

Sasha The Great Big Balloon

By Joel Goldsmith

Dedicated to my cat Sasha

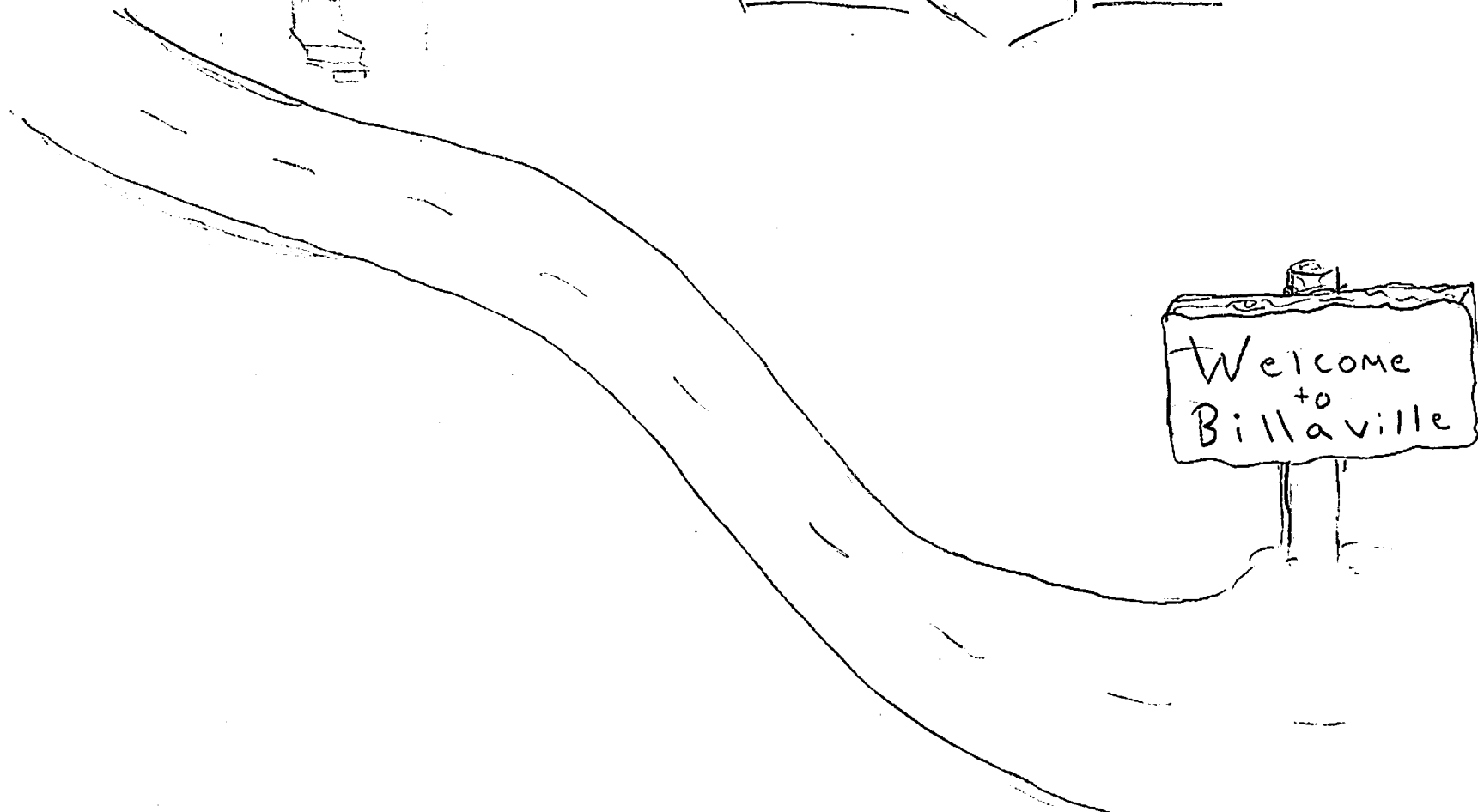
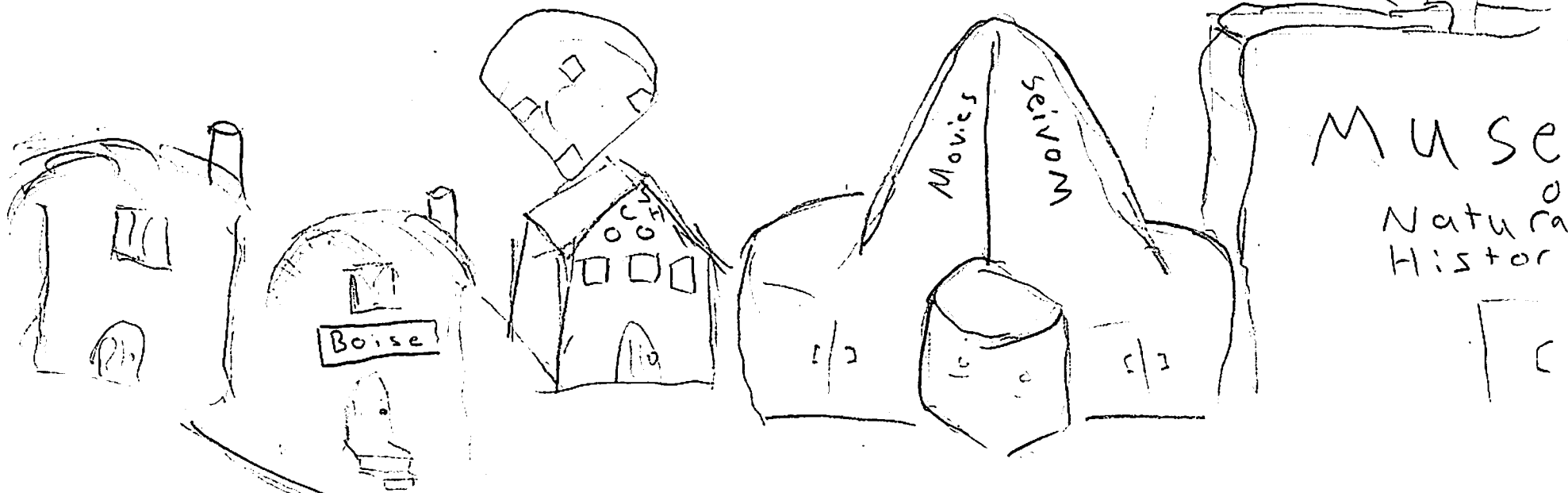
Once upon a time in the small town of Billaville there was a young boy named Billiam Boise who lived with his mother and his father. Billiam had the same interests as many of the other young children of Billaville. He liked going to the movies, he enjoyed seeing the dinosaurs at the museum, and he dabbled in the occasional little league base ball game.

