

Melody and Accompaniment

for one speaking person and
a piece of wood the length
of a bayonet.

Andy Costello

text by

Kurt Vonnegut

excerpts from
the book

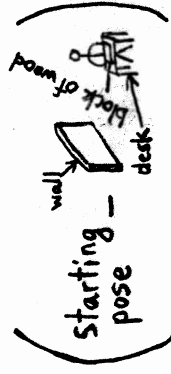
Wampeters, Foma

& Granfalloon

Melody and Accompaniment

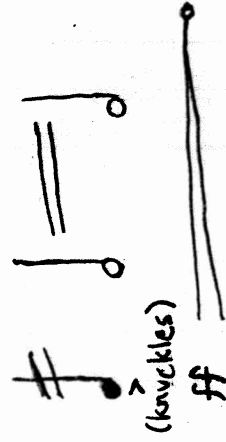
for one speaking person and
a piece of wood the length
of a bayonet.

I. Melody

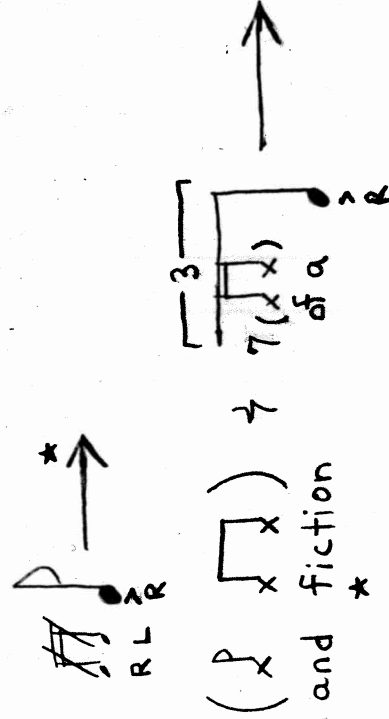


Andy Costello
text by Kurt Vonnegut
excerpts from:
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I am reminded now,

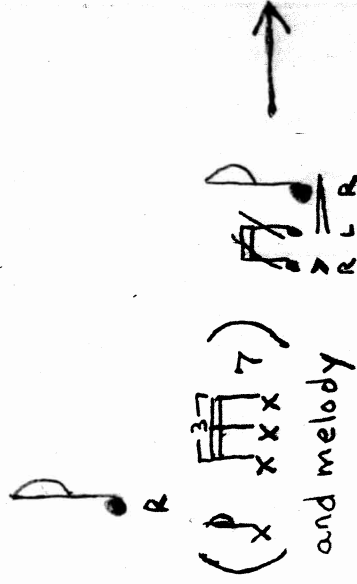


as I think about news



demonstration of the difference between →

noise



which I saw and heard in a freshman physics lecture at Cornell University.

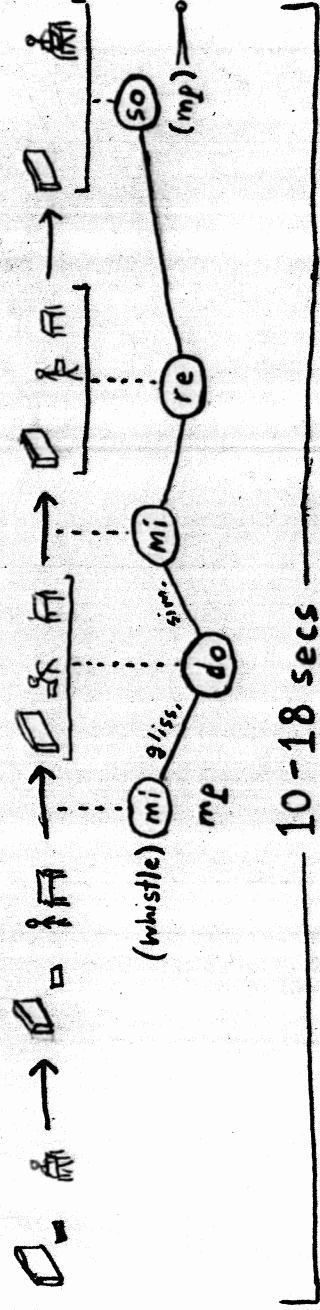
(whispered quickly, casually) Freshman physics is invariably the most satisfying course
offered by any American university.

