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Short Stories

'neath the northern winds

'neath the nort

y por si acaso volvieran les daría
harmacas, que tengo montañas, que te
de todos modos, verdad, que las tomo
caraveles siguen apareciendo debajo
so, pero no te hagas caso, es mi fraca
un caballo, ni un centauro ni un cente
la hojarasca conquista, y por cortés q
cortes hay lo que haya más allá del co

el accent cuenta mucho, verdad. somos todos chilangos chingados y luego la academia nos quitó la che, nuestra che, la che que nos encabezó y ya se la quitó y ¿dónde? en Bolivia, supongo, aunque de verdad dónde quizá sea academic, we are all in bolivia ¿where? land-locked and still dreaming yet a pesar de (y sí pesa mucho) (eso sí, that sea) esa guerra y aquélla, y la de antes de aquélla, y la de antes de la, que un día el puerto abrirá y de tres sólo nos saludarán el mar, el cielo y el horizonte, en vez de los galleones hundidos llevando tequila pa' el Norte y qué ausencia tan presente, qué futuro tan pasado, los antepasados cuyas miradas ya son huellas en el mar, los que tocaban hace cinco siglos tanto de lo que ya no se sabe tocar, y ¡por si acaso nos pudieran enseñar a tocar de nuevo, el uno al otro! que la puerta cerró al abrirse el puerto, la femenina siempre chingada, ya que los turistas pisán el malinchón y ¡qué bonito el mar! y, ¡qué hola las olas! como un bo'livar' nuestro, verdad, cementado y ancho como no los son acá, todo bajito y chiquito y chingachingadito:

chimmi chimmichanga chim chimereee, Taco Bell stays open till a half past three, ring that campana, launch that campaña, don't u proposition me else you will end up like españia, kicking out what made you, 'cause after the moors were less the lessers were more and lessors do not own what they claim and you can take away my che but i still got my [il] [an'] I can [go], that isle stretching from Tierra del Fuego to the snowcaps of the Arctic, and though you can force your canal up my isthmus, por cortés que sea, there's rock underneath, connecting still, and no number of compañías bananeras shoved up that way can quitar our [il], good thing that s and e are silent, being reflexive is dangerous, especially when the republic is a

hern winds

any cutting blade; razor bay; matter, problem, affair
penknife.—*enchillada*, *f.* a questionario, *m.* questionnaire.
a knife; stab; slash; gash, *f.* cave, grotto, cavern; a
chilleria, *f.* cutlery, cutler's trade, *m.* care, attention; cust-
—*enchille*, *m.* knife; gusset, ingenuity, caution; worry,
cuchitril, *m.* narrow hole or way.—no *hay c.* (*de que*), the
very small room; hut; den; danger that.—no *pase c.*
cuchufleta, *f.* joke, jest, fun. *Verda c!* don't worry!—tene-
cuelga, *f.* cluster of grapes; be careful; to be worri-
—cuero, *m.* leather, skin, leather; be out! beware!—ci-
cuenca, *f.* wooden bowl; socks; with care.—c. de, to take
eye; river basin; deep v.—c. ir, to take care of ones;
cuenco, *m.* earthen or wooden dish; *farce de*, to look out for
cuenta, *f.* computation, calculation; stand against; to avoid,
account; bill, (coll.) tab; *en la cuenta*, *f.* account, tro-
bead (of a rosary, etc.)—cuentas, in the and *en el* pole supported
University of California, Berkeley, EE. UU. hanging
correr de lo *c. de uno*, to be run.—pl. hop poles.
responsibility.—darse *c.* to receive, *f.* butt, stock (of a fireax)
en resumidas cuentas, in short; rear (of car, house).—
tenerle a uno *c.* to be of no use, *m.* blow with the butt;

ADAM LIFSHEY, mate, wrote: "I supported Dennis Berkley, FE III."

parts; to whip.—*er.* to split, crack, rive.
cuartel, *m.* quarter, fourth part; barracks; mercy; district, ward.—*no dar c.* to give no quarter.—
cuartelada, *f.*, *cuartelazo*, *m.* military coup d'état.
cuarteta, *f.* quatrain.—**cuarteto**, *m.* (mus.) quartet.
cuartilla, *f.* sheet of paper; (print.) sheet of copy; fourth part of an arroba (about 6 lbs.).—**cuartillo**, *m.* pint. (See Table of Measures).
cuarto, *m.* & *a.* fourth, fourth part, quarter.—*m.* room, chamber.—*pl.* cash, money.—*no tener un c.* not to be worth a cent.

cuarzo, *m.* quartz.

cuate, *m.* (Mex.) twin.—*eso no tiene c.* that has no match.

custrero, *m.* horse thief, cattle thief.

