

Goodland family found New York to be another world

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
High rise buildings, armed guards, \$30 steaks and a \$2,000 studio apartment — one Goodland family knew they were not in Kansas anymore.

During two-months of casting calls, photo shoots and fashion shows, Chris Baumfalk and his parents, Virgil and Jackie Baumfalk, saw the glitz and glamour along with the overpopulation and grime of New York City. And they were there through terror alerts, high security and protests during the Republican National Convention.

Despite seeing the bad and the ugly, the 16-year-old junior at Goodland High School enjoyed the good and found the downside of the city worth braving to further his modeling career.

Actually, after a call from Chris's agent, the Baumfalk family hopped on a plane for one of the longest commutes in history, returning to New York for a photo shoot after Chris had been back for less than a week of school.

And so far their efforts are paying off. Chris will appear in the December issue of *Cosmopolitan* and in *YM* in December, January and next spring. And he narrowly missed an opportunity to hit the runway for Fashion Week.

Chris said he was on hold for Fashion Week, but the client decided to release him.

They were looking for really long hair, he said, scruffy beards and bone skinny.

"At my agency in New York," Chris said, "there are 60 other models I compete with for the same jobs. You never know what look they want."

Age was also a factor for Fashion Week, he said, as the clients wanted 18 and 19-year-old models. He added most of his work would probably be for magazines and on the runway at fashion parties for the next couple of years.

But he's keeping plenty of irons in the fire. Chris said he had a chance to choose between Los Angeles and New York for work this summer.

"L.A. wants me in two years," he said; "New York wants me now."

Chris had shoots for the two magazines during his two-month stay in the city, along with photo shoots to build up his book to show

to clients, parties to show off clothing lines and castings, interviews to see if clients want to hire him.

He returned from New York last Thursday to start school and was planning to return to New York Monday, but the call from his agent got him and his parents on a plane Wednesday to be there at 8:30 a.m. Thursday for another photo shoot for *YM*.



Chris expects to spend part of the winter in Miami, and he may have a future in Los Angeles and overseas as well.

After two to three months in Miami, Chris said he will check on things with Los Angeles.

"I want to get into acting," he said; "modeling lasts only so long."

But that will be down the road. More

modeling in Milan, London and Tokyo will probably come first, he said.

For now, he is happy to have his parents' support in launching his career.

"I'm really lucky to have parents that are willing to do this for me," he said. "Not every 16-year-old has parents who are willing to move to New York. They really believe in me."

Chris said his work in New York included dressing up and going to parties, where he did a lot of hand-shaking and then took a turn on the runway to show off the clothes. He said he was paid \$500 for two hours' work at one party.

And his schmoozing included meeting celebrities. He said he met actress Gabrielle Union, who was in "She's All That" and "Bad Boys II," at an anniversary party for Gilla Roos Representatives.

But it wasn't all glamour. It looks easy, Chris said, but it's hard work. He said some of the downsides of modeling are waiting around all day and wearing winter clothes on the roof during summer.

It was so hot up there, he said — during the summer, they shoot for winter and during the winter shoot for summer.

And he said he had to wait all day in a recreational vehicle while everyone else had their photo shoots; he was last. But his mother didn't think it was such a hardship for him.

There were five girls and one guy, Jackie said.

Chris admitted that's a perk that comes with the job but seemed reluctant to rave about working with



Chris Baumfalk shared his chips with a squirrel in Madison Square Park while in New York to promote his modeling career. He spent two months in the city before returning to Goodland to start school.

Photo by Jackie Baumfalk

girls all day.

You have to get used to acting like a couple with a girl you just met, he said; it's not that easy.

Chris said when the family first went to New York, they stayed in a hotel a stone's throw from the Empire State Building. Now, he said, they rent a \$2,000 per month studio apartment across from the Trump Plaza.

"We could have found a cheaper place," he said, "but we felt safe there."

Well, most of the time. The apartment's 10 streets over from the Prudential Building, Chris said, one of the main buildings used during the Republican National Convention. The family's first day there, he said, there was a terror alert.

"You wake up here and nothing's going on," Chris said. "In New York there are guys with machine guns and full-body armor everywhere."

And he said not everyone was thrilled to have the convention in New York. There were nude protesters, he said.

Jackie took in some of the "flavor" of the convention, buying T-shirts and other memorabilia; shopped (Chris said she was in her element with four blocks of Macy's); and visited the sites of New York, including the parks.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, September 25, 2004

Time: 10 a.m. CT (doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale)

Auction Location: TNT & Jones Auction Facility, 200 N. Franklin, Colby, Kan.

Preview sale items between 5-7 p.m. CT Friday, September 24, 2004

HOUSEHOLD: Dining room set with table (& leaf), 6 chairs, buffet, china cabinet, beverage cart & cook book case; Table; Round Dinette Table; Pine Trestle Table w/ Bench & 4 chairs; Oak octagon parque dinette table; Oak glass top sofa table; Pine end tables; Oval oak coffee table; End tables; Blonde china Hutch; Walnut China Hutch Buffet; King size Bed; King size water bed frame with mirrored headboard; King size headboard; Full size bed; Full size head and foot board; Double Bed w/ box spring & mattress; Twin Bed; Twin mattress set; 2 – Twin foam mattresses; Jenny Lind twin bed; Twin size day bed; Several baby beds; Assorted Bedding; 9 Drawer dresser; 6 Drawer dresser; Dresser w/Mirror; Chest of drawers; Black and white chair and ottoman; 2 piece sofa and ottoman; Set of 4 wooden chairs; Blue leather office chair; 2 – Blue, beige & gold chairs; La-Z-Boy rocker/recliner; 2 – Oak swivel bar stools; Assorted bar stools; Green sofa; Gossip seat; Adult potty chair; Wheel chair; Invacare battery powered wheel chair with charger; Pine bathroom space saver; Kenmore dryer; Kenmore washer and dryer; Kenmore dish washer; Chest deep freezer; Microwave oven; Assorted cooking utensils; Bakers rack; Pine wineglass rack; Hall tree; Coat rack; Metal shelf; Wooden bird houses; Rocky Pass mountain bike; Glass top patio set; Assorted table lamps; Sewing machine in cabinet; Sewing machine cabinet; Console TV; Console Record Player; Console stereo; VCR; Decorative horse statuary; Magazine rack; 2 – Standing ash trays; Trunk with trays (good condition); Wooden door with 3 windows, Misc. kitchen items, Misc. linens & bedding, Marble

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES:

1930's Waterfall Vanity w/Mirror, Flat Top Trunk, Parking Meter, Pine 2 door wardrobe

SHOP & GARDEN: 2 Wooden Ladders; Cast Iron Shingle Cutter; Transit w/Stand & Marker; Lectro HD Skill Saw; McCulloch Chain Saw; Wooden Pulley Wheel; Cast Iron Implement Seat; Fishing chairs; BBQ Grill; Snapper Lawn mower; Craftsman Snow Blower; Assorted Sheets of plywood; New Window screens; Brand New Pre hung Door & Window; Approximate size: 4 1/2' x 7'; Sliding glass patio doors; Metal Window wells; Dimension Lumber 2x4, 2x6 & other; Metal trusses; Assorted steel; Jacobason Lawn Vacuum

AUTO: Bucket Seat; 1988 Plymouth Reliant Station Wagon; 1989 Mercury Cougar, white with vinyl top

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