

NOSTALGIA

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My joints ached today
when I heard Collective Soul's
"The World I Know".

I'm nostalgic for the '90s.

Everything was more fun:
O.J. went to trial,
Clinton was impeached,
Columbine created a string of high school days
bomb-threat botched,
and Y2K assured unremitting mayhem.

Baby Boomed teachers promised prosperity:
Jobs were to be plentiful like doughnuts in a delicious dozen
waiting to be discarded for another
if the filling wasn't sweet enough.

Then the new millennium:
9-11.

Operation Enduring Freedom
began the War in Afghanistan
the day I received an enlistment card.

A preemptive war in Iraq
affronted an American tradition
taught in the textbooks.

The Great Recession destroyed jobs
and devoured the chimera
of everlasting affluence.

The world I know
makes me nostalgic for times past—
a time when I discovered a youth
for which I was never looking
and will never
find again.

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