

# *How to Get* **FIRED!**

*The New Employee's Guide  
to Perpetual Unemployment*

A man in a dark suit and blue shirt is seen from behind, celebrating with his arms raised. He is holding a red patterned tie in his right hand and a white coffee cup in his left. He is wearing a watch on his left wrist. The background shows a city skyline with several tall buildings and greenery.

**JEFF HAVENS**

# **How to Get Fired!**

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Perpetual Unemployment**

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**Jeff Havens**

How to Get Fired!

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# Dedication

To all the lazy, incompetent, arrogant, uncooperative, self-absorbed, deceitful, gossip-mongering, intolerant, perpetually complaining people who get fired every year, without whom this book could not have been written.



# How to Get Fired!

## The New Employee's Guide to Perpetual Unemployment

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## Why You Need This Book

Welcome, and congratulations on either purchasing or stealing your very own copy of *How to Get Fired!* By choosing to open this book, you have made a conscious decision to avoid the soul-crushing existence that comes from having a full-time job. You've enjoyed your last six or twelve years in college – filled as I'm sure they have been with snowball fights, beer pong, drunken hookups, late-night Waffle House runs, and the occasional, accidental moment of formal learning – and you're in no hurry to trade your current carefree life for one filled with stress and responsibility.

More importantly, you've seen your parents wither away, their smiles fading and their hair slowly falling out as they slog day after day after day through the soupy muck of the working world. Remember when they used to laugh instead of weeping for no apparent reason? Remember how spry they used to be, how easily they could lift you onto their shoulders and twirl you around the yard? When was the last time that happened – ten, fifteen years ago? The daily grind caught up to them, and there was nothing you could do.

Or perhaps you have friends who've graduated before you, and you've watched them transform into people you never thought they'd be – sad, pathetic wretches forced to comb their



hair every day and wear watches and who occasionally *choose* to go to bed before midnight in order to summon the strength they'll need to face another unspeakably productive day at the office. You've watched it happen, and I know you've sworn to yourself, in a moment of blinding clarity while others held your legs for a marathon keg stand: *That's not going to happen to me.* And so again, congratulations for finding this book.

In these pages you will acquire all the wisdom necessary to ensure that you never have to suffer the burden of stable employment for very long. Every piece of information in this book has been market-tested. Thousands of people – nay, *hundreds of thousands* – have used the techniques in this book to shortcut their way straight into the unemployment line. Most of what you'll read is not new. But until now no one had thought to compile this information. Imagine the countless workers forced to figure out how to get fired all on their own, stumbling blindly through the mazes until stubborn determination or dumb luck allowed them the sweet release you now seek for yourself. That's why I have taken it upon myself to write this book, to ensure that nobody has to struggle to get fired in the future, and it is the reason that I fully expect to see statues of myself erected in honor of me around the world before I die.

As you will already have noticed, this book assumes that you either have attended or are currently in college. However, you don't have to have gone to college to appreciate what this book has to offer. *How to Get Fired!* is intended for anybody new to the professional world, whether you're about to graduate from high school, trade school, college, or prison. In most cases, the ideal reader of this book is under 30. Those of you who are older or who have held stable jobs for the past several years will undoubtedly be familiar with most of the advice in this book,

because you'll have seen some of your coworkers use these concepts to secure their own successful terminations. Of course you're welcome to read this book too – after all, it might give you some pleasure by reminding you of your former, fallen colleagues. But for those of you about to embark into the wide world of resumes, benefits, power lunches, conference calls, teambuilding seminars, and everything else in the depressing world of adulthood, this book is indispensable.

Now I know some of you think you don't need this book. You've paid attention to the current recession and its deleterious effect on our employment rate. You've seen wave after wave of outsourcing remove thousands of jobs from the manufacturing, textile, technology, and information systems sectors. You've seen the parking lot at your local movie theater full on weekday afternoons. And you're thinking to yourself, "I don't need to do anything to get fired; it's so easy right now I should be perfectly fine."

Don't allow yourself to be persuaded by such slippery logic. There are two reasons you'll need this book. The first is that those issues mentioned above – downsizing, outsourcing, recessions, etc. – are things you can't control. They just happen; they're part of the nature of a market economy. ***How to Get Fired!*** focuses on the things you *can* control, the things you yourself can do to assure that you are never employed for very long. I want to put the power in your hands so that you won't be beholden to the whims of impersonal market forces.

Why should it matter? It matters because of the second reason you'll need this book, which is this: someday the economy is going to get better. Someday the unemployment level will taper off, then fall back to so-called 'healthier' levels. Someday there might even be, dare I say it, an *excess* of available jobs. And

if that terrible day ever comes, if we are ever unfortunate enough to have more jobs available than there are workers to fill them, it will be much, much harder to get fired than it is now. That's why you need *How to Get Fired!*, so that you'll know how to lose a job *in any economy*.

