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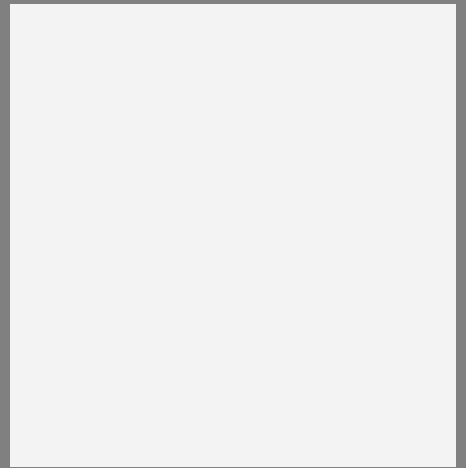
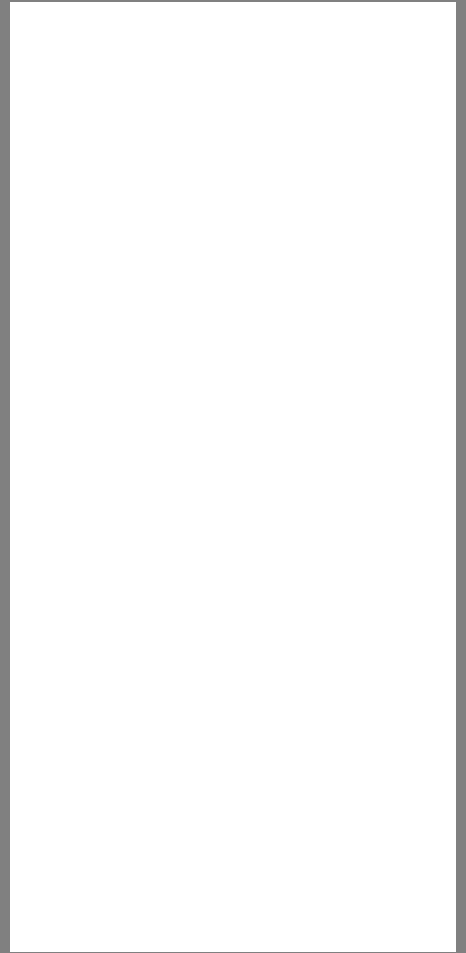
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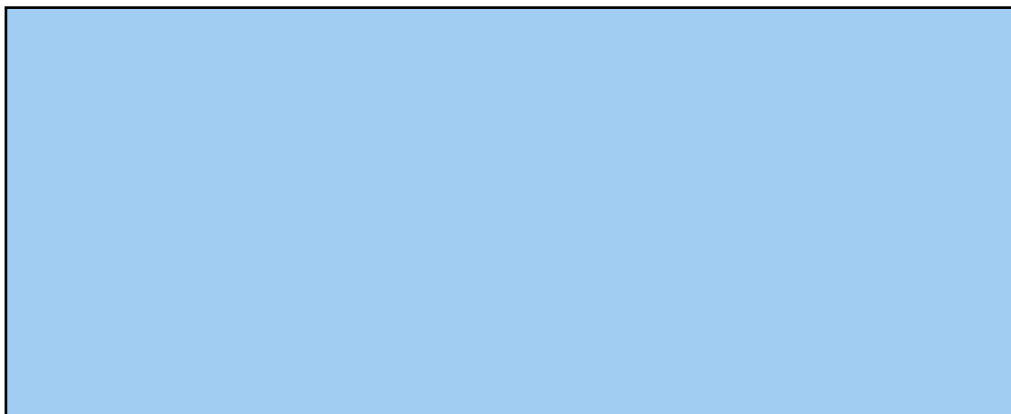
