

From Taboo to Trend: Interracial Dating

A familiar premise on a major public university: The blonde hair blowing freely in the wind, intermingling with the raven locks or ebony crown of the lover as they embrace, expressing their unique and historically taboo romance to whomever should be around. The blue eyes beaming romantic intent, complemented by the devoted affection of brown eyes. Some celebrate, some don't. Some will approve, some won't: his blonde hair and blue eyes, her raven locks and brown eyes.

If you were expecting the genders of these lovers to be reversed, ignoring trends you many have seen amongst some black athletes, entertainers and businessmen, then you truly haven't embraced the New Millennium! Whereas before it may have been deemed the prerogatives of famous divas like Diahann Carroll, Iman, Dorothy Dandridge and Tina Turner, many of today's sistas are dating white men and many white men are "Livin' La Vida Cocoa."

We all have heard the myths as to why black men supposedly go after white women, but the idea of a white man with a black woman has many brothas and sistas stumped. Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings is one thing, but a 21st century romance in which both parties are free and able to choose or decline? Inconceivable? Not for quite a few young individuals here at Chapel Hill. After interviewing three young white Tar Heels of varying religious and socio-economic backgrounds, the conclusion is that race, for the most part, is not an issue. All three men said that they would gladly date a black woman and, given that genuine love was to ensue, marry a black woman.

This might leave some critics to inquire, "Well, they say they'd marry a black woman, but would they take her home to meet their friends and family?" All three young white men say that they would have no problem introducing their black spouses to every aspect of their lives, including

their family, friends and religions.

What are your views toward "Livin' La Vida Cocoa?" Is it something that you would engage in?

Whether you champion or disagree with interracial dating, especially relationships involving a white man and a black woman, one thing seems clear and imminent: times are changing.

The slave era in which white slave masters were able to forcibly take advantage of his black slave girl without fear of legal retribution is long over. Black women today have the choice to love whomever they wish and quite a few are choosing white men. Whether or not these black women are choosing white men for reasons of sexual pleasure, finance, simple loving affection or any other reason a woman chooses a man, is not important.

Black women are no longer looking upon white men as inherent villains, but as boyfriends and husbands. That premise, of course, is that some white men truly value the beauty, uniqueness and articulation of the black woman. That premise, of course, is that love is truly blind.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., perhaps the most dominant figure in the tapestry of black history in this country, envisioned a future in which our race gives way to the "content of our character" and in which little black boys, little white boys, little black girls and little white girls could join hands as brothers and sisters. Does this integration only extend to platonic relationships? Not for some apparently.

This isn't a judgment of one's views and opinions. But if you aren't one of those who celebrate (or at least tolerate) this trend in interracial dating, can you honestly admit that you support equality? Are you really ready for the New Millennium?

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