value of education. My goal is to eliminate ignorance," she explains. "And this ranges from raising awareness about diseases to supporting programs that inform young teens about higher education." A potential recording contract could delay her graduation from Penn, but she says her dad is supportive. "He tells us to follow our hearts." Young has similar advice for young people. "First, dream! Then when you have a dream or goal, reach for it." If any "good-hearted" guys who dare to dream see Miss Pennsylvania parading across campus, here's a tip: She is single. — *Jill Johnson*



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