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Then And Now

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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