

There are now millions of Americans who claim more than one heritage or whose cultural and ancestral roots lead them to reject the American racial dichotomy, said Roderick Harrison, a demographer for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think-tank.

Harrison said his research has revealed an unprecedented change in attitudes about race, especially in metropolitan areas of California, New York, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida—states that have substantial black, white and Hispanic populations.

Attitudes are changing, he said, because a nation that numerically and conceptually has been divided is becoming more multiracial and multiethnic.

"When people look at a white, black, Hispanic or Asian person 40 years from now I doubt racial or ethnic identity is going to mean the same thing as it means to us," Harrison said. "We won't want complete assimilation but the ability to retain some of our cultures."

For many people in South Florida, a pluralistic world exists now. Hispanics, for example, generally do not define themselves in terms of race—although they're aware that American culture heavily relies upon it.

"I know it sounds corny, but hopefully, we will reach a day when we talk about each other's culture rather than the color of our skin," said Washington Collado, a native of the Dominican Republic who like many people from the Caribbean has a mixed ancestry.

"I never am put in a position where I have to define myself by color," said Collado, 36, of Coconut Creek. "That's a question I don't even know how to answer."

Collado and his wife, Carmen, want their three sons, Mario, 9, Alejandro, 5, and Miguel, 1, to think of themselves as they do—as Dominicans and Hispanics.

"Without being blinded by the fact that they undoubtedly have to mark a little box that says Hispanic, I don't think my kids see themselves as dark skinned," Collado said. "Skin color is not the most important thing. I would rather my kids know who they are."

Such an outlook on race is prevalent among many Latin Americans, who prefer to view themselves as a diverse group united by culture and language.

"In their own countries, national identity is so important that racial identity isn't as important," said Helen Safa, a retired professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida.

"That doesn't mean there is no prejudice and discrimination," Safa said. "There is. But racial identity tends to be subordinated to the national identity."

Harrison and other demographers say it's possible that future generations of Hispanics and other immigrants of mixed heritage could classify themselves more along racial lines. But it is just as possible that they will not.

For much of the nation's history, however, the racial divide was such that the children of interracial marriages—as well as black immigrants—found a home only in black America.

Moreover, until about three decades ago, 16 states had laws designed to prevent marriages between people of different races. Then, in 1967, the Supreme Court ruled anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional.

Since then, the climate of intolerance and separation that led to such laws has faded. The number of mixed marriages has steadily risen, as has the number of people of African descent and mixed ancestry who have immigrated to the United States.

But even today, mixed couples often must overcome barriers. Though more common, such unions are not universally accepted.

Often, the sternest opposition still comes from family members.

That's what Trayce Denise Santoro, who is black, discovered four years ago when she married her husband Filippo, the son of Italian immigrants.

"His mother and father were completely against it," said Santoro, 36, of West Palm Beach. "They didn't come to the wedding or anything. They didn't want to meet me."

Since then, however, Santoro's in-laws have warmed to her and she does not hold their feelings against them. Santoro even wants her children, 2-year-old Filippo II and Lena Marina, 3 months, to learn how to speak Italian so they can better enjoy their dual heritage.

When Trayce Santoro looks at her two children, she sees both black and white—the way she hopes they will also will view themselves. That's why she supports the efforts to establish a new multiracial category on the Census and other forms.

"I would prefer them to choose multiracial if biracial isn't on the list or they couldn't choose (both) black and white," she said. "I wouldn't want them to pick one or the other."

Sociologists say it's no surprise that multiracial and multiethnic people are beginning to reject the nation's outdated racial codes.

Sarah Willie, a professor of sociology and black studies at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa., outside Philadelphia, said civil rights leaders and black nationalists laid the groundwork for the nation's broader racial and ethnic framework a generation ago.

That African-Americans could celebrate their roots made it possible for today's immigrants to take such pride in their countries of origin.

No longer so intent upon embracing American culture at the expense of their own, many Hispanics and others now proudly display the flag of their homeland on their cars.

"We forget that nobody was putting a flag on their car 30 years ago," Willie said. "That was the tail end of a very explicit assimilationist policy in the U.S."

"Most immigrants subscribed to that at an incredible cost to language and culture. Ties to the past were lost."

She believes integration and the evolving sense of pride multiracial people have developed in their diverse backgrounds has allowed many to redefine themselves.

"People will still tend to identify with a group," said Willie, who has a black and a white mother. "But they will say I'm black or Latino or Asian—and I have another parent on the other side."

Allowing people to label themselves as they choose may cause waves, however.

Some Americans—white and black—are offended when they see others stress nationalistic roots.