★ when seen at the end of a line, → means to continue to the next line without pause.
This is to imply that when there is no →, a slight pause should be observed.

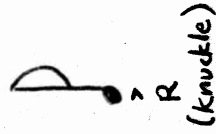
★ (x) = Text is to be spoken in the rhythms indicated above in parentheses.

"That's melody," he said.

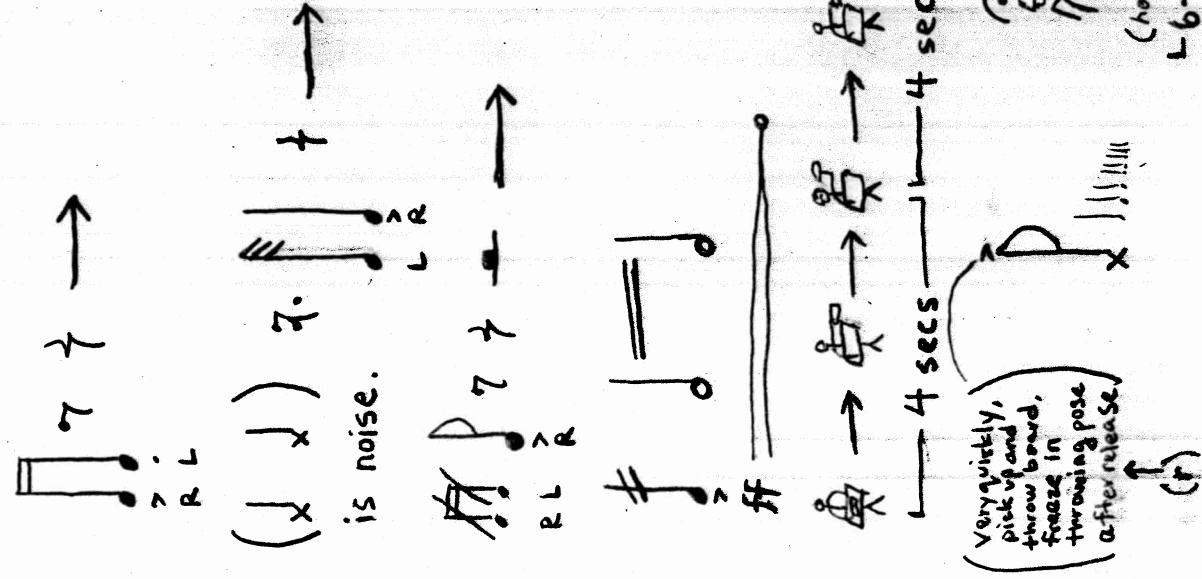
(Walk slowly, aimlessly, carelessly to retrieve board)



And fiction is melody,

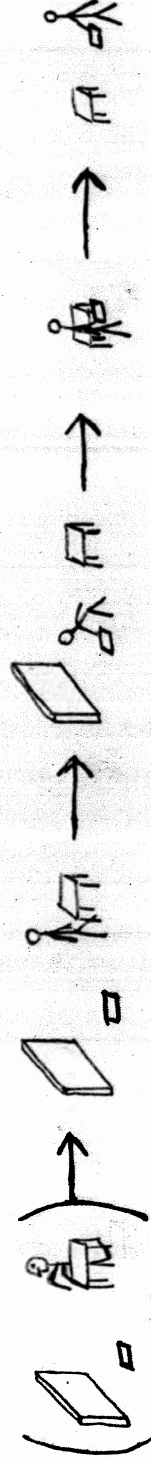


and journalism, new or old,



II. Equilibrium

(starting pose)



He gave a lecture on equilibrium too.

(continue)

He stood behind a twenty-foot row of waist-high cabinets in front of the room. He had a string tied to his finger. And, as he said this and that about equilibrium,

(continue)

he appeared to be playing with a yo-yo; [parse] (which we couldn't see because of the cabinets).

(simile...)* (continue)

He kept this up for the better part of an hour. At last he raised his arm so we could see what was on the other end of the string.

