

## OCCUPATIONAL HAZZARDS DEPT.

In recent years, new college graduates have experienced increasing difficulty as they search for jobs in their chosen fields. For the Class of '72, the employment outlook has been the gloomiest yet. In the hope of comforting those who remain out of work, MAD herewith spotlights the correspondence file of one unusually well-qualified graduate to illustrate the frustrations and heartbreak, once you begin writing . . .

# JOB APPLICATION LETTERS

WRITERS: TOM KOCH & RONNIE NATHAN

340 E. Rin-Tin-Tin Memorial Dr.  
Hope Springs, N.J.  
June 16th, 1972

Personnel Director  
Computing & Software Division  
Conglomerate Industries  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:--

After thorough investigation of all major Data Processing firms, I am happy to inform you that I have selected yours as the company with which I would most like to be associated.

Your bold experimentation in attempting to perfect a self-programmed, creative thinking, post-series 4000 computer offers a challenge to my own independent studies in this exciting field. Also, my work at the California Institute of Technology in the areas of micro-wave diffusion and induction coil problem solving, as they pertained to my Ph.D. dissertation, should prove invaluable to you.

Additionally, I hold advanced degrees from M.I.T. in quantum engineering and theoretical subtraction, as well as a diploma from the Utica Prep School for the Incredibly Gifted. I have been president of my local chapter of Rho Mu Rho Fraternity, and am an active member of the Episcopalian Church.

Despite my impeccable background, I am more interested in making a contribution to advanced computer development than in immediate financial rewards. Therefore, I would be willing to start at a minimum of \$15,000, with periodic increases to be based on performance.

I look forward to an early personal interview to finalize employment arrangements.

Very sincerely yours,  
*Elias W. Zergentstodt, Jr.*  
Elias W. Zergentstodt, Jr.

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## LUCKY TIGER COMPUTER & SOFTWARE CORP. A Division of Conglomerate Industries

"Building a Better America by Building Everything!"

Dear Applicant:

We regret that the recent volume of employment requests from Ph.D.s precludes all possibility of a personal reply to your application.

However, please be advised that your

- Form 3261
- Resumé
- Letter

has been reviewed thoroughly. Unfortunately, it must now be filed in our Memory Bank Department's memory bank for the following reason(s):

- Excessive salary requirement
- Lack of mastery of English language
- No anticipated openings in type of work applied for
- Applicant seems mentally disturbed

We hope to expand our research and executive training programs in fiscal 1975, at which time we may be in touch with you. Currently, our only openings are in the Computer Maintenance & Repair Dept., doing work for which you are obviously over-qualified.

With all good wishes,

*Nancy Lu Lemming*  
Nancy Lu Lemming  
Associate Personnel Assistant

340 E. Rin-Tin-Tin Memorial Dr.  
Hope Springs, N.J.  
June 29, 1972

Maintenance & Repair Dept.  
Lucky Tiger Computer & Software Corp.  
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:--

It has recently been brought to my attention that your department is in need of men to perform a challenging type of service for which I find myself unusually well qualified.

A thorough knowledge of data systems of all types coupled with a desire to re-locate wherever current job openings may exist does, I believe, merit an early interview with your department head. Also, I have taken the liberty of studying your contract with the American Brotherhood of Computer Repairmen, and feel that the \$5.68 per hour minimum for Master Maintenance Technicians would be adequate to meet my current financial needs.

Yours truly,  
*Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.*  
Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.

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**LUCKY TIGER COMPUTER & SOFTWARE CORP.**  
A Division of Conglomerate Industries

"Building a Better America by Building Everything!"

July 12, 1972

Dear Mr. Zergenstodt:

Your recent letter to our Maintenance & Repair Dept. has been referred to this Central Personnel Office where all job application matters are handled.

A routine check through our Central Memory Bank reveals that we already have an executive position application on file from an Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr. This man described himself as a Ph.D., a fraternity president and an Episcopalian. Due to our new policy of hiring only underprivileged members of racial minority groups for semi-skilled jobs, we naturally fear that you may be the same Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr., who exposed his apparent Caucasianism to us previously. If so, hiring you would seriously jeopardize our government subsidy, under which we agree to employ only Federal Job Corps Computer Maintenance Training Program graduates as apprentices. Also, your earlier letter makes no mention of your ability to drive a repair truck, which is an obvious requirement for Maintenance Dept. employment.

