

## An American Love Story in Context: RESOURCES FOR JOURNALISTS

### Did you know?

- Today, the face of America is 72.7 % White, 12.1 % Black, 1 % American Indian & Alaska Native, 3.6 % Asian/Pacific Islander, and 11 % Hispanic. (*President's Initiative on Race/Census Data 1997*)
- Of all inter-racial marriages in 1990 percentages were: 5.8 % black & white, 70.6 % American Indian & white, and 28.7 % Asian & white. (*1990 Census of Population and Housing, Public Use Microdata Samples*)
- Of all same race marriages in 1990 percentages were: 97.0% White, 92.8% Black, 26.4% American Indian and 70.0% Asian. (*1990 Census of Population and Housing, Public Use Microdata Samples*)
- The OMB (Office of Management and Budget) ruled to slightly change the Census categories. The previous categories were: Asian or Pacific islander; American Indian or Alaskan native and other; black; Hispanic; and white. The new categories are: American Indian or Alaska native; Asian; black or African American; native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander; white; and Hispanic or Latino. New categories on the Census 2000 will be used in all federal statistics by 2003. (*SF Examiner, Oct. 30, 1997*)
- Under new Census rules, individuals can now check “white” **and** “Asian” or “black” **and** “American Indian,” or any number of combinations. (*SF Examiner, Oct. 30, 1997*)

### Shifts

Between 1970 and 1990, children born to mixed-race families soared from fewer than 500,000 to 2 million. (*SF Examiner, Oct. 30, 1997*)

In 2050, the population in the United States will be approximately 53 percent White, 25 percent Hispanic, 14 percent Black, 8 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1 percent American Indian.

*(President's Initiative on Race/Census Data 1997)*

### Interracial Married Couples

Year	Total married couples	Total Interracial marriages	Total black/white marriages	Black husband/white wife	White husband/black wife	white/other race*	Black/other race*
1990	51,718,000	1,461,000	213,000	159,000	54,000	1,173,000	75,000
1995	54,937,000	1,392,000	328,000	206,000	122,000	988,000	76,000

\* “Other race,” is any race other than white or black, such as American Indian, Japanese, Chinese, etc. (*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series, “Household and Family Characteristics: March 1994,” and earlier reports.*)

# SELECTED RESOURCES

## Websites

- [www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/1103](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/1103)  
**Bi-Racial Identity** is a webzine that provides illuminating statistics and perspectives on issues of bi-racial and mixed race identity as well as other information.
- [www.mavin.net](http://www.mavin.net)  
**MAVIN** is a quarterly print journal dedicated to the celebration of the mixed race experience in America. Its mission is to create a pan-collegiate voice and to provide financial and logistical support to encourage mixed race student organizations across the country.
- [www.multiracial.com](http://www.multiracial.com)  
**The Multiracial Activist**  
This site is dedicated to the struggle for governmental and social recognition of multiracial individuals.
- [www.ameasite.org](http://www.ameasite.org)  
**The Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA)** is a nationwide confederation of local multiethnic/interracial groups, incorporated as a nonprofit public benefit organization. This site's primary goal is to promote a positive awareness of interracial and multiethnic identity.
- [www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/OneAmerica](http://www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/OneAmerica)  
**President's Initiative on Race** (PIR) is an effort to move the country closer to a stronger, more just, and unified America, one that offers opportunity and fairness for all Americans. PIR asks Americans to engage in thoughtful study, constructive dialogue, and positive action to address the continuing challenge of how to live and work more productively as One America in the 21st century. This website offers information about the Initiative, resources and upcoming events.

## Books

- Maria Root, ed., *The Multiracial Experience*, Sage Publications, 1996
- Mark & Gail Mathabane, *Love in Black and White*, Harper Collins, 1992
- James McBride, *The Color of Water*, Riverhead Books, 1996.
- Lisa Jones, *Bulletproof Diva*, Doubleday, 1994
- Lise Funderburg, *Black, White, Other: Biracial Americans Talk About Race and Identity*, Morrow, 1994
- Claudine O'Hearne, *Half and Half: Writers on Growing up Biracial and Bicultural*, Pantheon, 1998
- Beverly Daniel Tatum, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* Basic Books, 1997

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*The Television Race Initiative (TRI) is a multi-year effort in which diverse, character-driven, high-profile television broadcasts create a spine for sustained community dialogue and problem solving around the issue of race relations. In partnership with national and community-based organizations, TRI uses storytelling--initially in the form of several public television broadcasts--to "break the ice" and encourage essential conversations that lead to constructive action. Visit [www.pbs.org/pov/tvraceinitiative](http://www.pbs.org/pov/tvraceinitiative) to find out more.*

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