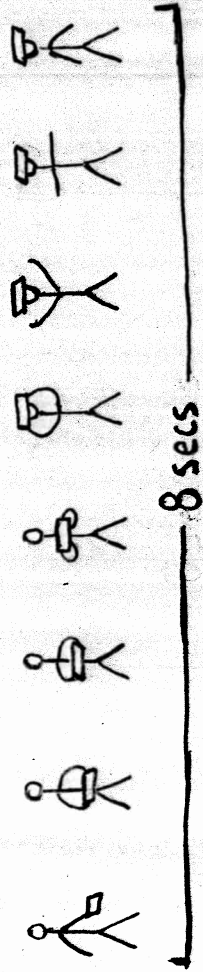
(slow) (continue)

It was a piece of wood twenty feet long, with the string tied to its midpoint.

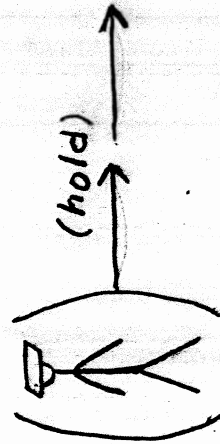
"That," he said, "is equilibrium."

* Try to balance wood block on index finger, with hand underneath, in the center of the wood block. If necessary, use RH for help, to prevent from dropping the wood block. (simile...)* = same action with RH.

* Raise arm, continuing to balance the wood block on index finger.

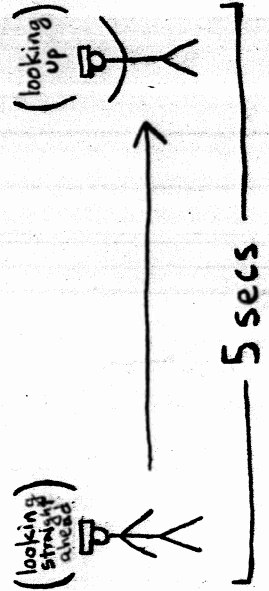


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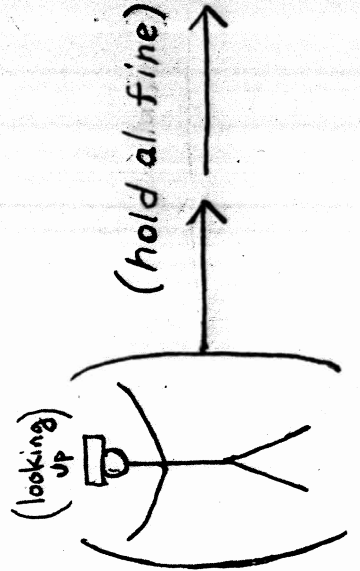


I keep losing and regaining my equilibrium, which is the basic plot of all popular fiction.

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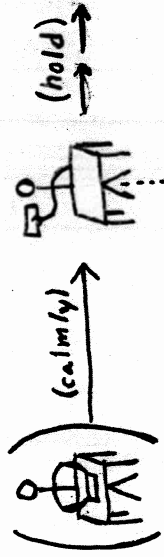
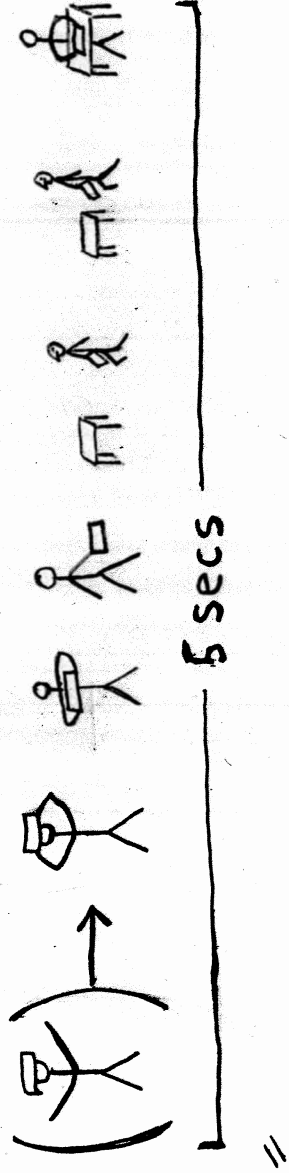
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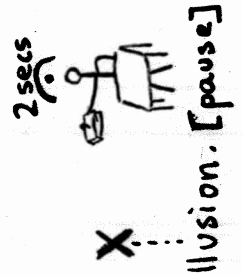
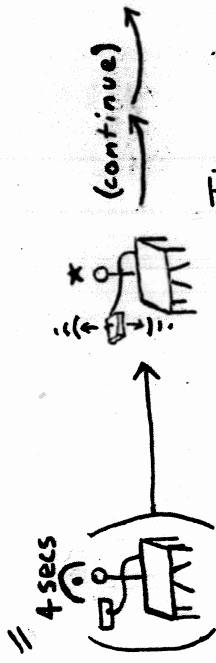
[pause] And I myself am a work of fiction.

