

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1251 The Truth About Lying on a Resume

You may be familiar with the name George Santos. He's a newly elected congressman from New York, and is the new poster boy for what can happen to you if you're caught lying on a resume. Before we go any further, let me ask: would you ever do such a thing? I'm Jerry Roberts and today we'll explore the fine art of embellishing your story in the pursuit of a job, coming next on The Extra Point.

During his successful campaign for Congress, George Santos wrote in his campaign biography that his grandparents were born in Ukraine and escaped the Holocaust by fleeing to Belgium, before fleeing again to Brazil, leading some to question whether he was in fact Jewish as he claimed.

Santos said that, although he practiced Catholicism, he was a non-observant Jew. That means he believed in the Torah, the five books of Moses in the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament.

It turns out that's not true. When questioned, Santos said he'd heard stories about his grandmother being Jewish before converting to Catholicism.

Quoting, he said: "Because I learned my maternal family had a Jewish background I said I was 'Jew-ish.'" That's not Jewish, but Jew-ish. Then he said, "But I'm still the same guy, I'm not a fraud."

Santos claimed to have a 3.89 grade-point-average from Baruch College and also studied at New York University. Neither school could find any records of Santos' enrollment.

He said he worked at Goldman Sachs and Citigroup. Nope. The New York Times reported that during the time Santos claimed to be on the payroll at Citigroup, he was actually a customer service agent for Dish Network.

George Santos is only the most recent high profile person to get caught fudging facts in

their background story. In May 2002, Sandra Baldwin, the first woman to be appointed the president and chair of the US Olympic Committee, resigned after admitting she lied about getting a doctorate.

RadioShack Chief Executive Officer David Edmondson resigned in 2006 after it emerged that he lied about his academic credentials.

Yahoo CEO Scott Thompson quit after failing to correct claims about his education. In 2014, Walmart's chief spokesman David Tovar chose to resign after the company discovered a falsehood in his official biography.

Another one from higher education. Marilee Jones, dean of admissions at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, had to leave when officials found out she had lied for 28 years about how many college degrees she had earned. She said three. In reality, she had none.

A fellow named Joe Biden once claimed to have three degrees. He had one. He also claimed that he "really enjoyed teaching" when he was a "professor" at the University of Pennsylvania. Biden was paid \$1 million for that, but never actually taught a single class.

In survey after survey over the years, Americans have owned up to lying on their résumés. Almost all recruiters and hiring managers have said they've witnessed lying first hand. Men lie more than women, the surveys show, and younger jobseekers lie more than older ones.

Like Santos, Biden called it "embellishing." Is there a difference between that and lying? In the case of Santos' grade-point average, let's say he did attend Baruch College and decided to say he had a 3.9 GPA instead of 3.89. That's a mild embellishment. Him saying he went to school there and didn't is a major lie.

(Con't.)

What does this mean for Guam HR people who have a role in hiring? Two things. First, it's likely that there are people on your team who have listed information on their resume that isn't legit. The second thing is that you're almost certainly going to see more of the same in the future.

Why? The answer to that comes from the results of a survey put out by software provider ResumeLab. What they found out is that, of those who lied on a resume, only 21% were fired or not hired.

In other words, of those who lied and were caught, 79% were allowed to get away with it. That's a shocking number.

I only have one thing to say.

What's on YOUR resume?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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