I also imagine that some of you are wondering what makes me qualified to write this book. That's a very good question for which I have a very good answer. To put it simply, I have been fired from more jobs than you are likely to ever have. Some of the best and not-so-best companies in America – from Google and Boeing to Enron and Steamy's Gentlemen's Club – have decided that I am not worth a paycheck. The longest job I've ever held lasted exactly 43 days, during which time my parents began to seriously worry that I might one day move out of the house. But true to form, it ended in spectacularly bad fashion, and I am still comfortably ensconced in my family's basement, feasting on box macaroni whenever I please and drowning in World of Warcraft megaquests. As of the writing of this preface, I have gone six days without a shower. I have achieved nirvana, my future acolyte, and I can guarantee that if you follow the lessons in this book you will find the same glory I have.

So, without further adieu, let's highlight the main points we'll be covering.

The following is the result of hours of Internet<sup>1</sup> research coupled with conversations with hundreds of business owners from dozens of industries across the United States. Together, they've helped me compile a Top Ten List of the reasons,

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<sup>1</sup> The Internet itself is a fantastic tool to help get yourself fired, which I have used on several occasions with remarkable success. We'll cover how it can help you in more detail in the awesomely titled chapter *The Internet*.

excluding layoffs and recession-based cutbacks, that most commonly lead to employees getting fired.

## **Top Ten Reasons People Get Fired**

(excluding layoffs, recessions, depressions, natural disasters, outsourcing, downsizing, or setting your building on fire)

**Lying on your resume**

**Unreliable work and behaviors**

**Inability to do assigned job tasks**

**Performing tasks slowly,  
with numerous errors<sup>2</sup>**

**High absenteeism**

**Conducting personal business  
at work**

**Drug and/or alcohol abuse**

**Dishonesty on the job**

**Refusing to follow  
directions and orders**

**Inability to get along with others**

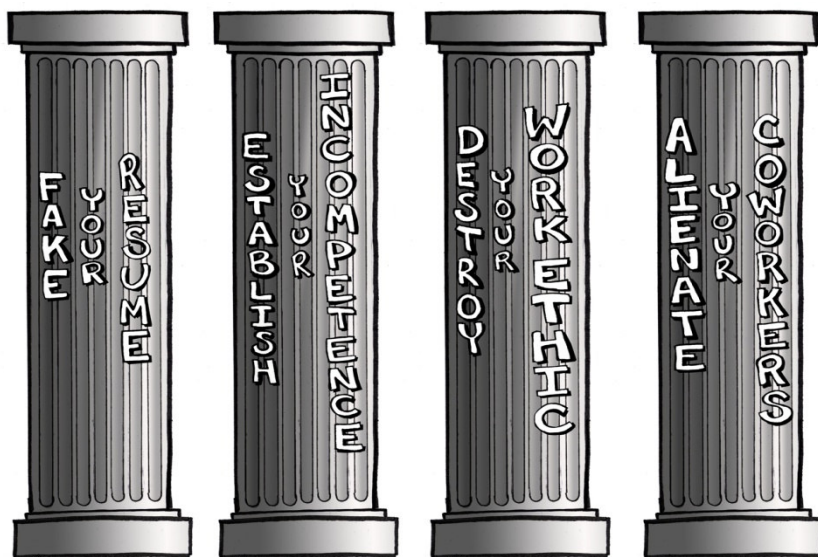
These are not listed in order of popularity; lying on your resume is not necessarily the most effective way to get fired. Rather, I have organized these behaviors in order to better discuss the major themes of getting fired – or as I like to

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<sup>2</sup> Anyone catch the misspelled word in the one about making mistakes? I am hilarious.

call them, the Four Pillars of Poverty. The Pillars are, respectively:

- 1) Fake your resume
- 2) Establish your incompetence
- 3) Destroy your work ethic
- 4) Alienate your coworkers<sup>3</sup>




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<sup>3</sup> For those of you who have heard the lecture associated with this book, you will know that this section was originally titled “Being an \*\*\*\*\*.” However, I decided to write this book without cursing, and none of the \*\*\*\*\* substitutes that I thought of – Jerkwad, Meanie, Doodyhead, Dingleberry, etc. – had the pure, evocative power of the \*\*\*\*\* they were designed to replace. So I gave up and went with a safer, albeit more pedestrian, title. My apologies to the obscure-indie-rock-loving coffeehouse misanthropes among you who are angry at seeing me sell out. If you like, scratch out every instance of *alienate your coworkers* that appears in the book and write *being an \*\*\*\*\** in its place. If it’s any consolation, that’s exactly what I’m doing in my head.

## Top Ten Reasons People Get Fired

(excluding layoffs, recessions, depressions, natural disasters, outsourcing, downsizing, or pooping on your boss's desk)

Lying on your resume

**FAKE YOUR RESUME!**

Unreliable work and behaviors  
Inability to do assigned job tasks  
Performing tasks slowly,  
with numerous errors

**ESTABLISH YOUR  
INCOMPETENCE!!**

High absenteeism  
Conducting personal business  
at work  
Drug and/or alcohol abuse

**DESTROY YOUR  
WORK ETHIC!!!**

Dishonesty on the job  
Refusing to follow  
directions and orders  
Inability to get along with others