9 July 2011
Montréal

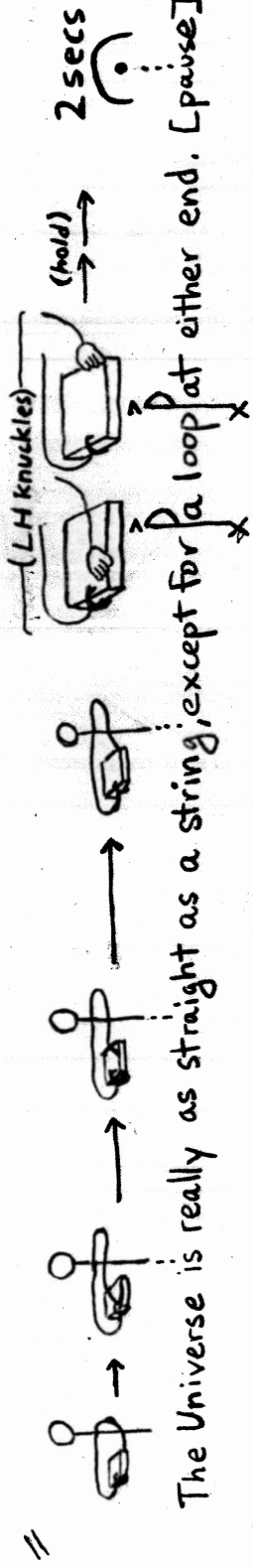
III. A Cowboy's Campfire



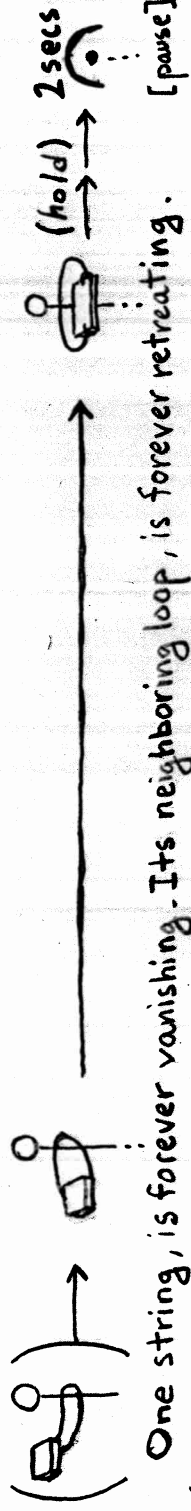
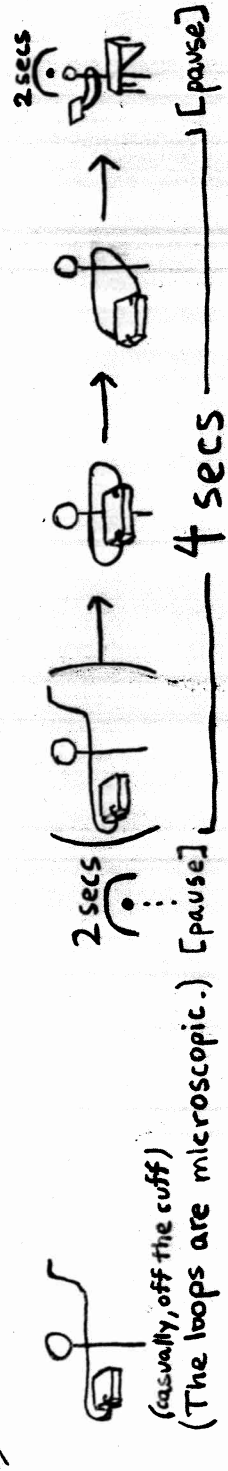
Here is my understanding of the Universe and mankind's place in it at the present time.



