

## A HARPOON FOR MR. CHIPS

JOHN J. SYNON

Here is one that promises to stir up the animals:

Professional education journals, for some time now, have been proposing to turn the tables on Mr. Chips. They propose the teacher, rather than the student, be held accountable for the student's (lack of) progress.

That's something new and that ought to do it.

In essence, this is how the proposal would work:

Private educational firms would bid for the right to guarantee certain learning results for deficient students. Fifth-grade pupils, say, who were performing at Third-grade level would be guaranteed to be brought to standard, to their grade level.

Intriguing? Sure is. But I have no idea it will work; that all students can be brought to today's (yesterday's?) standard.

In the first place, such a proposal flies in the face of the labor union that is the National Education Association. In the jargon of these unionists, "accountability" translates into "piece work"; if you don't cut the buck you don't get paid.

And the NEA, you may be sure, wants no such precedent as that hanging about its edges. It is not going to permit any upstart private contractor to enter its preserve and "piece work" it out of business. For, truth is, there is a lot that can be done for the kids — and would be done if teacher accountability were a factor — things that are not being done under the union that is the NEA. Establish accountability and the NEA would wither and die.

That is one reason — and reason enough — why I do not believe the effort will ever be given a fair chance or, if given a chance, will be administered honestly.

An even more persuasive reason turns on a fact of life — and integrated schools: Negroes, as a race, are not the intellectual equal of White people, as a race.

That disputed fact is what the civil-rights shooting is all about. Disputed or not it is true. See this:

Research results (paid for by HEW Monograph No. 90, 1963; Vol. 28 No. 61) when opposed to normative White IQ averages show Intellectually-Very-Superior Whites at a ratio of 44-to-1 over Very-Superior Blacks; Superior, 27-to-1; High Average, 26-to-1; on down to Defectives which show the reverse, Blacks 8-to-1 over Whites.

Such is the raw material integrated-school teachers have to work with; all such teachers, everywhere. And it tells why there are so many "under-privileged" slow learners and why there always will be. Moreover, it tells why I do not believe any private contractor with his wits about him would guarantee to bring all children to grade level.

Certainly he would not risk going beyond the Sixth-grade level since the Black with Black-average intelligence (IQ-80) can't assimilate knowledge beyond the Sixth grade — not if Mark Hopkins were on the other end of the log. Nobody, White or Black, with an IQ of 80 can go beyond the Sixth grade.

So, if this concept, that of teacher accountability, does get under way — and it may, it is

the "in" thing, the latest gimmick — I suspect all sorts of provisos (escape clauses) will be incorporated in the fine print. Such provisos as make allowances for "deprived" children, and "underprivileged" children and all the rest of it. Such as these, I suspect, will not be required to achieve at the true level of "prived" or "privileged" children. Educators are not going to blow the gaff, you know.

Even so, if teacher accountability were by some miracle brought to bear, children, Black and White alike, would benefit. For they would learn in their own racial way, each at his individual capacity.

"Racial" way? Certainly, racial way, for the races learn differently, you should know, Blacks more by rote than otherwise; Whites, principally, through abstract concepts.

Which is another stumbling block for the teacher-accountability contractor — given integrated schools.

No, I don't think it will work. And I think you will hear the screams of Mr. Chips when (if) he begins to feel the point of it.

## Airman Edwards to Dover, Delaware

Airman William T. Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie T. Edwards of 411 Edgehill Ave., Kinston, has graduated at Shepard AFB, Tex., from the Air Force air passenger specialist course.

The airman, who was trained to schedule air passengers and cargo, is being assigned to Dover AFB, Del., for duty with the Military Airlift Command which provides global airlift for military forces.

Airman Edwards is a 1969 graduate of Grainger High School.

## Red Cross Water Safety Chairman Offers Some Excellent Advice

Over 60 percent of the drownings each year result when people who have no intention of getting wet fall into the water from docks, boats, bridges, shores, or pool decks — often only a few feet from safety, Leroy Pittman, Red Cross Water Safety Chairman, said today.

"Most drownings result because people violate or ignore good water safety practices, Pittman said.

Statistics reveal that drownings around the home — in pools, bathtubs, wells, cisterns and cesspools — claim over 700 lives each year.

Three chief causes of home pool drownings are: temporary lack of qualified adult supervision; absence of, or inadequate safeguards, such as fences and rescue equipment; and the inability of victims to float or swim.

The home pool drowning rate is highest among children under four; therefore, home pool owners should take regular precautions around the pool site and make the area "kidproof".

Pittman stressed that one way to make sure children can't accidentally fall into the pool is to erect a fence of sufficient height around the facility, keeping the gate locked at times when there is no supervision available for swimmers.

The shallow and deep ends of the pool should be clearly marked with buoy lines. Breakable items such as glasses and bottles should not be allowed around the pool area. And rules should prohibit running or "horseplay" near the pool edge.

Since the majority of drownings occur within a few feet of safety, it is often possible for a nonswimmer or an untrained swimmer to perform a nonswimming rescue safely, Pittman said.

The rescuer should limit personal contact with the victim and always maintain firm contact with the shore. The rescuer's weight on the shore or pool deck should be kept low or slanting backward. If the victim

is within arm's reach, the rescuer should lie flat on the deck and extend one arm, holding the deck or dock with the other arm. He can then grasp the victim's wrist and draw him to safety.

Should the victim be beyond

arm's reach, the rescuer can extend such items as a shirt, towel, coat, branch or pole, and allow the victim to grasp one end and then pull him to safety. A line ring buoy or an innertube can be thrown to a victim who is beyond reach of an extension rescue, Pittman said.

"A swimming rescue would only be attempted by someone who has had lifesaving training, Pittman concluded. "Otherwise, a double drowning can occur."

## WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

by Henry E. Garrett, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Psychology, Columbia University  
Past President, American Psychological Association

**Q: Dr. Garrett, in your opinion, who are the best spokesmen for the South, today?**

A: That calls for a subjective judgment, of course (I take it you refer to the race problem). Senators Thurmond and Stennis reflect pretty well majority Southern views and they should not be underrated. But neither, in my opinion, is as effective as George C. Wallace. Nixon is not out after either Thurmond or Stennis. He is out after Wallace — and that, I think, is the best evidence. Certainly, Wallace has

done more to ease pressure on the South than either of the others.

### CHARLES HAM IN GEORGIA

Marine Lance Corporal Charles E. Ham, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Ham of 2511 Register Drive, Kinston, is now serving at the Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Ga.

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