**ALIENATE YOUR  
COWORKERS!!!!**

The first four sections of the book each deal with a separate Pillar. Section One will teach you how to manufacture a resume impressive enough to land a job to get fired from. Section Two will help you learn how to project a complete lack of intelligence and ingenuity. Section Three will help you develop the work ethic that has helped make America one of the fattest countries in the world. And section Four will cover the various ways you can make your

coworkers constantly compare you to Hitler, Stalin, Idi Amin, Pol Pot, and other of the world's most famous dingleberries.<sup>4</sup>

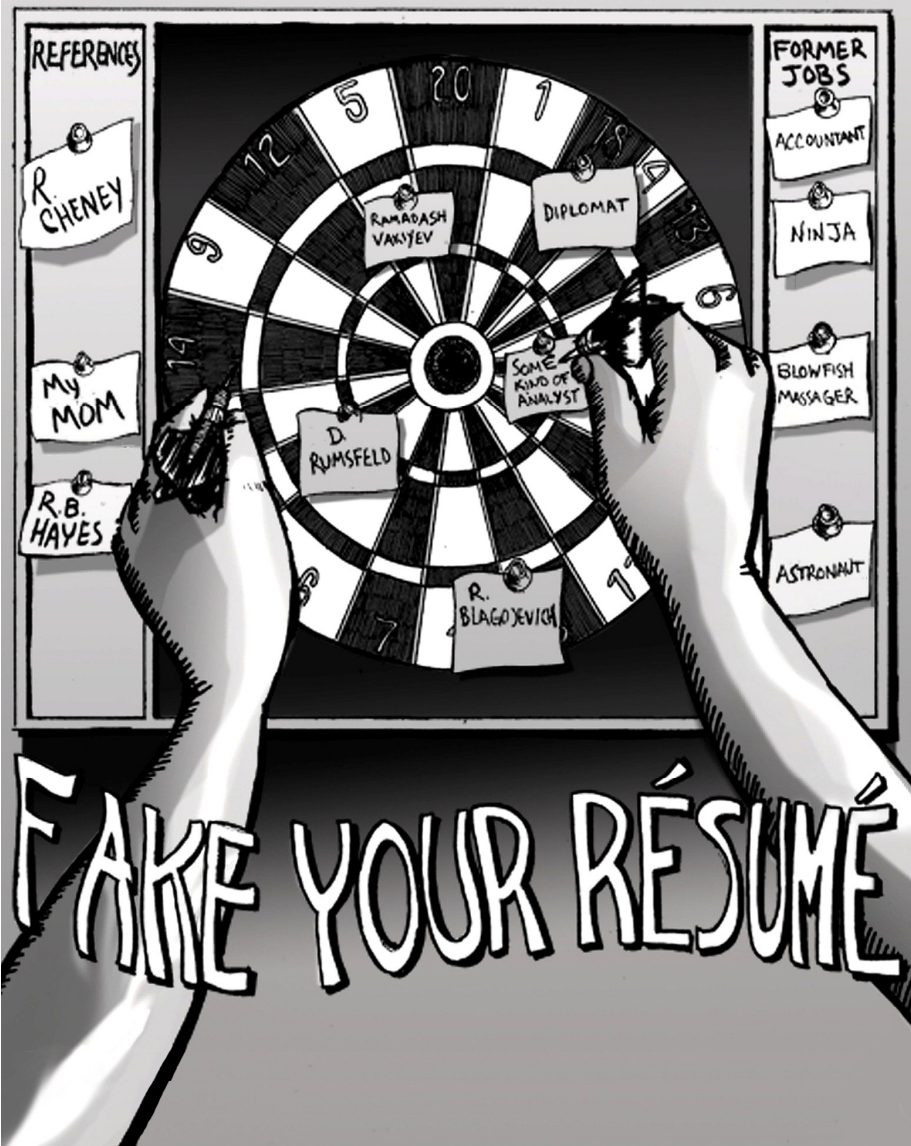
The book ends with a fifth section, perhaps the most important in the book, although I'm afraid most of you will probably not bother reading it. If you're a typical college student (or unhappily employed recent college grad), you'll probably assume you know everything you need to know halfway through and start using this book as a coaster for cheap beer, or perhaps as a way to level out that entertainment center you found sitting by the dumpster of your apartment building. Some of you will get irritated that this book has few pictures and none of them of naked people, and maybe you'll express your displeasure by attaching this book to a clothesline and blasting it to shreds with hollow-point bullets. To be perfectly honest, it doesn't matter to me. You already bought the book, or stole it from someone who did; I'm getting paid whether you get anything out of this or not. But on the off chance that you actually plan on reading this whole thing cover to cover, I can guarantee that it will be well worth your time.

So are you ready to begin? Are you ready to free yourself from the tyranny of a regular paycheck? Are you anxious to learn the techniques that will ensure you never miss another midmorning episode of *The Price is Right*? Then what are you waiting for? Your future awaits!

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<sup>4</sup> See Footnote 3.

# PART ONE:







# Fake Your Resume



Now it should be obvious that before you can get fired, you first have to get hired. And how is that supposed to happen? You have no experience, no skills or talents of any kind. You are so abjectly unqualified for everything that it must be an effort to look at yourself in the mirror every morning. Not only that, but you're pitting yourself against thousands of others just like you. How are you supposed to convince any employer that you're worth their attention?