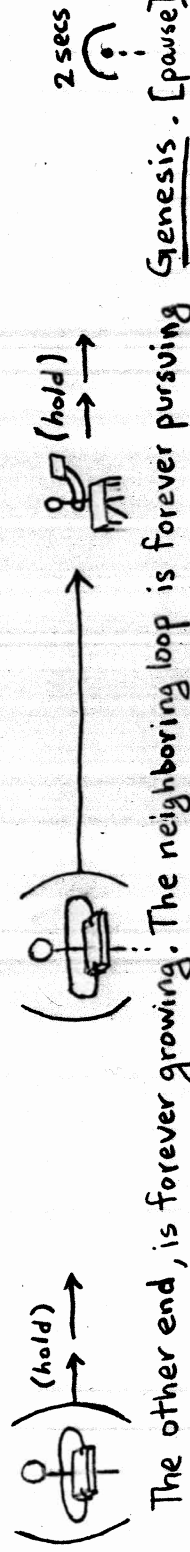
The seeming curvature of the Universe... is an illusion. [pause]



The Universe is really as straight as a string, except for a loop at either end. [pause]



One string, is forever vanishing. Its neighboring loop, is forever retreating. [pause]



The other end, is forever growing. The neighboring loop is forever pursuing Genesis. [pause]

★ Wave board smoothly, up and down. Create the illusion that the board is bending.
(Ex. )

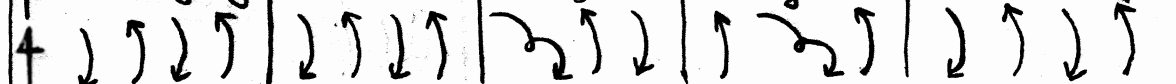
Key:

 = 1 J
 = 1 J
 = 2 J's
 = retrograde

to read gestures: 
 to read words: 

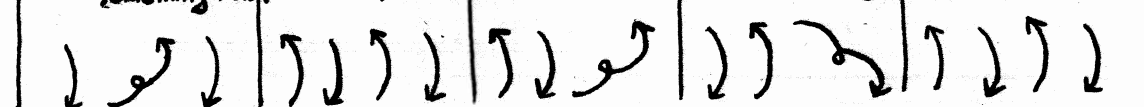
②

In the beginning and in the end, was nothingness! Nothingness implied the possibility of



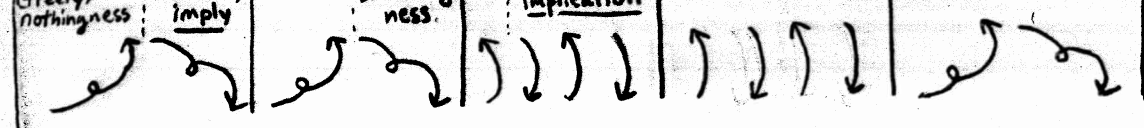
⑥

something-new! it is impossible to make something from Nothing! Therefore...



⑪

(freely) nothingness could only imply something-ness. that implication is the universe! As



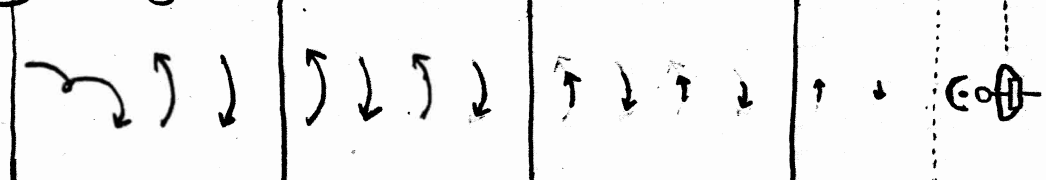
⑬

straight string with a loop at either side.

