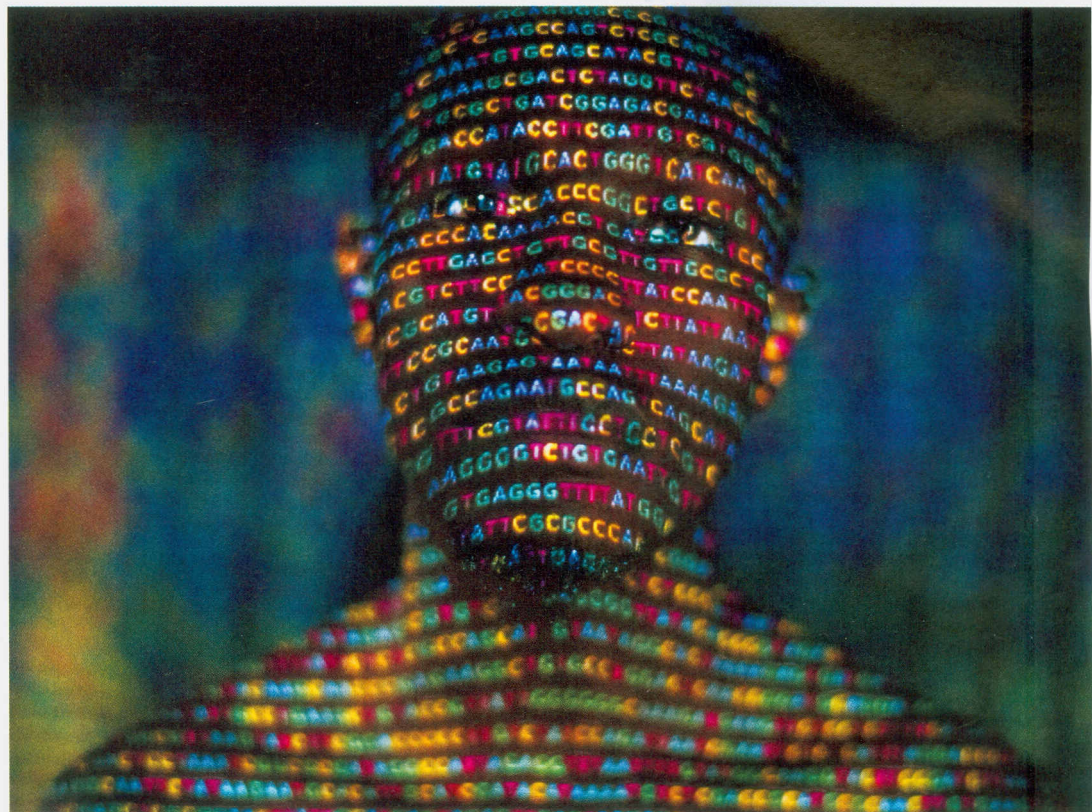


| CONTENTS

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THE RACE ISSUE

To mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, we explore what race means in the 21st century.



▲ 28 | SKIN DEEP

What is race? Science tells us there is no genetic basis for it. Instead it's largely a made-up label, used to define and separate us.

By Elizabeth Kolbert Photographs by Robin Hammond

46 | WHAT DIVIDES US

Human beings are wired at birth to distinguish Us from Them and to favor our own group. Can science help us bridge the divides?

By David Berreby Photographs by John Stanmeyer

ON THE COVER

Marcia (left) and Millie Biggs, both 11, say people are shocked to learn that they're fraternal twins. Marcia looks more like their mother, who's English, and Millie looks more like their father, who's of Jamaican descent. See more about the twins on page 12. *Photo by Robin Hammond*

#IDefineMe Science defines you by your DNA. Society defines you by the color of your skin. How do you define yourself?

CONTENTS

THE RACE ISSUE

14 | STREETS IN HIS NAME

More than a thousand streets across the world bear Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s name. How do these roads reflect the civil rights icon's values and teachings?

By Wendi C. Thomas



100 | THE STOP

Traffic stops – the most common interaction between police and the public – are a flash point in the debate over race.

By Michael A. Fletcher

Photographs by Wayne Lawrence



70 | COLORS OF MATRIMONY

The growing acceptance of relationships across racial and ethnic lines can be seen at a New York City marriage bureau.

By Patricia Edmonds

Photographs by Wayne Lawrence

78 | DAWN OF WHITE MINORITY

The demographic changes rippling across America are fueling anxiety among some whites.

By Michele Norris

Photographs by Gillian Laub



118 | A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

Historically black colleges are seeing a surge in enrollment and activism.

By Clint Smith

Photographs by Nina Robinson

and Radcliffe "Ruddy" Roye



142 | RESISTANCE, REIMAGINED

An artist reenacts historic scenes from the black struggle for freedom. The times and places differ; the resolve is the same.

By Maurice Berger

Photographs by Omar Victor Diop

COMING UP

DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

This year *National Geographic* will offer multimedia coverage of racial, ethnic, and religious groups and examine their changing roles in 21st-century life.

THE SERIES WILL INCLUDE:

MUSLIMS

In the United States, nearly 3.5 million Muslims from some 75 countries are experiencing opportunity – and opposition.

LATINOS

Latinos in the United States come from many races. Now at about 18 percent of the population, they're the nation's largest minority group.

ASIAN AMERICANS

South Asians are a major force in medicine, technology, and business. Today they're playing increasingly prominent roles in mainstream American culture. Also: We revisit some of the 120,000 Japanese U.S. citizens incarcerated during World War II.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Their culture at times erased or appropriated, Native Americans are rising up to fight the marginalization they've endured.