

Wait a minute!

ALFONSO RUBIANO

Wait a minute!

Wait a minute!

Everything's gotta be just right!

And I mean

Right.

EVERYTHING RIGHT.

EVERYTHING.

Beginning with the Joycean (say) order of the Universe

secundum Stephanus Daedalus¹

filius et spiritus et pater

architectus

Icarus...child of Holy Mother Church...Bloomsonian

Irish, et. al.

Going on by dutifully measuring out our tiny, academic

(foot-noted and cross-referenced)

lives with coffee spoons.²

Howling all the way from the moo-cow³ to *The Yage Letters*,⁴

only to end up by

Seeing the best minds of that generation destroyed by madness,

demanding instantaneous lobotomies.⁵

[Oh, —Moloch—Moloch—Moloch!]⁶

But, hey...

What the hey...

This is, after all, the eighties

and it was twenty years ago today

that people started singing:

"It was twenty years ago today

That Sergeant Pepper taught the band to play...

...so may I introduce to you

The one and only Billy Shears."⁷

Get the words right and everything will be

all

Right
JUST WRITE

EVERYTHING

Alfonso Rubiano, a native of Bogotá, Colombia, attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received his M.A. degree in Comparative Literature in 1969. He began his teaching career in Puerto Rico at Catholic University in Ponce. He has been a member of the English Department since 1975. He teaches American Literature and Translation, among other things. At present, he is working on the translation of selected poems by Colombian poet Juan Gustavo Cobo Borda.

¹ James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (London, 1916), pp. 15-16.

² T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in *Collected Poems, 1909-1950* (New York, 1962), p. 5.

³ Joyce, p. 7.

⁴ William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg, *The Yage Letters: A Correspondence* (San Francisco, 1959), title page.

⁵ Allen Ginsberg, "Howl I" *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume II*, ed. by Ronald Gottesman, et. al. (New York, 1979), p. 2403.

⁶ Ginsberg, "Howl II" in *Contemporary American Poetry*, ed. by A. Poulin, Jr. (Boston, 1985), p. 166.

⁷ The Beatles, "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" in *Beowulf to Beatles and Beyond: The Varieties of Poetry*, ed. by David R. Pichaske (New York, 1981), pp. 510-11.