But I'm getting ahead of myself. First, let's celebrate what you've just accomplished, to remind you of the last time that you experienced real, unadulterated joy:

## Nostalgic Moment #1

Congratulations! You're about to graduate. After five and a half years of forgetting to skip your classes you've earned the right to walk down that hallowed aisle, dressed in a gown made from the same material they use for shower curtains, wearing a rented hat that could very easily poke someone's eyes out, basking in the well-deserved glory of the moment. You've just spent tens of thousands of dollars – perhaps your

own, perhaps the government's – on the intangible commodity of your so-called 'education'. Never again will you drop that kind of dough on something you can't see or smell or touch<sup>1</sup>.

But you have made it, my friend. You are now unquestionably in charge of your own destiny. If you commit a crime from this point forward you will be tried as a full-blown adult, with all the forced sodomy and surprise shankings that are the special province of 'big boy' prison. That's right, recent graduate: a world of possibilities is shining before you like a police spotlight, and all you have to do is reach for whatever you wish. The world is your daiquiri.<sup>2</sup>

And what a daiquiri it was! After school your life became a frenzy of activity:

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<sup>1</sup> Unless you're an investor in Internet start-up companies, which just blows my mind. How can you throw money at somebody who *doesn't have a business plan*? It didn't work in the late 90s, and it doesn't work now. When are people going to realize that "then we'll get ads on our site" is not a sustainable revenue model? Myspace is circling the drain, and five years from now I'll bet that Facebook will be on the road to irrelevance. But if you have the intelligence to invent one of these things, do it now while there's still a market for them. Just make sure you put some of that money into actual things, so that when your product-less Internet company goes the way of all others, you can retire to one of the islands you purchased while everyone around you was losing their homes.

<sup>2</sup> I'm well aware that the correct phrase is, 'The world is your oyster,' but I have consciously chosen not to use that phrase because oysters are disgusting. They smell like stagnant water, they have the consistency of snot, and they chew not entirely unlike a used tire. Daiquiris, on the other hand, are delicious *and* have a tendency to make people want to get naked, which oysters definitely don't. Seriously, I've never seen anybody streaking across campus after shotgunning a dozen oysters. Therefore, daiquiris win.

- Writing multiple industry-specific resumes and cover letters
- Attending job fairs, each smelling of the flopsweat and desperation of hundreds of people just like you
- Scouring online employment databases
- Filling out applications
- Submitting your applications
- Waiting to hear back about your various applications
- Finally deciding to follow up on your applications
- Listening to automated phone messages from your prospective employers stating that, due to the number of applications received, they will only be contacting the people they are interested in interviewing
- Wondering if your applications got lost
- Resubmitting all of your applications
- Calling immediately after resubmission to ensure they were received and inexplicably irritating the very people you're trying to impress
- Developing a fondness for codeine

Does any of this ring a bell? Are you laughing right now to yourself to keep from crying? If so, then you know that you need what I'm about to tell you.

But I imagine you might have a different, rather delicate question to ask. If the purpose of this book is to teach you how to get fired, why not just refuse to apply for a job? After all, isn't the end result the same?

That's a great question, and let me first say how much I admire those of you who thought of it. Your utter lack of

ambition is nothing short of amazing, and I sincerely hope you remember that every time you pick up your welfare check.<sup>3</sup>

However, there are several differences between getting fired and never trying to get hired in the first place. One is a matter of pure entertainment. The process of getting fired is immensely enjoyable, which of course is why so many people do it, and it's something that you just can't read about – you have to *do* it to fully understand. There is nothing quite as powerful as the look of contempt in your boss's eyes as she watches a small security detail escort you from the building, and I truly hope that someday you discover that for yourself.

Another difference, small but important, is that the act of getting fired gives you an interesting story to tell. Imagine – you're at a club, attempting to strike up a conversation with a beautiful man/woman.<sup>4</sup> Inevitably the conversation turns to careers, and he/she asks what you do. If your answer is nothing, that you haven't at least attempted to make anything of your life, the conversation will end in a short and brutal fashion. But if you say instead that you were recently fired – not laid off, but *fired* – all of a sudden you'll notice their interest peaking. They'll lean forward, ask more pointed questions: why did you get fired, how did it happen, was it civil, did anybody end up in the hospital? Before you know it he/she will be having one more drink than he/she intended and finding reasons to touch you lightly on the arm. The story of getting fired is inherently interesting, and it's one that

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<sup>3</sup> Presuming, of course, that you can be bothered to get off your couch and get it out of the mailbox.

<sup>4</sup> By 'man/woman,' I meant man or woman, rather than a person who is both at once. But hey, if that's your thing, don't let me stop you. Twice the parts = twice the fun.

draws people like magnets. I can't tell you how many times the sharing of my firing stories has gotten me all the way to second base, but I'm confident that it's more than four.

But perhaps the most critical reason that you need to read this chapter is because you are probably still under the delusion that you actually want a job. You've been told your entire life that becoming a professional is a step along the path of achieving the American Dream. You've been brainwashed, my poor stupid friend, bamboozled into thinking that employment is a noble and rewarding goal. Some of you are probably eager to read this chapter specifically because it will help you secure a steady job. And it will – I can guarantee you that. But it will also help you lose that job. And while that might not be of interest to you right now, it soon will be.

