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## When we all look alike

The melting pot is almost boiling over.

What will happen when we all look alike? Will we treat each other better?

I try to be an optimist whenever possible, as fatalism does not suit my personality well. Some days when I am asked how I am doing, I reply "wonderful." The simple fact is, I don't like the alternatives.

On the other hand, wearing unrealistically rose-colored glasses gives one such a false sense of euphoria that it likely does no good at all.

My optimism extends to the fact that I recognize that whatever we allow ourselves to focus on and concentrate on directly controls our inner-self, our mood and the way we feel throughout the entire day. In some cases, it controls how we feel throughout our lifetime.

I often have commented on and written about the fact that if we concentrate on incomprehensible suffering, or the fact that there may be so much trouble in the world that we are too small or insignificant to make a difference, we can become numb and catatonic.

On the other hand, being realistic about our limitations can't be avoided.

Just reading the morning newspapers often is difficult. In Woody Allen's new movie, Larry David humorously explains that his father killed himself because he couldn't handle the daily headlines.

Nonetheless, keeping your head buried in the sand is as unrealistic as it gets, and accomplishes nothing.

The melting pot I mentioned is a term we use often to congratulate ourselves on the fact that our country has such a diverse racial, ethnic, religious and philosophical mix it truly allows us to cull the very best from various regions around the world. It also allows groups to gather together to the exclusion of others, and often to the point of hatred. Sometimes it leads to violence.

We are in a transition. There is no denying it. Eventually, our current ability to travel from place to place instantaneously will result in a recombination of the genetic pool.

Within a few centuries, perhaps even only the next century, there likely will be very few, or maybe only one skin tone.

The same is true with the shape of one's eyes, facial characteristics and other features genetically imbedded in each of us. The optimist in me continues to hope — perhaps it's better stated that I hope against hope — such evolution will not make us merely a bland undifferentiated mass, but instead will allow people the opportunity to judge one another based on true human characteristics rather than appearances. Let's hope.

*Robert L. Brenna Jr. is a partner in the Rochester law firm of Brenna, Brenna & Boyce PLLC, which his father founded. He is president of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers and hosts a Sunday morning radio program, "The Brenna & Brenna Law Forum," on WHAM 1180 AM at 8 a.m., online at [www.wham1180.com](http://www.wham1180.com).*



**By ROBERT L. BRENN JR.**

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