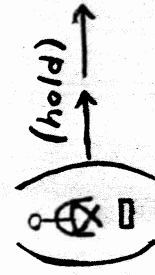
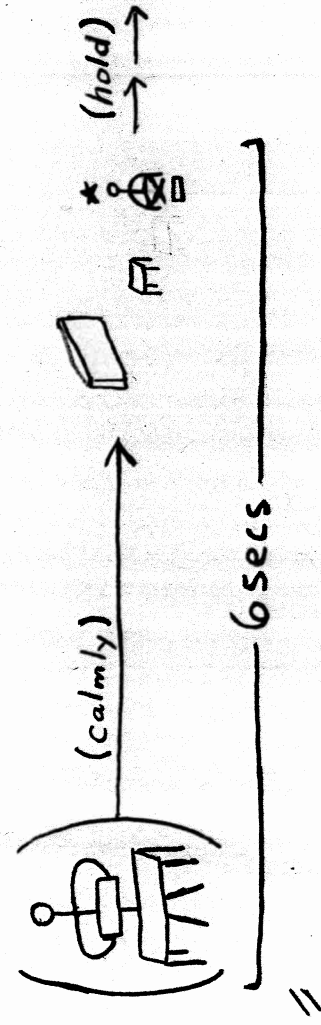


②②

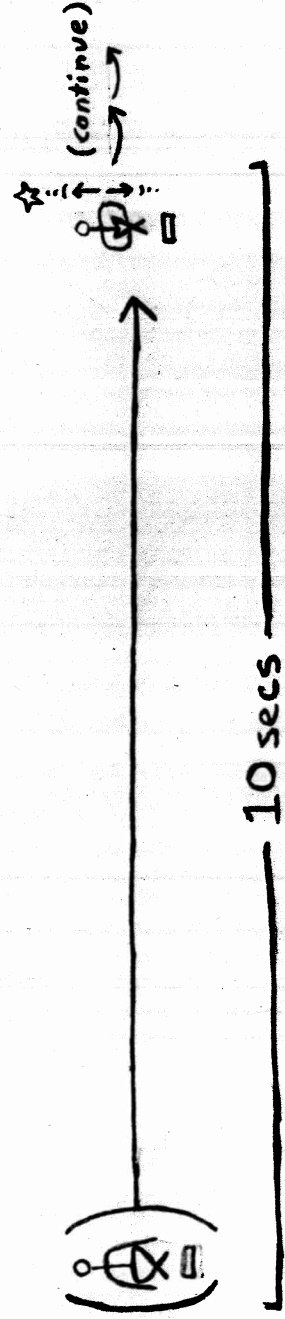
(gradually less and less motion) (motionless)



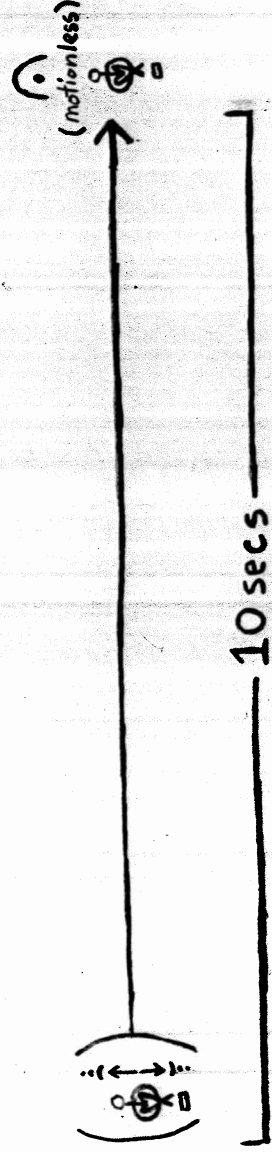

We are wisps of that implication.



The universe does not teem with life. It is inhabited at only one point by creatures who can examine it, and comment on it. That point is the planet Earth, which is forever at the exact center of the implication, midway between tips.



All the twinkles and glints of the night sky might as well be sparks from a cowboy's campfire, for all the life or wisdom they contain.



10 July 2011
Montréal

- ★ Legs crossed "indian style".
- ☆ Cold, shivering, scared, timid. Head facing the ground directly in front of ~~black~~ wood, hunched over, pathetic.