

If we left Cuba, we can leave anything.

by Dulce Maria Menendez

The *chivatos* called us *gusanos*
because we left with large
green duffle bags filled with
only personal belongings.

They were chivatos because
they followed Fidel and like
goats ran at the mouth whenever
someone was not loyal
to the new regime.

Gusanos they said
were spineless.

And so we left
not looking back
and settled like
pioneers and took refuge
and like worms we dug
ourselves deeper
into the land
penetrating to
new territories
while the *chivatos*
stayed in Cuba
until the day came
when there was
no way out
except to swim

with the sharks.

And when we met them
in the streets of Miami,
we never apologized.

