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Liars Index® Has its Ups and Downs in 2008
“Lying King” for 2008: Was he really an Eagle Scout?

Brookfield, WI - The Liars Index®, which reflects a percentage of executives misstating their academic credentials on their resumes, slipped back to 11.43% in the last half of 2008. Over the last three years the trend of volatility in the Index continued, as the rate declined 4.48 points from the first half of the year, bringing the running two-year average down to 13.21%.

Over the years since its inception in 1995 the Liars Index® has reached as high as 23.30% (in 2000), with a low of 6.06% in 2003, so employers can assume that, on average, one in seven resumes will fudge their education claims. Jude Werra, President of the Brookfield, WI executive search and selection firm, Jude M. Werra & Associates, said, “Verification of education claims is an uncomplicated, but often overlooked, wise first step in considering candidates’ representations.”

Each year Werra selects a “Lying King” from among an array of individuals who thought stretching the truth was worthwhile. A man who described a global career in Compliance and Licensing in the Financial/Brokerage industry lacks the degree he listed. “Although he did earn a community college Associate degree, there is no record at his claimed Alma Mater that he had ever attended their school, so a Bachelor degree in History, listed on his resume, is bogus,” said Werra. Besides listing several trade association memberships, this year’s “Lying King” also claimed past service in the Pentagon, a self-financed education, and that he was an Eagle Scout, to boot. “If he fudged his degree, what can you presume about the rest of his claims?” asks Werra.

According to a current poll by Jeffrey Seglin, who teaches Ethics at Emerson College, 94 percent of his readers thought executives should be fired if they listed false information on their resumes (www.jeffreyseglin.com). “It is a dangerous career practice to fudge your resume when education is easily checked,” said Werra.

Liars Index®/Add One

Our Latest Data:

| Data Point | 1st Half 2005 | 2nd Half 2005 | 1st Half 2006 | 2nd Half 2006 | 1st Half 2007 | 2nd Half 2007 | 1st Half 2008 | 2nd Half 2008 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Semi-annual Percentage | 10.73% | 11.61% | 16.07% | 13.86% | 15.15% | 10.34% | 15.91% | 11.43% |
| Prior Two Year Average | 9.62% | 11.01% | 12.57% | 13.07% | 14.17% | 13.85% | 14.25% | 13.21% |

Jude M. Werra & Associates, LLC updates its “**Liars Index®**” on a semiannual basis. The firm is dedicated to bringing clarity to Directors and Officers executive assessment, search and selection nationwide, and has affiliates serving Latin America and Europe.

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