

## Pageant

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true. To thine own self be true," she said.

Horton said she used to be shy, but that the interviews involved in the pageant process made her more outgoing.

"All my friends say I'm the goofiest person ever," Horton said.

The pre-med student also thinks the interviews are good preparation for future job interviews. Ten years down the road, Horton said, she sees herself trying to establish a career as a pediatrician.

She said she wants "just to be happy, and successful, and confident and content with my life," and, above all, to have no regrets.

When not competing in pageants, Horton kept herself busy this year cheering for football, basketball and volleyball games as part of the 2002-03 USC all-girls cheerleading squad.

Horton said she came to USC because it was close to her hometown, Sumter; a lot of her friends were going here; and "both my parents came here, so my sister and I have been USC fans all our lives."

She plays softball for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes intramural team and for her church in Sumter.

She said she has been playing softball since fifth or sixth grade and that her friends sometimes make fun of her for being a "beauty queen" who plays sports.

Even with all her athletic ventures and pageant successes, Horton looks to a higher place for inspiration.

"The most influential thing in my life is my relationship with God because it affects me every day in the decisions I make," she said. "This year, I feel really blessed."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

## BRIEFLY

### Week will display volunteer work

Today kicks off National Volunteer Week, and USC's Office of Community Service programs has scheduled a number of events.

♦ Monday: Blood drive in Capstone Conference room.

♦ Tuesday: Leadership and Service Recognition Awards Ceremony, 5:30 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom.

♦ Tuesday: Holocaust Remembrance Day. Donations will be collected on Greene Street from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will go to the National Holocaust Museum.

♦ Wednesday: Spring Festival on the Women's Quad, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

♦ Wednesday: Community Service Celebration, noon to 2 p.m. on Davis Field.

## Exams

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material to another or when one person asks questions," she said.

The university also provides special services to relieve students of finals pressure. The Thomas Cooper Library extends its regular hours to 2 a.m. on exam days, and Carolina Dining Services discounts its coffee to 10 cents during finals week.

The Carolina Alumni Association gives each of its current members an exam survival kit, which includes blue books, pencils, headache medicine and — of course — candy. "We just try to give stuff to get them through and keep them awake — to give them a sugar rush at

night," says Jeffrey Traver, third-year international-business and management student and membership officer of the Carolina Alumni Association.

Although studying remains the biggest determinant of exam success, other measures should be taken in addition to simply hitting the books.

"I try not to study the night before just get my mind off of it and clear my thoughts," second-year pharmacy student Katherine Naseri says.

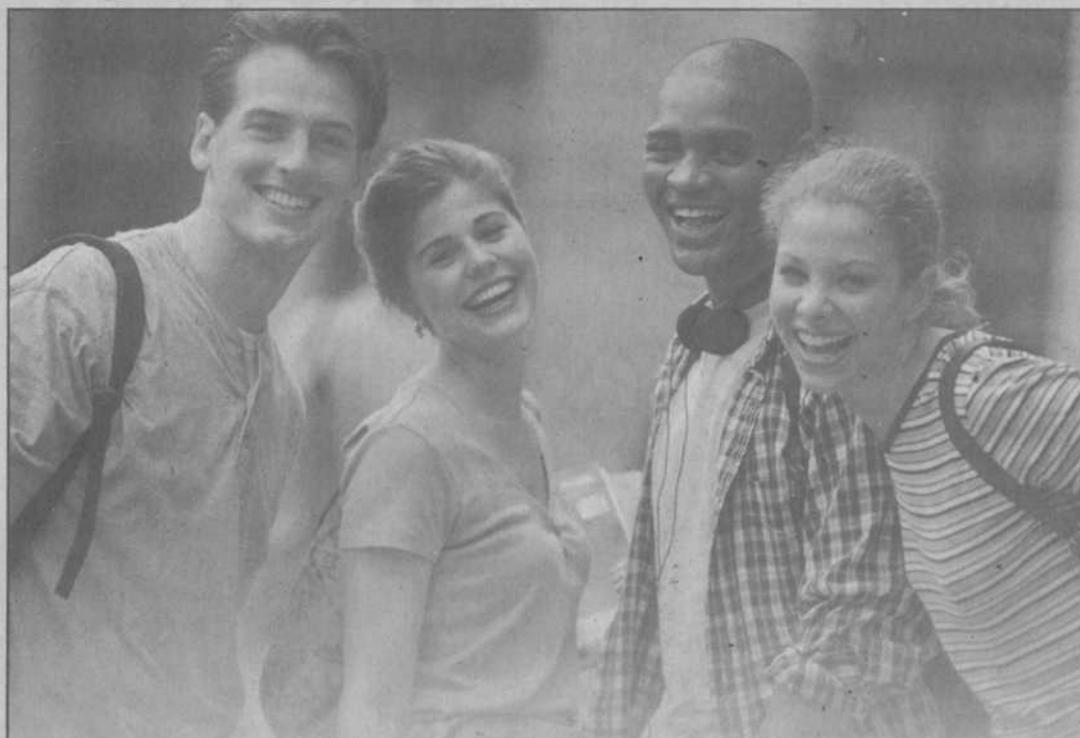
As for the day of the test, the College Board suggests checking that you have all necessary materials, including a watch for budgeting your time. The board recommends scanning the whole test and then carefully reading individual questions, responding first to ones you can easily answer.

"I think a lot of times, students approach exams as tests of what they don't know," Hunter says. "They should instead have a positive frame of mind and see exams as an opportunity to show their professors what they do know."

Sometimes, the biggest challenge students face when trying to survive exams is staying motivated, especially with the knowledge that summer break is just around the corner.

But for some, the sweet reward of the week's conclusion is all the inspiration they need. "I just keep telling myself there's only one week left and then it'll all be over," Naseri says.

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