One day, Billiam Boise's mother purchased a present for him. It was a small, purple, deflated balloon, and Billiam was so very excited. He pressed his lips to the lips of the balloon and he puffed and puffed and puffed until the balloon was full of air. Then he took out a marker from his backpack and etched into the purple balloon "Sasha."

"That is going to be her name, Sasha, and she is going to go everywhere with me." Billiam announced to his mother.

"Everywhere Billiam? To the movies? To the Museum? To the little league games?"

"Yes mamma, and she will sleep floating above my head."



And Billiam was good to his word. He brought Sasha to see “Up” in the movie theater, and he brought Sasha to see the T-rex in the museum and he even ran the bases with Sasha floating above his head in his little league game. Everywhere he went people were unhappy with Sasha.

“Hey kid, I can’t see the movie with your balloon floating up there.”

“Hey kid, I can’t see the T-rex with your balloon in the way”

“Hey kid, I can’t throw the ball home with that big balloon in the air.”

And every single time, Billiam would answer the same way;

“But she’s Sasha The Great Big Balloon, and I love her. She goes everywhere I go.”

Billiam really did love Sasha, he even brought her to school on Monday, and when the teacher said,

“Billiam, what’s that balloon doing in class? Show and tell isn’t until Friday.”

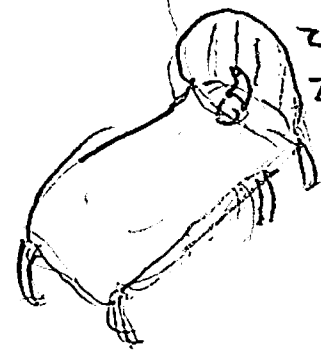
Billiam responded, “But Mrs. Bologna, this is Sasha The Great Big Balloon, and she goes every where I go because I love her.”

One day at the museum he noticed that Sasha was a little bit smaller than she was the day before. Then the next day at the movies he noticed Sasha The Great Big Balloon was not quite as great and big as she was the day before. And then on the next day at little league practice, she looked still a little bit smaller.

Sasha



Sasha



Sasha



Sasha

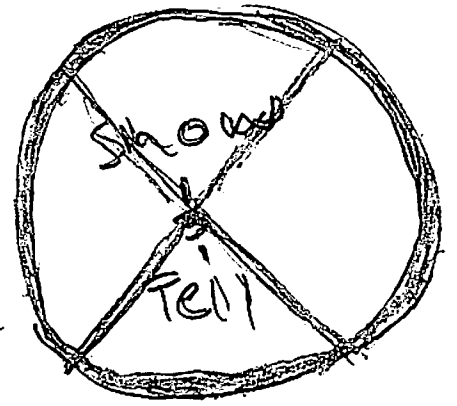
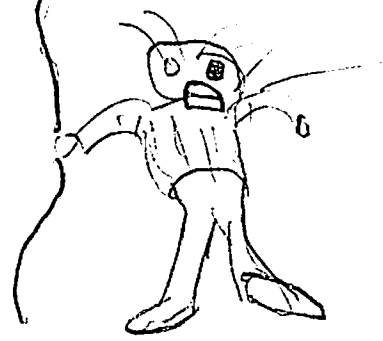
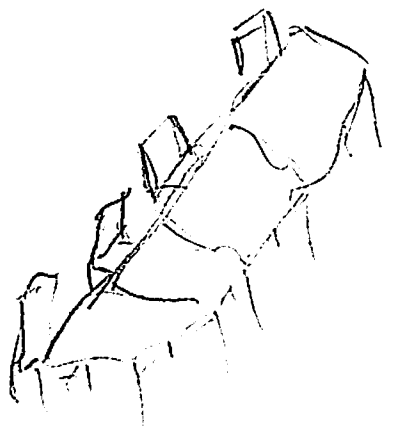
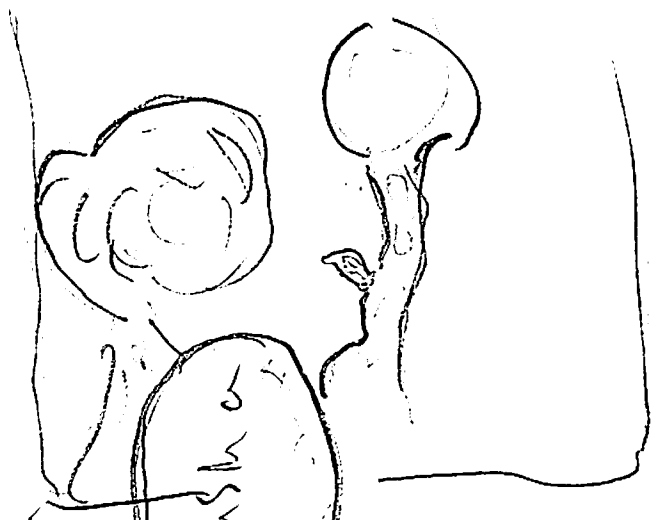


Sasha



Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Chair Board

Times
1x1=1
1x2=2
1x3=3
1x4=4



When Billiam got home he rushed to his mother,

“Momma, Momma, Sasha is getting smaller and smaller and I don’t know why!”