Yours very truly,  
*Nancy Lu Lemming*  
Nancy Lu Lemming  
Associate Personnel Assistant

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340 E. Rin-Tin-Tin Memorial Dr.  
Hope Springs, N.J.  
Aug. 11, 1972

State Department of Employment  
Trenton, N.J.

Gentlemen:

After considerable correspondence with numerous prospective employers, it has been determined by the Federal Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare that my high degree of training and education calls for the unique services of your office to aid me in locating a career position.

I hold a Ph.D. degree in Advanced Computer Theory with emphasis on micro-wave diffusion and induction coil problem solving. I am sure that a great demand exists for a man with these qualifications, but apparently have not presented myself to the proper potential employers as yet.

Please direct your response to me in care of the Hope Springs Y.M.C.A., where I am taking up residence tomorrow due to the financial problems growing out of my present situation.

Gratefully yours,  
*Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.*  
Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.

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**State Department of Employment,  
Trenton, N.J.**

Aug. 28, 1972

Dear Mr. Zergenstodt:

A thorough check of our records indicates that you had no earnings in New Jersey in 1971 and, therefore, are not eligible for unemployment insurance at this time.

However, our Placement Division has made inquiry on your behalf with a firm that has come to us in the past seeking technical personnel, the Lucky Tiger Computer & Software Corp. of Chicago. A response from Miss Lemming of that company reveals that you sought work there recently as a truck driver, but were rejected on the grounds that you don't know how to drive a truck.

Therefore, it is apparent that you can be certified "chronically unemployable", and, thus, eligible for benefits under the Welfare Act of 1970. I am happy to be able to bring you this good news, and urge you to contact your nearest State Welfare office at once.

Yours very truly,  
*Mrs. Lucretia Nobleman*  
Mrs. Lucretia Nobleman  
Indigent Counseling Dept.

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340 E. Rin-Tin-Tin Memorial Dr.  
Hope Springs, N.J.  
July 17, 1972

Federal Job Corps  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I have recently been informed by an official of the Lucky Tiger Computer & Software Corp. that your department is involved in training underprivileged members of minority groups to become employable Computer Maintenance Technicians. I am most interested in this humanitarian endeavor, and find myself fortunate enough to possess all of the qualifications outlined in Civil Service Bulletin L-19873 for employment as a Training Instructor. Even though the starting salary for an instructor with a Ph.D. degree is listed as only \$8,560 per annum, I feel sure that the constructive nature of the work would, in itself, offer great compensation. May I hear from you soon regarding an assignment and starting date?

Very sincerely yours,

*Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.*  
Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION AND WELFARE**  
Washington, D.C.

5 August, 1972

Dear Mr. Zergenstodt:

Per your recent request, find enclosed Federal Employment Application Form 6279, Standard U.S. Security Clearance Form 8821-R, and all Civil Service forms (2434, 2434-Revised and 7689409) to be filled out by applicants for the position of Job Corps Training Instructor, Computer Maintenance Category, Classification G-14.

However, please be advised that the position of Job Corps Training Instructor, Computer Maintenance Category, Classification G-14 was abolished in 1969. The Job Corps still has occasional openings for G-7 Field Representatives, but this position requires that the applicant be able to operate a motor vehicle. The Lucky Tiger Computer & Software Corp., which you listed as a reference, informs us that you are unable to meet this requirement. Therefore, I suggest you contact your State Employment Office for a list of private industry job openings that call for whatever skills you may possibly possess.

Yours truly,

*V.V. Zbojnitak*  
V. V. Zbojnitak

Senior Letter Typist G-10

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Depot Square Y.M.C.A.  
Hope Springs, N.J.  
Sept. 4, 1972

New Jersey State Welfare Dept.  
Perth Amboy, N.J.

Gentlemen:

Having been unable to find work for some time due to a clerical misunderstanding at one of the firms where I applied, I have now been referred to your office for subsistence level aid.

I would expect my need for welfare assistance to be brief as I have a strong educational background, including a Ph.D. However, a totally irrelevant report circulated by the Lucky Tiger Computer & Software Corp. that I am unable to drive a truck has created widespread problems in bringing my executive and technical qualifications to anyone's attention.