cuba, *f.* cask; big-bellied person; drunkard.

cubano, *n.* & *a.* Cuban.

cub bear and l'état c'est toi, or is it, slipping away, tan golden, getting darker, the sun king in his

aubación, *otorío*, *acaso...après Chiapas le délugé?*

cúbito, Remember the Alamo! it's very pop'lar, isn't it? très grand! ¿encore? ¡bravo! well not.

so grande, the rio's but a tributary now, no place for an empire, really, or an emperor, even if he's the Max. from Les Halles of Montezuma (¿más zumo? ¡grathias!) to the stores of the TLC, and we all need a little TLC, or so they say, on the land and on the sea (semper fidel is) (even a little space seems to count for so much) (¡qué cochino!), especially in the maquiladoras that stretch from mercury to pluto all along the border, so damned hot it's infernal, and the wingèd messenger isn't so much a fly boy as a corpse floating undiscovered in the bulrushes, lips parched, skin shrunk, eyes set haggard to the meat-packing plants of Kansas, as the sun worshippers stream south for Mazatlán and Cancún, swapping their green for brown, unseeing those below who must sell their brown for green in matamoros reynosa monterrey nuevo laredo chihuahua juárez nogales méxicali tijuana but jamás in their red red hearts.

and so california here we come, right back where we started from, all those years ago cuando, bueno, matamos a los indígenas y así nos hicimos los nuevos indígenas, hasta que los gringos se hicieron los indígenas, and canít somehow we all just get along? i mean, is it so damn hard? here on sunset bo'livar? and will the sun ever set? and will it also rise? and why must we always kill to find out? i mean, why not sunrise bolivar? que no quiero llenar mis flores con ametralladoras, que mi mundo sea tu mundo, que ya no tengo tengos, que it takes two to tango, and baby i'm with you, red rose and all, red as your heart, red as mine, 'cause i know nada, chica, just that a kiss would be so sweet, that my casa is yours, que es poca cosa pero te la doy, que mi techo es tu tango, mi ranch tu ranchera, and let's kiss to cumbias on the cumbres of the dusty hot valleys beneath that bright warm sun, that bright blue sky, and i got nuthin, actually, nuthin, none of the above, nuthin to offer you but me, naked and shivering 'neath these northern winds, 'neath the horror (the horror!) of it all, of these past five hundred years, y si me dejas, si me dejas, i pledge my eternal love to thee.

any cutting blade; razor bay; matter, problem, penknife.—**cuchillada**, *f.* a questionario, *m.* questionnaire a knife; stab; slash; grotto, *f.* cave, grotto, cavern
cuchillería, *f.* cutlery, cutler's trade, *m.* care, attention;—
cuchillo, *m.* knife; gusset, usefulness, caution; worn cuchitril, *m.* narrow hole or slit.—*no hay c. (de que)*, very small room; hut; den; danger that.—*no pasa cuchuflets*, *f.* joke, jest, fun. *cierta c.!* don't worry!—
cuelga, *f.* cluster of grapes; be careful; to be w. (of garlic, onion, etc); (Am.) *verj.* look out! beware! birthday present.

cuello, *m.* neck; collar.

cuena, *f.* wooden bow; socket.

cuenco, *m.* earthen or wooden basin.

cuenta, *f.* computation, calendar against; to avoid.

account; bill, (coll.) tab.

cuentas, in the end.—*oer m.* *m.* with; pole supper (coll.) to catch on, get the plus vertical ones for han-

correr de la c. de uno, to run up, *pl.* hop poles.

responsibility.—**darse c.** to recruit, *f.* butt, stock (of a 1

en resumidas cuentas, in sumam.) rear (of car, house tenerle a una c., to be of n.

m. blow with the b

Antonio Avilés

Escritor guatemalteco, es Profesor de Humanidades en San Francisco State University, California, EE. UU. Co-autor del guión para la película *El Norte* (1984), ha publicado cinco novelas, *Después de las bombas* (1979), *Itzam Na* (1981), *Jaguar en llamas* (1989), *Los caminos de Paxil* (1991) y *Cascabel* (1998). Es dos veces ganador del premio Casa de las Américas y de la beca Anna Seghers. Actualmente concluye otra novela, *Sopa de caracol*. Además, ha publicado un libro de crítica sobre la narrativa guatemalteca del siglo veinte, *La identidad de la palabra*, y otro sobre narrativa centroamericana contemporánea, *Gestos Ceremoniales*. Actualmente coordina la edición crítica de *Mulata de Tal* de Miguel Angel Asturias, y un libro sobre la presente controversia en torno al testimonio de Rigoberta Menchú, *The Properties of Words: Rigoberta Menchú, David Stoll and Identity Politics in Central America*.