



NEWS:

- Homepage
- 2News Headlines
- Utah News
- 2News Video
- 2News Links

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- 2News This Morning
- Fresh Start 2 Fitness
- Healthy Living
- Fresh Idea
- Optimum Wellness
- Fresh Recipes
- Get Gephardt
- Talkin Sports
- D. Miller Outdoors
- 2News Weather

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- CBS Marketwatch
- Entertainment News
- Adoption Exchange
- 2News Team
- 2News Jobs
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- KUTV TV Schedule
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FOR BILL GEPHARDT'S EMAIL CLICK HERE!

or contact him by phone by calling: **801-973-3122**

Modeling

Nov 13, 2003 10:55 am US/Mountain

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Bill Gephardt

Has anyone ever told you your child could be a model? A Georgia modeling agency told lots of Utah's kids just that. But when a Bountiful teen discovered the agency's employees had less-than-glamorous histories, he decided to "Get Gephardt."

"If you want to become a model then this is the agency for you": that's just what the radio ad said. The ad also talked about earning big bucks simply for having the 'look.' Your face could be what they need. But in the end, what modeling agencies like this want is your money.

"Let's see the stomach that apparently got you the deal," said "Get Gephardt" producer Mike Sanches off camera.

Brandon Donovan thought his six-pack abs and his "awesome" smile gave him the "look" so he answered a radio ad for models.

"They just told us right from the beginning you either have the look or you don't," claimed Brandon.

"I think he has the look," said Brandon's mom.

You'd expect a mom to say that but Brandon says it was this man Kerry Killowitz seen last January in Mobile, Alabama working for Face Models but now working for Look Models who told Brandon he could make money modeling.

Up to \$150 an hour for different types of work. At the minimum you'll make \$15 an hour and on average you can make anywhere from \$25 to \$30 an hour.

But to get those jobs Killowitz told Brandon he'd need photo comp cards. The cost, \$649, and that's if Look Models shot them and there'd be printing charges. Brandon paid Look Models \$475 in deposits but just days before the scheduled photo shoot, he made an alarming discovery on the Internet.

"Oh, it just made me sick to my stomach," said Brandon's mom.

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**TONIGHT
ON CBS**

Wed., June 23

All Times MST

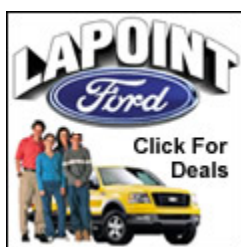
7:00 60 Minutes

8:00 The King of
Queens

8:30 Still Standing

9:00 48 Hours

CBS.com



At this site, Easy Background Check, there was Kerry Killowitz's name and details of his connection to a North Carolina modeling agency called Face. Face is accused of scamming people like Brandon. The web site also had a copy of the Face's contract. Brandon compared it to the one he had just signed with Kerry Killowitz.

"They're exactly the same--even the font is the same. I just went down in my room and I cried," said Brandon.

"We will be there on Saturday morning telling him we want our money back," said Brandon's mom.

But that Saturday morning--guess what? No Kerry Killowitz, just this man, Los Angeles photographer Steven Andres. His job? Collect more money and take pictures.

"Do you know how to reach them?" asked Bill.

The photographer gave me this business card for "Look Models" owner Vincent Dunn and as Brandon told others what he now knew. Guess what? It was Vincent Dunn on the hotel phone for me.

"You want to sit for an interview with me? You don't want to sit for an interview," Bill said as he questioned Vincent Dunn on the phone. "It appears to me that Look and Face are operating pretty much in the same fashion. No?"

Dunn admitted he and Killowitz were both former employees of Face but did not tell me how the two companies were different. As to whether Look Models had gotten paying jobs for clients.

"None of your models have ever been represented at any agency--that's what you're telling me because you've only been in business three months," said Bill. "It's photos. That's what they are doing. They are paying for photos they're not paying for representation. That's not what they understood."

I asked Dunn what he planned to do for people like Brandon who had thought they were getting more than just pictures for their money.

"You are 100% willing to give people their money back if they contact you?" Bill questioned Dunn on the phone.

But after that phone call, Look Models told Brandon they'd refund his money only if we didn't run the story you just saw. In the end it took weeks but Brandon finally did get his money back. So the moral here: don't pay modeling agencies. Let them pay you if you really have the "look." They'll pay for everything.

If you have a problem you can't solve maybe I can help. My phone number is 973-3122 or my email gephardt@kutv2.com.

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