

Tailor-made in Mississauga

MN April 26-27, 2003

Peel Bios. James, Taylor

Taylor James is suddenly big business.

Last week, she was a 22-year-old model who had appeared in product launch promotions and in calendars.

Friday, she became Miss June, the centrefold in *Playboy* Magazine.

From being faintly recognized around the GTA, she is about to be recognized around the world.

It's all part of a growing business plan to market herself and a line of lingerie she's been thinking about for years.

"I'm always drawing, always doodling," she said. "I took fashion design in Toronto and I've been working on a number of designs for some time now."

"I already have a number of contacts in the industry. I'll probably start with something simple and work up from there."

Unsaid is the fact she is now a celebrity and she intends to use this notoriety to her advantage.

Taylor James was born Earlene Samuels on July 21, 1980, in the Mississauga Hospital. She moved to the Orangeville/Hockley Valley area at 7, attended school there, but has been back living in the Port Credit for the past four years.

She said she's always had, "a drive to succeed at whatever I was doing," which led her to attend George Brown College and investigate a few careers. But when she was 17 her photographer friend, Chavis, suggested modelling. At the very least, she said, it would help pay for her schooling.

"He did my first portfolio, and at one point he said I should be doing *Playboy*," she said. "It was something that was in the back of my mind."



it." That decision to put their career first also cost her personally.

"It's too bad but I lost one of my best friends from school because of jealousy," she said. "I guess it's something that happens but I wish it hadn't."

As part of the business plan, she did contact *Playboy* a few years back. She went down to visit, they liked what they saw and worked to get her a U.S. work visa.

But a few months ago, she had to make a big decision when *Playboy* said they wanted to photograph her for



Taylor James turns heads just about everywhere she goes. The 22-year-old Port Credit area resident is *Playboy* Magazine's Miss June.

Playmate of the Month.

"I guess I had four years to think about it, but I really was torn," she said. "I talked to those close to me who I trust and they said 'go for it'. But it was my dad who encouraged me to go ahead. He was always backed me in everything I've done."

As a result of the centrefold, Taylor is incredibly busy doing. The week alone she is doing Mike Bullard, *CFRB*, *CH TV* in Hamilton, the *Toronto Sun*, *Breakfast Television*, and of course *The Mississauga News* because she still lives here.

If you look at the magazine, you'll find one of the first images is of her with a Canadian flag. On the Playmate

data sheet she lists Mississauga as he birthplace. She then waves the patriot flag verbally extolling Toronto as a great place to visit. Call it good luck or good planning, but it couldn't have come at a better time for Toronto's SARS image battle with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Interestingly, Taylor has no agent or handlers. She makes all her own decisions.

"I think things out and I have managed to come up with the right decisions," she said.

"Like I said, I've got a lot of street smarts and it helps when you have to make those quick decisions. I've learned to trust myself."

She is inviting Mississaugans to come out and meet her and have her sign the magazine on Tuesday from noon-2 p.m. at Gateway Newstands, in the Royal Trust/TD Centre. There is also Tuesday 4-6 p.m. or Wednesday from noon-2 p.m. at Great Canadian News, 368 Queen St. W., in Toronto.

Now that the magazine is out, she said the lingerie line is a priority, but she is also going to consider movie and television roles if they come her way. She will be making those decisions

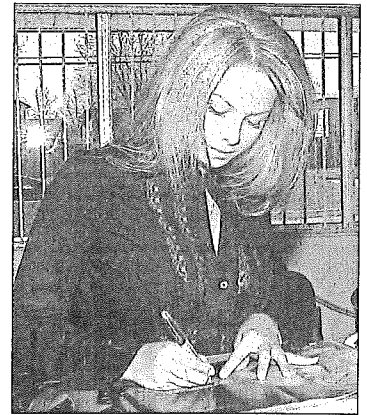
with direction from famed Toronto publicist Gino Empry.

"I am going to continue to work on the lingerie," she said, "I haven't really thought about anything like movies. But if it comes my way, I will consider it."

"Right now I want to concentrate on my schedule which is just nuts and do that as effectively as I can."

"After that...."

Yes, Taylor James is now big business and it looks like she has many more successes to come.



Staff photos by Chris Horobin