Please act on this matter quickly as I am down to my last four dollars.

Yours truly,

*Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.*  
Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.

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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE**  
Perth Amboy Branch

Oct. 5, 1972

Dear Sir:-

We are in receipt of your most unusual letter of 9/4 in which you contend that you are not the same Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr., who was unable to meet the employment requirements of Lucky Tiger Computer & Software due to requirements of truck operator's license. Naturally, such a statement cannot go unchallenged. Hence, we have checked with the New Jersey Dept. of Motor Vehicles, and find that neither you nor any other Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr., has even applied for such a license.

Additionally, the necessity of filing copies of all State Welfare applications with the Federal Government has brought forth some other interesting facts about you. Your H.E.W. file in Washington reveals that you failed to pursue an inquiry regarding a Civil Service post after you found that a Security Clearance would be required.

This office currently is engaged in correspondence with a Miss Lemming of Lucky Tiger and Software in an effort to determine what your true objectives in this bizarre matter may be.

Meantime, be advised that you are not eligible for aid under the Welfare Act of 1970, but may qualify for indictment under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

Most cordially,

*A. C. Eichmann*  
A. C. Eichmann

Inquiry & Detention Director

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Nancy Lu Lemming  
Lucky Tiger Computer & Software  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Meathead!

Many months ago, I sent an application for an executive position with your firm, which you immediately fouled up while filing it in the memory bank of one of your own junky computers!

Your stupidity, together with the unique inability of the Lucky Tiger Super 4000 to erase any mistaken input, has driven me to the brink of starvation and, more recently, probable arrest.

If you had hired me

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when I first applied, I am sure I could have corrected this glaring flaw in the Super 4000 by now. Instead, for lack of a simple erasing device, your computers continue to fouse things up throughout the free world. I draw consolation only from the fact that my graduate research on your machines revealed that faulty wiring will cause them all to explode after a few years' use.

Triumphantly,  
Elias W. Zergenstodt, Jr.

P.S. Please excuse my poor penmanship. With winter coming on, I recently traded my typewriter for an Army surplus overcoat!

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## RALPH NADER & ASSOCIATES

Washington, D.C.

Mr. Elias Zergenstodt  
c/o General Delivery  
Hope Springs, N.J.

Oct. 20, 1972

Dear Mr. Zergenstodt:

One of our field workers assigned to rooting through waste baskets of irresponsible corporations has discovered your letter of Oct. 5 to a Miss Nancy Lu Lemming of Lucky Tiger Computer & Software.

We find that your allegation of dangerous flaws in the Lucky Tiger Super 4000 confirms our own suspicions about this particular model. Therefore, I am authorized to offer you a \$20,000 per year position with our group's Technical Testing & Fraud Detection Dept.

We have taken the liberty of checking out your superb qualifications completely before making this offer, and only regret that we did not learn of your availability sooner.

Yours truly,  
*Llewelyn Sidlinger*  
Llewelyn Sidlinger  
High Ranking Crusader

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## Snickering Sycamores Sanitarium

Hollow Glen, New Jersey

Nov. 19, 1972

Mr. Llewelyn Sidlinger  
Ralph Nader & Associates  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sidlinger:

In keeping with our policy of screening all mail forwarded to patients here, I have your recent letter to Elias Zergenstodt at hand. All things considered, I feel it would be unwise to show it to Elias just now.

As you may know, his increasingly abnormal behavior culminated in a written threat to blow up all of the computers produced by the Lucky Tiger Corp. of Chicago. It was this threat, reported to authorities by Miss Nancy Lu Lemming of Lucky Tiger, that resulted in Zergenstodt's commitment to our facility.

We are pleased that your organization shows an enlightened willingness to hire the mentally restored. However, it is unlikely that Elias will be able to handle a job entailing any degree of skill or responsibility in the foreseeable future.

Currently, we are attempting to instruct him in Basket Weaving. Should you have an opening for a man to do this type of handicraft work, we would consider placing him in your custody as soon as we feel that his behavior is no longer a threat to himself or others.

Yours truly,  
*Napoleon Swinehart*  
Napoleon Swinehart  
Resident Superintendent