

December 4, 2001

Well, I'm almost hesitant to send this, because I'm afraid that as soon as I send you some type of good news, something bad will happen, I wanted to catch you up on how I'm doing. I'm certainly not one to think negatively, but after the last year, I have to think realistically. And when it comes down to it, I have BAD LUCK. I'm hoping all of that is going to change, so here is an update of what's been going on with me the last two weeks.

After a very trying two and a half weeks of being unemployed, sending out resumes and filling out application after application, I got another placement through my temp agency Accountemps. Last Friday, I started working for McKendree Imaging in Norfolk in their accounting department (They're a copier/mail equipment company). I had actually sent them a resume last Monday, but when I went to the interview through Accountemps, the Controller who interviewed me was so impressed that he wanted to hire me directly. Unfortunately, because Accountemps sent me, I have to stay a temp for 45 days. On the application I put that I wanted \$28,000 as a starting salary, because that's almost what I was making at GEICO when I left. Kent (the Controller and my direct boss) told me today that he'd be more comfortable starting me at \$25,000,

but that he'd give me a salary review after 90 days. For now, though, I'm making \$11 an hour as a temp.

I'm not sure about the job just yet. I know I'm still learning, but Kent is going to be a hard one to work for. He's the biggest control freak I've ever worked for, and I've worked for some very controlling bosses (yes you, Pat *wink*). It's a small company so he's not only the Controller, he's also head of HR, the System Administrator, and handles the Telecommunications for the company. All of that is fine, but he's the type that he thinks that if he doesn't do it himself he has to check it to make sure it's right. He even doubted Excel's mathematics today. Oy Vey! Of course, he may not be as anal about some of the things that I know will pluck my last good nerve once I'm there awhile and he learns I'm very competent. But I'm certainly not going to stop looking for a job. I just won't have to do it as a full-time job now. I really don't have the time for that now anyway. On top of working at this job, I had started at Wal-Mart in the Electronics department last Thursday. I'm going to be working both jobs for awhile until I can get caught back up, find a job that will pay my bills without having to work two jobs, or get burned out, whichever comes first. I've certainly learned a lot of lessons about working for companies over the last 6 months. For one, no matter how much they say they appreciate you, when it comes down to it, you're

nothing more than a figure on a report. I've also learned that there's no real job security.

I'm hoping to get hired with a company called Towers Perrin. They're a business consulting company and have an incredible facility in Chesapeake. From what I've read on their site, they seem like an excellent company to work for. I took them my resume last Thursday and am going to do a follow-up call to see if I can schedule an interview. I just hope I can find a way to be able to GO for an interview. Kent is very anal about punctuality and not missing any time. Still, I think I'd be better working for a company that is large and has many places I can go if I get bored, and I always do. Plus, I'm hoping that I can get a job that requires travel. I have always wanted to have a job where I could travel to different places in the US or abroad. I know it probably gets exhausting after awhile, but since I don't have a family or anything that really requires me to be at home each night, I think I'd probably like it. Not to mention the fact that I haven't traveled further west than Kentucky, further north than New York, or further south than North Carolina. I guess we'll see how this story plot turns out. I'm just hoping to get some kind of stability back in my life. I have a lot I want to get done in the next year. I want to get at least 50% of my debts paid off and enroll back in school.

Among all the many other lessons I've learned over the last year, I've learned how valuable a Bachelor's degree is. And while I wouldn't necessarily need it at this

company I'm working for now, the future is too uncertain to think that I might not need it at all.

While my job situation was certainly the biggest drama that has been going on the last month, I've also had to look for another roommate since my aunt didn't pay rent this month and has expressed no interest of coming back unless she can bring her cheating, scummy-ass, chain-smoking boyfriend with her (which she knows is NOT going to happen). Fortunately, I was able to get a \$1,000 cash advance from one of my credit cards so that I could pay my bills for the month since I certainly didn't make nearly enough from the week and a half that I did work in November. It's very disheartening that I won't be able to buy Christmas presents this year, but now that I believe I'm back on track, next year should be much better. *crossing fingers*

Well, that basically catches you up to date on what's been going on with me. I can almost see a resemblance of a light at the end of the tunnel. It's dim, but at least it's there. I'm focused and I have a plan so things are certainly looking up. I appreciate all the support and will keep you updated on Hampton Roads most dramatic soap opera: My life.

Take care,

Terry