So to return to the beginning of this chapter. You're fresh out of school, with no experience, talents or skills of any kind. How are you supposed to convince an employer to hire you?

Well, there's only one sure-fire way to make it happen, and that of course is to fake your resume. Remember, while it's true that I've been fired more often than anybody I know, that also means I've been *hired* more often, too. And if there's one thing I've learned, it's this:

**Nobody is going to hire you for who you are,  
so you need to show them *who you should be*.**

## **In the Footsteps of Giants**

Now I know some of you will be reluctant to do this. There are those of you who want to be hired based on the

strength of your merits and abilities alone. Perhaps you were raised to regard honesty as a cardinal virtue, and you are loathe to abandon that for petty, selfish gain. And to you I say two things:

- Good for you!
- Grow up.

It's time to face the facts, my little minion. You're an adult now, which is another way of saying that you're an irredeemable liar. Warping the truth is an essential element of being a grown-up. Don't believe me? Let's take a little journey through your past. Remember when your parents told you that all those presents magically appearing beside the chimney every Christmas were from Santa Claus? Remember when your second-grade teacher told you that you couldn't subtract five from three, or when your eighth grade algebra teacher swore that it was impossible to find the square root of a negative number? Remember when your government told you that it had never tested biological weapons on its own people?<sup>5</sup> Those were all lies, weren't they, lies told you by an adult or – even worse – a group of adults. And now you're one of them, so it's time to join the club.

Besides, faking resumes in a time-honored tradition in the American workplace, one with a long and distinguished career. In 2002, for example, a review of 2.6 million job applications found that 44% of them contained at least one outright lie, and 57% of hiring managers reported spotting lies on the resumes of their applicants. It would be impossible to list all the people who have faked their resumes in order to

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<sup>5</sup> They really did this. Seriously, I'm not making that up.

secure jobs for which they would otherwise never be considered. However, I think some brief highlights are in order:

- Mike Brown, former head of FEMA, lied about his prior experience in one job and – just for kicks – listed himself as a former professor at Central State University when in fact he had been only a *student*.
- Joseph Cafasso, former military consultant for FOX News, lied about having retired from the army as a Special Forces lieutenant colonel when in fact he left as a *private*.
- Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Patrick Couwenberg falsely claimed to have fought in Vietnam, worked for the CIA in Laos, obtained a master's degree in psychology, and to have pieces of shrapnel lodged in his groin.<sup>6</sup>
- Kenneth Lonchar, CFO at Veritas Software, lied about having an accounting degree from Arizona State and an MBA from Stanford, when in reality he had only an undergraduate degree from Idaho State University.
- Ram Kumar, director of research at Institutional Shareholder Services, conveniently ignored the fact that he hadn't finished his law degree from the University of Southern California when he put a fictitious law degree on his resume.

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<sup>6</sup> The groin shrapnel is a nice touch that, presumably, nobody felt like verifying.



- George O’Leary, head football coach at Notre Dame, claimed to have received a master’s degree from a nonexistent college and also lied about having received three letters playing college football when in fact *he hadn’t played a game*.

I think you get the point. And do you know what happened to all of these fine men?<sup>7</sup> That’s right – they all got fired. George O’Leary actually got fired from Notre Dame a week after being hired, and I sincerely believe that with some hard work and dedication on your part, you can do just as well as he did.

But the real beauty of lying on your resume is that the lies stay with you *forever*. Every time you get a transfer, or a promotion, or apply for a new position within the same company, your resume will appear in the hands of a new hiring committee. And it only takes one dedicated or curious person to do a bit of background research to discover the nest of lies and deceit you’ve injected into your past. As O’Leary and others already know, a fake resume can get you fired years after you’ve already forgotten that you’d lied on it. This is the real reason why lying on your resume is the first of the Four Pillars of Poverty, and it’s the same reason that you absolutely need to do it if you want to begin your career with a headstart on the unemployment line.

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<sup>7</sup> Do you have any idea how much it annoys me that all of my examples are men? Seriously, I can find a billion men online who’ve lied about stuff, but women? Hardly any. You ladies are certainly crafty, I’ll give you that. And before any of women reading this start to think, “Well, maybe the reason is because we don’t lie as much as men do,” stop right there. Just stop. I’ve dated my fair share of you, I know you’re liars. You’re just better at it.

## Creating a Better You

So the question is, where to begin? There are a lot of places where it makes sense to lie on a resume, and we're going to cover all of them.

So let's pretend that the following is similar to your current resume:

### **Resume One:** **"Destined for Somebody's Shredder"**

**John Walter Doe**

27 ½ Uninspiring Avenue, Apt. 3Q  
Piffwhinny, KS 67109

#### **Education:**

State Tech University College

*2001 – present*

Bachelor of Science, a.k.a. 'B.S.'

