

Satire Exempla

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Igbinedion Education Centre: The School to Attend

For those of you that do not know, Igbinedion Education Centre (usually shortened as IEC) is a popular secondary school in Benin City, in Edo State, the heartbeat of Nigeria. The school is renowned for its excellent academic and boarding background and facilities. At least that is what everyone who has not attended the school thinks and what everyone who has attended the school thought (before attending the school and seeing “stuff” for themselves). Fortunately, I just happen to be one of those privileged to attend such a prestigious institution and this paper generalizes my opinion about it.

The school is owned by a guy with one of the shortest and simplest names (including titles): Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbinedion JP., FCIT, GCKB, LL.D. (Benin), D.Litt, LL.D. (Jackson State), FIMT, FNISM, The Esama of Benin Kingdom (No kidding). Apparently, his titles were actually earned by him even if people think he was a dropout and the titles were bought with money. Anyway, this man not only had a secondary school but also a local airport, a medical centre (Hospital), a University (private), and some other small businesses, but it appears that he has a very good managerial abilities that the only institutions still in existence are the secondary school and the university. Maybe their existence is due to his wife, Lady Cheryl Igbinedion, who manages the secondary school and the people running the University, I don't know. The University is quite popular too and is called Igbinedion University Okada, located in Okada Wonderland (named after him), also in Edo State. Now that's enough about the owner, let me write about the school itself.

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How to Believe You Are the Best Thing That Has Happened to Basketball Since LeBron James

You may believe that being convincingly very arrogant and believing your talent in some activity is 10 times better than it really is are difficult tasks. However, that idea

is wrong. Convincing anyone, including yourself, that you are extremely pompous is really quite simple. Here are some easy ways to start being overly confident regarding any activity, though basketball is used as an example.

First, the activity that you are planning to be boastful about should be something that you really are somewhat talented at. People will think you are just plain psycho if you try to pretend you are extravagant at some activity you have never done. For example, people will just laugh hysterically if Pamela Anderson suddenly claims to be awe-inspiring at tackle football. That is not the effect you are trying to achieve. So, say you are very tall, played basketball in high school, and even made it to the college level somehow, but then couldn't make the starting line-up senior year even nor receive much game time. That is a perfect situation to begin this process with. Second, set up an autograph table directly outside your local grocery store. Make a poster that states all your achievements, and if necessary, make up some of them. Use a large, fake smile when little kids come running up for an autograph from whom they believe to be a local celebrity; don't bat an eye when you realize that the ONLY people asking for your autograph are children.

Third is the necessary parade ride. Make sure you find one of the largest parades in your area—the Elkins Forest Festival parade would be a good one in this area. Find a semi-nice car to ride in and make two more posters for each side of the car. The posters should say something to the tune of (Your college) Basketball Player, and that is all, but in huge letters. Wear the fake smile again, wave similar to a beauty queen, and act as if you are the parade's main event. Fourth, make a shrine of yourself within your house. Frame all your jerseys, any and all pictures of yourself in your jerseys, and college sports

paraphernalia containing your name or picture with references to basketball. Buy and keep around the house at least 10 basketballs. If you happen to find out that one of your roommate's friends is coming over to the house, lay out at least one of your jerseys over a piece of large furniture so that it is clearly visible from the doorway.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, pretend you are headed for the NBA (National Basketball Association). This includes not doing well in your college classes or getting a part-time job, because you definitely will not need that experience while playing professional basketball. Actually, begin asking your parents for much more spending money than usual, too. You can repay them once you get drafted to the NBA and start making hundreds of thousands of dollars. While you are in any popular establishment on your college campus, such as the Mountain Lair at West Virginia University, talk loudly about basketball and constantly shoot "air-hoops."

It is also important to remember to do all the above activities in complete seriousness; don't worry about anyone making fun of you. Very few people will be mean enough to say anything to your face about your conceited attitude anyway. They will be perfectly content to talk about it enough behind your back. Now do you believe being very arrogant is actually easy to achieve? In no time at all you will believe you are the best thing that has happened to basketball since LeBron James.

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Good-Bye My Benjamins

Now, I have almost done my second fall semester and dead week is coming soon. At the end of the semester, I think about the same thing while looking at my bookshelf. There is a row of over 2 inches of bulky textbooks on the shelf. The total cost of the textbooks is at least 700 dollars. It is almost the same value as two months' worth of my living expenses. Whenever I got the new textbooks before the semester, I was very satisfied with just staring at them on the shelf. My motivation for studying reached a peak and I could not wait to begin the classes. However, now that it is the time of the end of the semester, when I see those books, they look to me as if some Benjamins with wings like an angel are flying away.

At my first consideration, are textbooks made from something special? It may be that the paper is made from a tiny quantity of the material distilled from the filtrated liquid of gold or the color of ink is obtained from a rainbow or something. Otherwise, they could provide us with great knowledge worth hundreds of dollars. If it is true, most of the professors would be not good because they meddlesomely tell us the part which we do not need to cover and skip it ruthlessly. Occasionally, they explain what the textbook does not say as if ignoring the hundred-dollar textbook.

Here is an example, the textbook of the primary chemistry class. It costs no less than 100 dollars despite being a used one. Actually, the class covered the first half through this semester. So that means we learned only 50 dollars' worth of knowledge in the textbook. The last half seems to be covered at an upper level of class. It is likely to say that, "You got interested in chemistry through this semester. Take an advanced class next semester

or later.” Since I was not interested in chemistry as much as taking the advanced class, I would like to get the other 50 dollars back.

Next, I worked out a plan of operations to get my money back. I tried to sell some of the textbooks but my request was rejected by the bookstore. I asked the reason that they could not permit it. One of them said that it would be replaced by a new edition next semester. It sounded weird for me because I remembered that the textbook was renewed a couple of years before I bought it. It seems that scientists get innovative breakthroughs so much that primary textbooks must be revised very frequently. I was so surprised at the dramatic scientific progress and really admired the scientists. Additionally, I wonder if the textbooks of history or literature are renewed because G. Washington is still working to create the U.S. and Shakespeare is still revising his works. I went to the bookstore to make sure of differences between old and new versions. It convinced me of the new edition with CD-ROM. When it comes to the content, it was harder than before to read it because all the letters had turned to monotone from the previous two-color printing. That was an excellent upgrade.

As stated above, I have a deep sigh for the missing Benjamins who were sacrificed for my desire to learn as the number of such half-baked textbooks continues to increase on my bookshelf. The most anxious matter is that I have to say good-bye to the other Benjamin by the time next semester is coming. How can I save their lives?