



1996

## Then And Now

Carl E. Woodson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope>

 Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

### Recommended Citation

Woodson, Carl E. (1996) "Then And Now," *Calliope*: Vol. 1996 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol1996/iss1/15>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the English at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Calliope by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact [maira.bundza@wmich.edu](mailto:maira.bundza@wmich.edu).



## Then And Now

In the mornings, the sun shone but I never felt its  
brightness.

In the nights, the moon and the stars fought for control of  
the sky.

Back then I never really noticed anything.

Didn't know anyone named Tommy Hilfiger,  
Marc Buchanon, or Ralph Lauren for that matter.

I knew Phil', and Scott, Randy, and Rich'.

Everybody knew Osiris was the "Best Dressed,"  
but nobody cared.

Books were thrown across Math classes,  
that were crammed like sardine cans.

People were called ugly, fat, or poor,  
just to pass time in lunch.

My friends used to talk about my hair,  
'cause mine grew and theirs didn't.

Morena didn't care if you "went with" her best friend,  
when she liked you,  
you were going to be hers.

Everybody was all smiles because their parents  
were either always gone from home,  
or just didn't care about them.

Back then,  
the fifteen dollars I got for allowance,  
could last me about a week and a half of school,  
plus the weekend.

*Carl E. Woodson*