Major: Communications

Minor: Sociology

GPA: 2.7/4.0

Major GPA 2.73/4.0

#### **Honors:**

Dean's list, spring 2007

Half of Cutest Couple, Piffwhinny High School, 2000

#### **Employment History:**

*Administrative Assistant – Virgil, Meyer, Chumbly & Blopp*

*Summer 2008*

- Unpaid internship for family friend – desperate last resort
- Shuffled papers endlessly from my desk to other people's much larger desks
- Smiled benignly when customers came in
- Stared blankly at computer screen for hours while waiting for final year of college to begin

*Comestibles Engineer, Rhoda's House of Waffles and Beer**2006-2008*

- Served waffles, beer, and various deep-fried substances to customers around the clock
- Oversaw operation of cash register and became proficient in making change and performing rudimentary addition and subtraction
- Developed proficiency working in high-stress environment while partially drunk

*Literacy Facilitator, State Tech University College Library**2004-2005*

- Worked the front desk at our university college library
- Developed mastery of clicky laser scanner thing
- Upon checking books out, held door open for students carrying stacks of books they had no intention of fully reading
- Mastered ability to sleep with eyes open

**Relevant Skills:**

Typing (65 wpm); proficient with Word, Windows, Explorer, Outlook, and Facebook; generally punctual

**References:**

Julia Doe, mother and roommate, (909) 555-1234

Phil Blopp, former employer and friend of roommate,  
(909) 555-4321

This resume is very average – average major, average GPA, average honors, etc. So, let's take it from the top.

First things first – the name. John is a boring first name, and Doe is a boring last name. This is the kind of name that leaves your head as soon as you hear it, the kind of do-nothing moniker that is guaranteed to hurry your resume straight into the trash heap. It is the name of an unidentified dead person, someone so unimportant that the police couldn't

even be bothered to figure out who it was. And I know, judging from the way that your hands are quivering as you try to fight back the tears, that you have been suffering your entire life from a boring name. And I feel your pain. Jeff Havens is not that awesome, and don't think I haven't tried to divorce my parents because of it.

Now you can't very easily change your first or last name, mostly because it's on all of your paperwork and would involve dealing with the black hole that is the federal government. And yes, you can always get a fake driver's license for fifty bucks from some incense-clouded dorm room, but you've been answering to your real name for so many years that it will be hard for you to get used to a new name in time for the interview.

However, your *middle* name is fertile ground for experimentation. Everybody has one, but almost nobody knows anybody else's. So in order to make your resume pop from the moment it's picked up, you need to invent an interesting middle name. The purpose here is only to make people remember your name, to make you seem intriguing, which will make it more likely that they pay your resume more careful attention.

There are three ways to do this:

- Choose an unusual but current name
- Choose an awesome name from a foreign or long-dead culture
- Invent something nonsensical

In order to help get you started, I've included some examples for each category in the following chart:

Unusual But Current	Awesome Dead Names	Completely Invented
Magnus	Barbarossa	Boomfalatty
Thorbald	Agamemnon	Zizzer
Alastair	Thermopylae	Turdmonger
Bartholomew	Gilgamesh	Stumpwumpy
Dakota	Nibelungenlied	Dazzlebomb
Fallujah	Cleopatra	Oople
Ariel	Sacajawea	Moonballa
Hussein	Bellisarius	Puzzybooble
McKenzie	Sargon	Thwik!
Olaf	Ataxerxes	Pologolopod
Fallon	Pendragon	Qwertyuiop
	Ajax	Phil
	Xanthippus	

Feel free to choose any of these you like, although I recommend picking one that's appropriate for your gender; *Puzzybooble*, for example, has a distinctly feminine ring to it, while *Turdmonger* is undoubtedly male. Or use this list as inspiration to create your own. There's really no wrong answer as long as the name you choose isn't common.

But wait – there's more! My current favorite middle name doesn't even fit into one of these three categories. I've used it on three of my last five resumes, it's never failed to get a reaction, and it is...“The Magificent.” With the quotation marks, by the way. Because I don't care how boring your name really is, *everything* sounds awesome if you include “The

Magnificent” in there. Jeff “The Magnificent” Havens – sounds impressive. And when they ask at the interview (and trust me, they will), all you need to say is, “Yes, that is my middle name. I know it’s strange, but my parents were amateur magicians, and they thought it appropriate.”

So, once you’ve made a name for yourself<sup>8</sup>, it’s time to tackle your GPA. Now if you’ve been reading this section in earnest, chances are you were already planning to fudge your grades, and this is as easy as pie. All you need to do, very simply, is roll two dice until the numbers that pop up are numbers that suit you. To reduce the number of times you’ll have to roll, I recommend using eight-, ten-, twelve-, or twenty-sided dice.<sup>9</sup> A few minutes at the craps table and voila! You’ll be looking better in no time.

As for honors and accolades, you probably don’t have any. Fortunately for you, however, they are very easy to invent. You will want to exercise caution, however, to make sure that your lies aren’t easily caught. For example, don’t say that you won a Nobel Prize, even one as obscure and worthless as the Nobel for Economics, because they publish the lists of those winners. Same goes for a Rhodes Scholarship or a Fulbright or a MacArthur Genius Grant – it will be very easy for prospective employers to verify those claims. In fact, in many cases they publish not only the winners but also the runners-up, which means that these awards are pretty much off limits.

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<sup>8</sup> Catch the pun? I’m so funny it should be illegal.