And black Americans may lift an eyebrow when a person they perceive as black acts as if he or she is something else—a sign that being black in the American sense isn't good enough for them.

But those attitudes, too, will change, said Tanya Simons-Oparah, assistant director for outreach for the Broward County Library.

"If you choose not to want to identify with black people I feel badly for you because I know the riches and the value of being of African descent," said Simons-Oparah, 52, an African-American whose parents are from the Bahamas and Panama. "We can't claim everybody."

Harrison said the degree to which children of mixed marriages claim "multiracial" as an identity will help determine how far the changes in attitude go.

"When we look at some of the earlier success for the multiracial categories (on test

Census surveys and school district forms, for example) about 50 percent of the people who exercised that option were under 18," Harrison said. It's reflective of the recent acceptance of mixed marriage, he said.

If Masters is any indication, the change in identification will come because biracial offspring don't want to pretend as if one of their two parents doesn't exist. Even if they consider themselves black, as she does.

"I can't possibly choose between them," Masters said. "They're both from very rich cultures and I have to respect them both."

## TRIBUTE TO THE MEDIA

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Branen and the local newspapers in my district who are helping the refugees of Kosovo. I strongly believe the most effective way to help those in need is through an individual's time and efforts to volunteer at local charities and churches. This works when helping the homeless and hungry in your own community, or when helping the homeless and hungry thousands of miles away in war-torn Kosovo.

Southern Lakes Media, Inc. of Burlington and Walworth Newspapers, Inc. of Walworth have launched a nine-city effort to generate support of those fleeing Kosovo. Bob Branen, president of the newspaper chains, is asking, through editorials and advertisements, for Wisconsin citizens to donate to World Relief, an international assistance organization.

World Relief is working with Albania's churches to assist the men, women and children who were forced to flee their homes without food, water or clothing. This organization is fighting to give these refugees not only material comforts, but spiritual hope as well. The Kosovars, expelled from their homeland by Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, are finding safety in the open homes and open arms of the people of Tirana. The outpouring of generosity by my neighbors in Wisconsin translates into meaningful action, half a world away, for the victims of the Kosovo conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor their extraordinary example and encourage them to continue their efforts and I commend Mr. Branen for the initiative he took to inform his newspaper readers.

## TRIBUTE TO ADREA G. COHEN

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of Adrea Cohen of Belleville, New Jersey on this the occasion of her Retirement and Testimonial Dinner. Adrea is being honored tonight because of her 25 years of service to the township of Belleville and the Belleville Public Library and Information Center. It is only fitting that we gather here tonight in her honor, for she epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Adrea Cohen has served as Director of the Belleville Public Library and Information Center since 1993. She began as its Assistant Library Director in 1974 after completing her

second Masters Degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. Cohen also holds a Master's Degree in History from Montclair State University. She has taken graduate courses in history at Harvard University, where she was schooled under the President of the Library of Congress.

Adrea was formerly a tenured teacher of English, history, and literature in the City of Passaic, from 1958 to 1964, a school librarian in the City of Passaic from 1964 to 1966, she was a supervisor of student teachers for Montclair State University, and a teacher of ESL (English as a Second Language) and she also taught English in the Wayne and Passaic Adult Schools for 15 years.

Many people in the community of Belleville, New Jersey have benefited from Adrea's vast commitment to civil programs. She has been made a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club, as well as served as their public relations chair. She was the literature chair of the Woman's Club, and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce. She is a past president of Zonta International of the Greater Wayne area. She has served as president of the administration section of NJLA and is still an active member of the first regional library cooperative.

She has served as president of libraries in focus, a Cablevision consortium for Essex County libraries and has actively videotaped over one hundred programs at the library for the past ten years, which have appeared on local cablevision. She has also held a yearly Martin Luther King, Jr. event at School No. 9 in Paterson, New Jersey, and has worked closely with local artists and photographers whose work she has displayed in the library.

In the spring, Adrea will be honored by Kappa Delta Phi, New York University, as Educator of the Year for her library directorship and contributions to the community. The award will be presented to her by the United States Ambassador and deputy governor, Dr. Inez Bull.

Adrea has been married to Roy Cohen for 37 years, and has two children, Pamela and Bonnie Cohen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Adrea's family, friends, and coworkers, the Belleville Library and Information Center, and Township of Belleville, New Jersey, in thanking Mrs. Adrea Cohen for all her years of service to the community and congratulating her on her well deserved retirement, her presence will be greatly missed.

#### REGARDING THE SBC-AMERITECH MERGER

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of recent, very positive developments involving the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications. I was delighted when the Justice Department gave its green light to the merger on March 23rd. This approval followed a thorough review by the Justice Department and confirms that the merger is not anti-competitive.

