

# Writers Forum

By GEORGE B. RUSS

Recently, we have been reminded, through various medias, to "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself." This commandment is familiar to most church-going blacks. We have been taught all our lives to 'love thy neighbor' but, sad to say, we have strayed from this sapient advice.

We have divided ourselves into cliques, clans, classes, tribes, "tracks," colonies or whatever suitable dividing lines we need to separate us from one another.

The church, our greatest heritage, makes for blacks a sieve, which drops all save a few of the big clunkers into heaps of so called "little people."

Aside from a man's stature: height, weight, bone structure—his physical aspects—what, actually, constitutes a "little person?"

The expression "little people," "nobodies," should be an anathema amongst blacks; but, strangely enough, we do have the gall to classify, relegate, brand, curse, stigmatize, berate, lowrate, point out some of our brethren as being "little people, nonentities."

Blacks, as a whole, are the most unclannish race in the world. Where three or five are gathered together in the name of anything, you will find in

the midst thereof, one or more "big I's"—all others are "little you's".

You may have observed that the most religious race in the world is steeped in fears of every description—fears of one another for the most part.

Class distinction is on the rampage in this century of World Brotherhood, of seeking Universal Love, the integration of Human Relations. The individualists are "in." If you've got a gimmick—an attractive, unique, eye-catching, soulful-gimmick—your wagon is hitched to a star.

Are the malefics, misanthropics, chavinists, jingostics and illiterates those whom society classifies as "little people?"

Perhaps the down and out, the indigents of this world, are those who are snubbed or dubbed "little people."

Once you stop to think about it, you become all the more puzzled as to what ingredients go into making a "little person."

Use for a guideline this quotation:

"There is so much that is bad in the best of us, and so much that is good in the worst of us, that it doesn't behoove any of us to talk about the rest of us." No matter how threadbare the so called "greats" might be they

manage to attract the envy of the masses.

Our poor, unschooled, "salt of the earth people" constitute a majority or make up the masses of society, these are they who are blind to the faults of the "moth that fretteth the garment" of the "mighty" and earn for themselves—for their blindness—the disparaging title: "little people."

The truly successful, the positive thinkers, now in control of business, politics, educational and the benevolent life could once say with Gideon, "my family is poor in Manasseh," therefore, they wouldn't dare call another person "little" because of deprived circumstances.

If our blacks 'n browns 'n tans 'n high-yallers were beans, the results would be similar to Toussaint l' Overture's experiment with black and white beans.

When Toussaint l' Overture, the Hytian patriot was twitted upon the lower conditions of his black people, he pictured a prophecy:

"Fill the keg with black

beans on the bottom and white one on top. Roll the keg, and count the black beans at the upper end." While the better conditioned are filtered downward by the weight of their own lethargy, the less favored individuals are climbing up by a sort of capillary energy inspired by the necessities of life.

The adage, "snatch a cat out of the hot ashes and it will scratch your eyes out," has its good points for curbing a willingness to 'rescue the perishing', however, we can develop a climate of good thoughts toward our so called "little people."

"Thoughts have wings," make sure your carrier-pigeons are bearers of good tidings. The refuse of the social field is the ultimate source of its enrichment. By the by, whatever happened to the truism, 'charity begins at home.'

**EAST LANSING, Mich.**—The University of Michigan's Big Ten title hopes all but expired Saturday when arch-rival Michigan State upset the Wolverines, 96-92, as guard Mike Robinson scored 37 points for the winners.



**CITED**—Nathaniel Dickerson, associate personnel manager of General Foods Corp., White Plains, New York (right), is presented a plaque by Marshall Colston, director of planning and development at A&T State University. Dickerson and his firm were cited for outstanding contributions to the university's development program.

If you have a friend or relative suffering from an unalleviated hearing loss the person should be given special understanding, according to the Beltone Crusade for Hearing Conservation. Crusade officials point out that such people frequently suffer serious psychological side effects as a result of their hearing losses.

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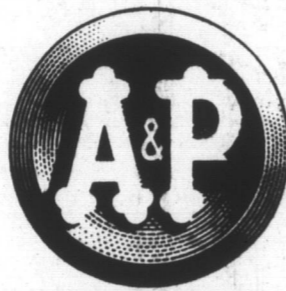
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