<sup>9</sup> “But wait!” you’re saying. “Dice only come with six sides!” Shut up. Just shut up right now. Don’t even pretend you don’t know what I’m talking about.

So your best course here is to invent an award that you *almost* won. Why almost? Because every university publishes the lists of its award winners, and a quick glance at those publications will uncover your deceit immediately. But runners-up aren't always listed, so there won't be as much reason on the part of your prospective employer to do background checks. And seriously, who would lie about getting third place? Nobody in their right mind would do such a thing, which is exactly why you should. You'll see examples of this in the sample fake resume I've included below.

After you've puffed up your GPA and honors, it's time to tackle employment history. Now if you're typical college student, you've probably worked at typical college jobs - on-campus work-study (College Library), waiting tables (Rhoda's House of Waffles...), tending bar (...and Beer), and maybe an unpaid internship for a family friend one summer (Chumbly & Blopp). This is unacceptable. Feel free to put your three years' experience making mojitos and mopping up the vomit of 19-year-olds with fake IDs, but I just don't think that's the kind of technical expertise your new employers will be looking for. If you're going to wow anybody, you'll need to invent some interesting employment experience. There are a lot of ways to do this, but the two I prefer are:

- Invent some government experience
- Invent an exotic, overseas internship

There are two main reasons to invent some government experience. First, it always sounds distinguished to say you've worked for the machine that powers our

country, an opinion most people share despite the fact that almost none of those same people thinks the government is doing a good job of anything, at all, ever. So by saying you've worked for the government, you will simultaneously impress people while ensuring that their expectations of you are kept at a primitively low level.

In addition, every government – local, county, state, or federal – is so massive, and its bureaucracy so unwieldy, that there's almost no chance your employers will be successful in cross-checking your resume. Your secret should remain very, very safe.

However, to ensure that it does, it is best to claim that you worked directly for a political figure who is no longer in office, because it will be that much harder for the factcheckers to get in touch with the people who would be able to disprove your claim. Some good examples are as follows:

### **Fine Examples Of Our Country's Former Leaders**

- Mark Foley, former Florida congressman (R), who was discovered sending indecent and sexually explicit text messages to an underage male interns
- Rod Blagojevich, former governor of Illinois (D), who attempted to sell Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat, extracted financial rewards for various government appointments, and managed single-handedly to make Illinois look like the dick of America
- James Traficant, Jr., former Ohio congressman (D), convicted on ten counts of bribery and racketeering



- John Williams, former New York state senator, who was expelled – not impeached, not censured, but *expelled* – for misconduct
- Marion Berry, former mayor of Washington, D.C. (D), who was caught on tape smoking crack and sentenced to six months in prison<sup>10</sup>
- Abraham Hirschfeld, former New York congressman (D), convicted at the age of 80 of hiring a hit man to kill his business partner
- Sara Bost, former mayor of Irvington, New Jersey, sentenced to a year in prison for tampering with a witness
- Larry Craig, former Idaho senator (R), who resigned from office after several allegations of sexual misconduct arose<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> That happened in 1990. In 1994, Barry was once again elected to be the mayor of Washington, D.C. – this in the middle of America’s very public, very aggressive War on Drugs. The idiocy and hypocrisy inherent here is so multiform that I barely know where to start, and most of what I’m inclined to say right now is unprintable. But seriously, D.C., you *chose* to be represented by a man addicted to crack? Not “Let’s go get Wendy’s, I’m starving!” marijuana, but “I’ll do you in the alley for five dollars!” crack. Was there literally *nobody* more qualified? Democrats everywhere should be so very, very proud.

<sup>11</sup> You might notice that this is the second homosexual misconduct issue on this list, and that both men are Republicans. So to any Republicans who are reading this right now, please drop your bias against homosexuals. A healthy minority of your party are gay themselves, and it’s hardly the kind of issue that should ruin a man’s career. In Mark Foley’s case, sure – he was soliciting underage people. But all Larry Craig did was try and fail to get a guy to have sex with him in a public bathroom. Bad choice? Yes. Unforgivable reason to boot him out of office? No. Seriously, if I’d had my reputation destroyed every time I’ve tried and failed to get someone to sleep with me, I can’t even tell you how universally reviled I would be.

Any one of these people will do nicely, because very few of them are interested in answering their phones. Some of them can't, since they're in prison. So appropriating their names will also allow you to bypass that pesky 'References' section of the resume, which I know has been worrying you.

Now some of the political-science majors among you will know that a handful of these examples are slightly outdated. John Williams, for example, was a colonel in the Continental Army and died in 1806. But if you want a current example all you'll need to do is read your morning paper, or in most cases your morning computer screen in those flashes of time when you're not either playing Texas Hold'em or gawking at porn. I guarantee that some of the people in office right now will be perfect choices for you to use as references as soon as their various corruptions are discovered.

That covers government service. As far as internships are concerned, the same rule of thumb applies – create an internship that will be very difficult to disprove. That's why an overseas internship is so ideal. Americans are notoriously xenophobic, and most of them are equally disinterested in paying for the long-distance calls necessary to verify whether or not you worked at a free health clinic in Botswana.

