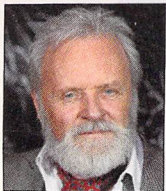


## Hopkins' lesson in self-reliance



Anthony Hopkins is grateful he was so miserable as a child, says Elaine Lipworth in the London *Daily Mail*. "It's not 'poor me' at all," he says. "It was all good stuff." A slow learner in school, he was taunted constantly. "I was called Dumbo, like the elephant, because I couldn't understand things. My grandfather told my mother, 'Tony's got a big head, pity there's nothing in it.'" His teachers agreed. "I was hauled before the head-

master, who said there was something wrong with me. My teacher twisted my ear till it broke and said, 'You are only fit to grease your father's bread tins,' because I didn't understand arithmetic. I told my father and he took me to see this teacher and said, 'If you bloody hit my son again, I'll pulverize you.'" But then Hopkins' father told his son that in the future, he'd have to fight his own battles. "He said to me, 'You've got to toughen up. Learn to stand up for yourself.'" Hopkins did just that, launching a campaign to strengthen his body and broaden his mind. Now 72, he has little pity for whiners. "You either get over it or you don't. It's like those people who go, 'Oh, I was molested.' You can either gripe about it or you can turn it into a tremendous victory."