The merger approval by DOJ was followed by a favorable recommendation from a hear-

ing examiner for the Illinois Commerce Commission. Then, just last week, the Public Utility Commission of Ohio formally voted to approve the merger. I would also note that the Rainbow-PUSH Coalition endorsed the merger on March 29th. In announcing its support, the Coalition said, "Rainbow PUSH found that these companies are truly concerned about implementing corporate practices that favor workers and consumers, creating employment opportunities and fostering small business growth." Additionally, the Coalition pointed out that the merger enjoys strong, broad-based support from organized labor.

Ameritech announced on April 6th that, consistent with the conditions imposed on the merger by the Justice Department, it was selling half of its cellular properties to GTE Corp. for about \$3.3 billion. One of GTE's principal allies in this transaction is Georgetown Partners, a minority owned and operated company. Assuming the merger is approved, Georgetown Partners will become one of the most significant minority-owned communications firms in the United States.

While all of these developments are extremely positive, Mr. Speaker, I must express my strong concern over FCC Chairman Bill Kennard's recent action adding a new, and unprecedented, hearing process to the Commission's deliberations on the Ameritech-SBC merger. I appreciate the Chairman's desire for thoroughness, but I must question the fairness of injecting such a process in a deliberation that has now been before the FCC for almost eleven months.

In conclusion, I would note that as long as this merger remains in limbo before the FCC, it substantially harms the competitive positions of both companies in the national and international markets. I hope we keep in mind that, between them, Ameritech and SBC employ more than 200,000 people. Many of these people are my constituents in the 2nd District of Illinois. I strongly encourage the FCC to consider the Ameritech-SBC merger with the same efficiency and fairness that it has considered other recent mergers in the highly competitive telecommunications industry.

#### DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today at a news conference, Senator TIM HUTCHINSON and I reintroduced the Dollars to the Classroom Act, a bill to benefit school children and teachers all across this country.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act will direct federal funding for elementary and secondary education directly to the states, requiring that 95% of K-12 funding reach classrooms and teachers. This Act passed the House in the 105th Congress 212-198. Joining us today in support of the bill were seventh and eighth-grade students from Charles Patton Middle School in Unionville, PA, along with their teachers, Math and History teacher Shannon Tate and Spanish teacher Christine Bailey. Maryland public school administrator Stephen Wallis also spoke on behalf of the legislation.

Senator HUTCHINSON and I have been working on this legislation because we believe in

the importance of doing all that we can to improve the academic achievement of our public school children. How do we accomplish that? We believe that empowering the teachers and bolstering the classroom resources of our kids directly improves their learning process. One of the young middle school students presented the need for the Dollars to the Classroom Act better than anyone else could. Seventh-grader Cole Allen said, "The geography books that we use were printed when our teacher was in eighth grade. Well a lot has changed since then. They should be called 'The Geography of the world as it was 13 years ago.'" As Cole pointed out, many teachers use their own funds to buy tools for their classrooms, because so much of education funding gets eaten up before it makes it to the classroom.

When we think of our children's efforts to learn, we often think of the tools that go into forming and shaping their young minds: tools like books, classrooms, computers . . . and things like flash cards, spelling tests, and calculators. Yet, many of our federal dollars that go to elementary and secondary education do not reach our kids. That's why we've come up with the Dollars to the Classroom Act. This is a simple concept. Instead of keeping education dollars here in Washington, let's ensure that 95 cents on every federal dollar is sent directly to parents, teachers, and principals who are truly helping our children in the learning process.

Passage of the Dollars to the Classroom Act would mean \$870 million in new dollars for school children across the country. That means an additional \$10,000 for each public school in America. That also translates into \$450 for every class in America.

This is a common sense step in our efforts to improve public education for the students of the next millennium.

#### THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 1999

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999.

Over the past few decades the contribution of women-owned businesses to our economy has grown exponentially. Today, the 8 million women-owned firms in this country contribute more than \$2.3 trillion annually to the U.S. economy and offer jobs to one out of every five U.S. workers. Moreover, women-owned businesses are now starting at twice the rate of all other businesses in the United States, and, by the year 2000, it is expected that nearly one out of every two businesses will be owned by a woman. In my home state of New Mexico, in particular, women-owned firms account for 41 percent of all businesses, provide employment for over 35 percent of the state's workforce, and generate 21 percent of all sales. This success is even more remarkable in that it ranks New Mexico third of all the states in women-owned business incorporations—a statistic that identifies women-owned firms as an important part of New Mexico's efforts to improve the lives of all its residents.