So have fun with this one! It doesn't matter what your 'internship' is, although it would make sense to invent one at least tangentially related to the job you're trying to get. What matters is the country you choose. Make sure to pick an obscure one, a country in which your future employer is not likely to do business or know anybody they could call. My favorite choice? Luxembourg, because *nobody has ever been there*. I have never met anybody from Luxembourg, nor have I met anybody who has met anybody from Luxembourg. For

all I know, it's not even a real country (see artist's representation).



**Artist's Representation of Luxembourg**

But other people seem to think it exists, so it's a good choice. Other excellent options include Togo, Benin,

Azerbaijan, Comoros, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Nauru, Seychelles, Swaziland, and Burkina Faso.<sup>12</sup>

Once you've fabricated an enjoyable history for yourself, it's time to move onto relevant skills, and this is the part of your resume where you can really shine. Why? Because there's absolutely nothing that you can include here that will in any way hurt your chances of getting a job. Every relevant skill, even if it is of no actual relevance, is a bonus.

So go crazy! Everybody puts their typing skills and the various computer programs that they're familiar with, as should you. But don't stop there. Strength, beauty, stupid human tricks, drinking ability, bag tossing acumen, snowblowing prowess, stiltwalking proficiency - anything and everything that you can think of should be thrown in here. The 'Relevant Skills' section of a resume is a hodgepodge of random crap that's designed more to intrigue your prospective employer than it is to assure you a job. So treat it the way you treat your new middle name, and make this section something so unique and memorable that people will demand an interview with you.

## **Drum Roll, Please**

So, what does this all look like once it's put together? Well, take a gander back at pages 25-26 at the resume we started with, and then feast your eyes on the next two pages, which will show you a resume that has taken the lessons of this chapter to heart.

The differences should be obvious.

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<sup>12</sup> Fifty points if you knew more than three of these.

**Resume Two:**  
**“Destined For Greatness”**

**John ‘The Magnificent’ Doe**

9669 Awesome Blvd., Apt 9,543,771

Boomwow, CT 00100

**Education:**

State Tech University College

*2001 – present*

Bachelor of Science

Major: Communications                      Minor: Sociology

GPA: 8.3/4.0                      Major GPA 10.18/4.0

**Honors:**

- Dean’s list, spring 2007
- Finalist, Spearman Award, 2008
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, scientific achievement, Briggsby Conference, 2006
- Inductee, Society of the Four Swords, 2007
- Both halves of Cutest Couple, Piffwhinny High School yearbook, 2000

**Employment History:**

*Strategist and foreign attaché, Pentagon*

*Summer 2008*

- Conducted computer simulations of theoretical combat scenarios under direct supervision of Donald Rumsfeld
- Facilitated dialogue between Yemeni and U.A.E. emissaries and attended several OPEC Council meetings
- Helped with phase-out of F-22 Tomcat
- Personally reprimanded Kim Jong Il for nuclear ambitions and was pleased to see him suitably chastened; am convinced that if my internship had lasted longer he would not be playing with nuclear devices now

*Geosurveyor, Dept. of Geosurvology, Kyrgyzstan*

*2007-2008*

- Worked on mapping and surveying projects in Bishkek (Chui province) as part of an exchange program between universities
- Became familiar with the bureaucracies of both Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
- Developed competence in Russian and Kyrgyz
- Learned to play the *komuz*

### **Relevant Skills:**

Typing (65 wpm); proficient with Word, Windows Explorer, Outlook, and Facebook; clairvoyant; can hold my breath for three minutes; champion hot-dog-eater; extreme ironing enthusiast; adorably ticklish

### **References:**

Donald "I'm Sure Those WMDs Are Around Here Somewhere" Rumsfeld, former employer. Phone number, email, and address classified

Ramadash Vakiyev, assistant director, Dept. of Geosurvology, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Email access intermittent. Phone: 011-996-67-5617-09. Reference letter available on request<sup>13</sup>.

There you have it, folks. Is there really any comparison? I don't know about you, but I'd hire this second person in a heartbeat. A striking name, a stellar GPA, remarkable world experience at such a comparatively young age, and impressive references. What else can you ask for?

Once you've doctored your resume – a good word for it, wouldn't you say? Because what does a doctor do? A doctor helps sick things get well. And that's what I've done

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<sup>13</sup> Notice the 'Reference letter available on request.' A stroke of genius, if I may say so myself, because now if I get such a request I can write up whatever I want and pass it off as authentic. No telling how many people have done this, and if you're really serious about getting fired, you will too.

for you. Your resume was on the operating table and headed straight for the morgue until I stepped in and saved you. I've helped your sick, anemic resume rise from the dead. Be thankful – I have made you worth paying attention to.

So as I was saying, once you've doctored your resume, you will eventually get an interview, and you will eventually get hired. And once that happens, congratulations! You will officially begin the saddest, most degrading part of your life. Soon you will realize that the job you've acquired comes with conditions you weren't prepared for – punctuality, cleanliness, attention to detail, regimented lunch breaks, focused working time, etc. – and in no time at all you'll be kicking yourself, wondering why you spent so much time and energy fighting to get a job you now want only to be rid of.

Relax. You have nothing to fear. The keys that will unlock you from your self-imposed prison are waiting in the next chapters. So turn the page already – freedom awaits!