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GlaxoSmithKline  
One Franklin Plaza  
P.O. Box 7929  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
ATTN: OXY Acne Treatment

Dear GlaxoSmithKline:

I am a freshman in high school and I have a really bad acne problem. When I was a kid, I used to think that acne was called acme, like that company that the coyote always gets his explosives from. My brother still makes fun of me for that. But that isn't my real problem...

Like I said, I have really bad acne. I usually pick at it which makes it worse, but I just can't help it. My face and forehead are usually all scabby and red and I have pimples on my back, so I am afraid take my shirt off at the beach. That and the fact that I have the chest and arms of an eight year old. I hate showering at gym class and I usually try to avoid it if I can.

There is this girl that I kind of like in school who is very pretty. Most of the girls never give me a second look -- and the first look is usually one of disgust when they see my acne face. But this girl smiled at me once when we passed in the hall and I think that she may like me. I definitely like her, but I haven't had the guts to talk to her yet. I think I might get up the courage to talk to her if I can just get my face to clear up a little bit.

I have seen Oxy commercials on TV and I think that my acne problem might be a case for Oxy. But I am worried about using your medicine. My brother, Neil, was telling me about this guy that used to go to our school about two years ago. I don't want to mention his name because I don't want this to get back to him. Neil told me that this guy had really bad acne and that he used some sort of Oxy wash or rinse product. This guy got hooked on using cotton balls to apply the Oxy medicine to his face. I don't know how that happens, but I guess he just used a lot of it and it messed up his mind or something to where he got dependent on it.

Neil said that he used to see this guy skipping class just to get his Oxy cotton fix. He went to counseling and to the detention home and he eventually got kicked out of school completely. He told me that before he got kicked out of school, this Oxy cotton guy turned psycho and once beat up five freshman as they walked down freshman hall to their lockers. He was so geared up on Oxy that it took two teachers and another senior guy to pull him off the other kids. I heard that one of them even ended up in the hospital.

I really like this girl and I want to ask her out, but I don't want to turn into a junkie like I've seen in the videos they showed us in health class. Is Oxy really that addictive or was it just a freak thing. (In case this ever gets back to the guy Neil told me about, I want to make it clear that I am not calling him a freak. I am referring to the situation itself being like a freak occurrence. I don't need Oxy cotton guy to track me down and beat me up thinking I called him a freak).

I would ask Neil about more details, but he likes to make fun of me and if he got any idea that I was trying to clear up my face, he would make it his business. He would eventually find out about Sheila (that's her name) and he would torture me and probably call her pretending to be me and ruin any chances I have with her. Sometimes I really hate Neil. Just because he can drive a car and plays football and dates a cheerleader, he thinks that he is so perfect. I know that he used to wet his bed. I would tell the whole school if I didn't think he would beat me up when mom wasn't home.

I also wonder if Neil is just making this stuff up. He once told me that he found out about a little boy who was killed in an accident and buried in the woods behind our house before we moved here. I thought for weeks that I heard his ghost trying to ride my bicycle at night and then I would find my bike by the edge of the woods in the morning. For weeks I was afraid to go outside and wouldn't ride my bike. Neil eventually had a good laugh when he told me he made the whole thing up. Is he making up the Oxy cotton guy too? But I thought I heard them talking on the news about other people who have gotten addicted to Oxy cotton and ended up in a similar situation.

Please let me know if I can get addicted to Oxy cotton based on how much of it I use. Are there any guidelines about how much is too much to use? I want to develop muscles and not get pushed around so much, but I don't want to turn into a psycho maniac either.

Sincerely,

*Rusty Lucas*

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Some of my worst acne is on my forehead. Do you have any advice on whether wearing baseball caps can exacerbate (I am in accelerated vocabulary this semester) my forehead problem? I am allowed to wear baseball caps to school, so I don't usually wash my hair in the morning because it only makes me more prone to have hat hair. Do you have any OXY logo baseball caps and if so can you please send me a free one? Maybe you can send me two baseball caps and I can offer the second one to Sheila as a way to make conversation. Sometimes she wears a baseball cap after school and her ponytail sticks out the back. I think she looks very pretty when she wears a baseball cap and I would like to give her a cap of mine to wear, but mine are all dirty and smell bad.