“Well Billiam Boise, after a while all balloons lose their air. It’s Called deflating and it means pretty soon Sasha will be too small to float, and we’ll have to throw her out into the garbage.”

“But Momma, I love Sasha! I take her to the movies, I take her to museum, and she goes with me to every single little league game! She sleeps by my head while I lay in bed. I love her and I do not want her to deflate. I do not want to have to throw her out into the garbage!”

“But Billiam, that is the cycle of a balloon, it happens to all of them, so enjoy the next few days with Sasha before we have to throw her away.”

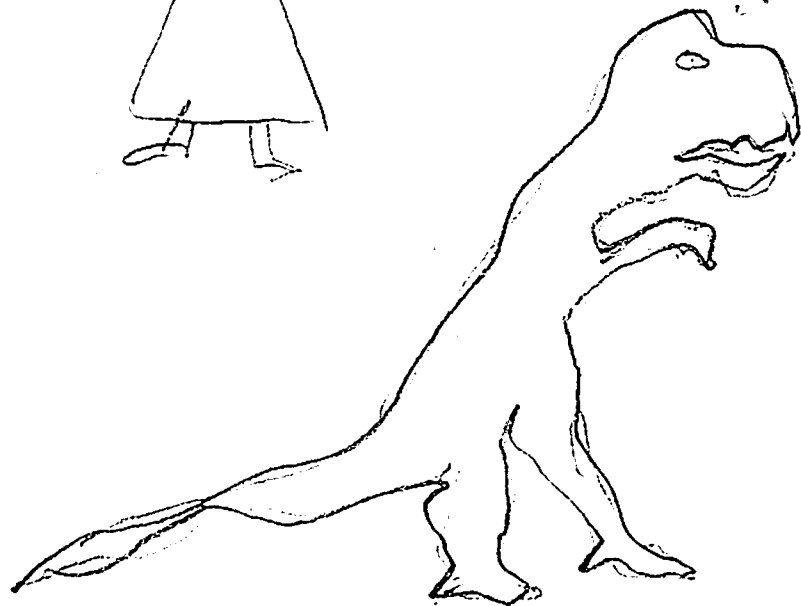
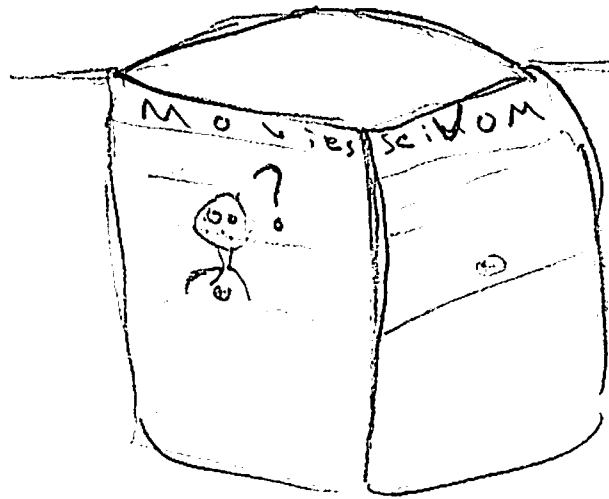
Billiam Boise was sad. He didn’t want to have to say goodbye to Sasha, and he didn’t know how. He tried to lessen his feelings for her by not taking her every where he went, but he would always think of her.

And the ticket tellers at the museum and the movies would always ask where Sasha was.

And the coach of his little league would always say, “Where’s Sasha today?”

And Mrs. Bologna would wonder what went wrong with Sasha.

Then the day came where Sasha was so deflated that she was small enough to fit in the palm of his hand. Sasha The Less Big, Less Great Balloon’s time was up, and Billiam had to throw her away. And even though he had lessened his feelings, he felt sad and sick. All he wanted to do was fill the whole that Sasha had made in his heart. And it was



at this point in Billiam Boise's life that he first understood how universal mortality really was. This is when he met Gregory the Giant Green Balloon. His mother bought Gregory for Billiam Boise the day after Sasha had passed, and Billiam was happy again.

