

The Couples

by: Steve Burkett

They entered the park at the corner of 17th and T street moving on the walking path crossing over to 10th and T. It had been overcast that morning so they were both wearing jackets. He the old hand me down black leather jacket with all the zippers on it his uncle had given him when he was 14, he did grow into it. She was wearing that old blue Levi jacket with his name on it she had taken from him there first year together. She said it wasn't that she would ever forget his name but so he would know who he belonged with.

They were holding hands, smiling, moving at a swift pace. As the young couple came upon a much slowing moving elderly couple they stepped apart momentarily as they walked pass the elderly couple on either side. The elderly couple with their arms wrapped around one another in a loving embrace were smiling knowingly into one another's eyes no longer in any hurry to get to where ever they were going.

As the young couple passed they all gazed into one another's eyes. The elderly couple no longer recognized the young couple but they remembered those jackets, they slowed down even more as they watched their youth fading away down the path behind them.