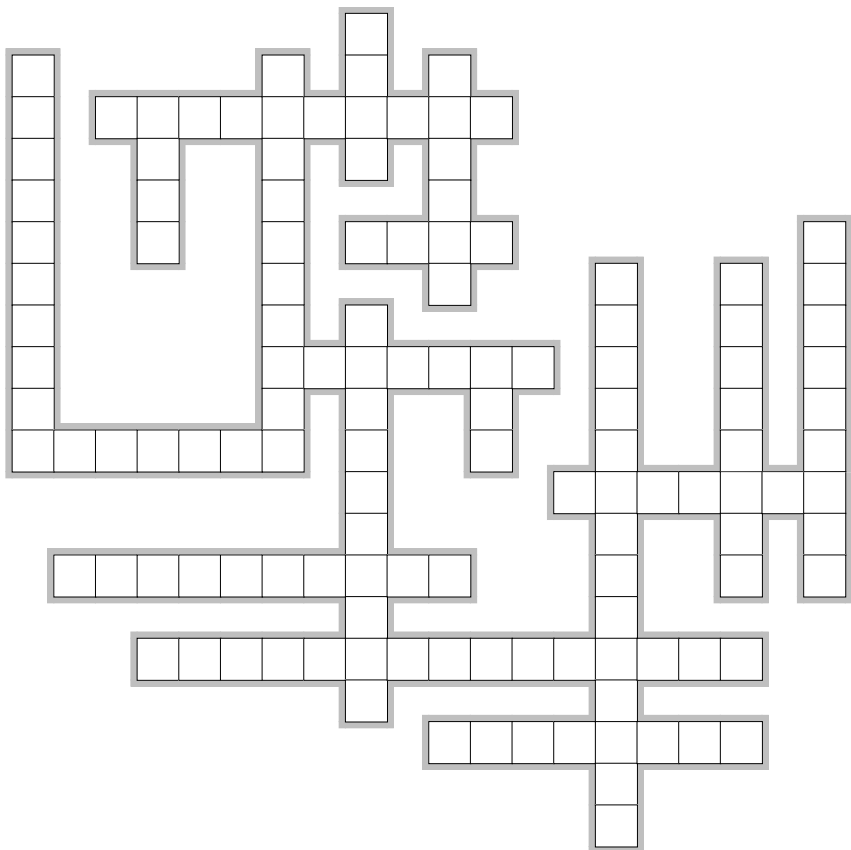
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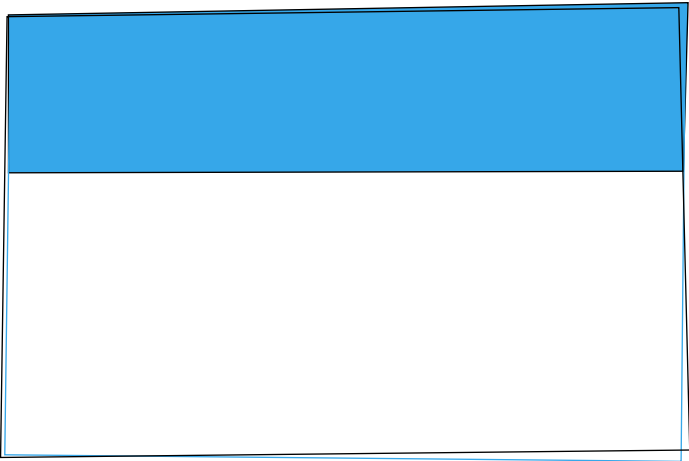
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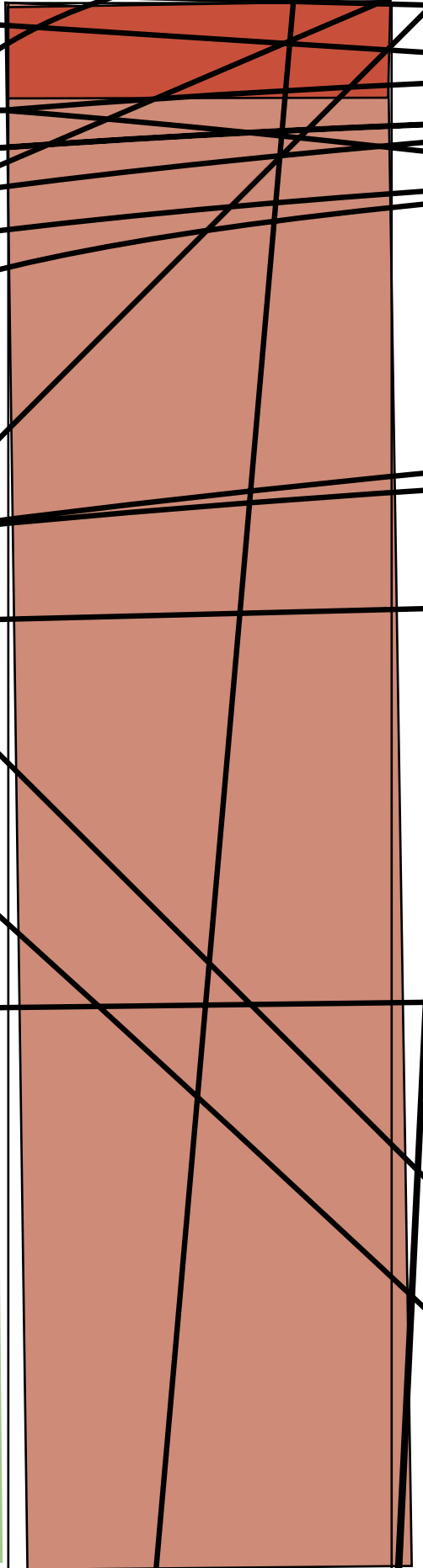
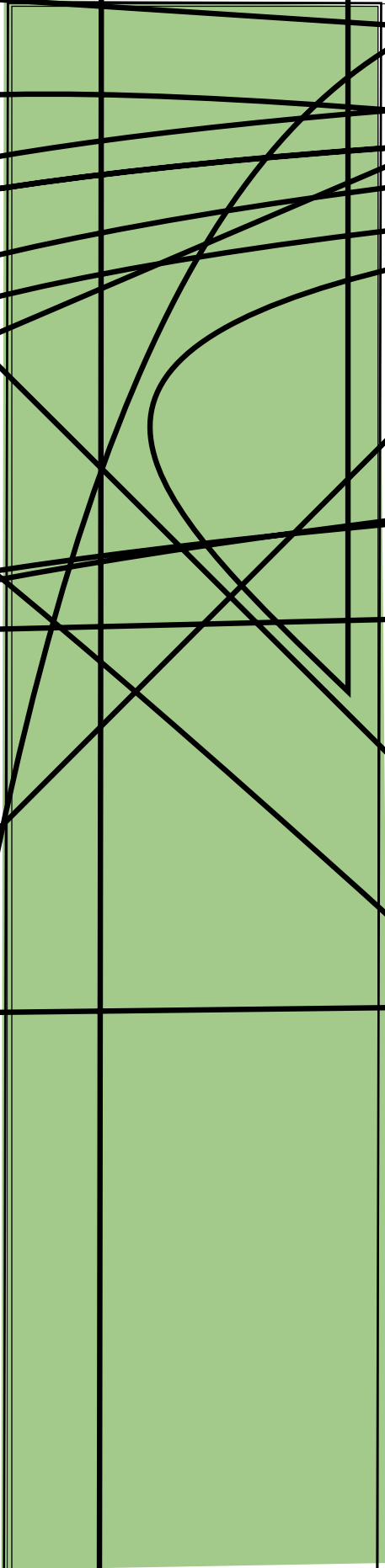
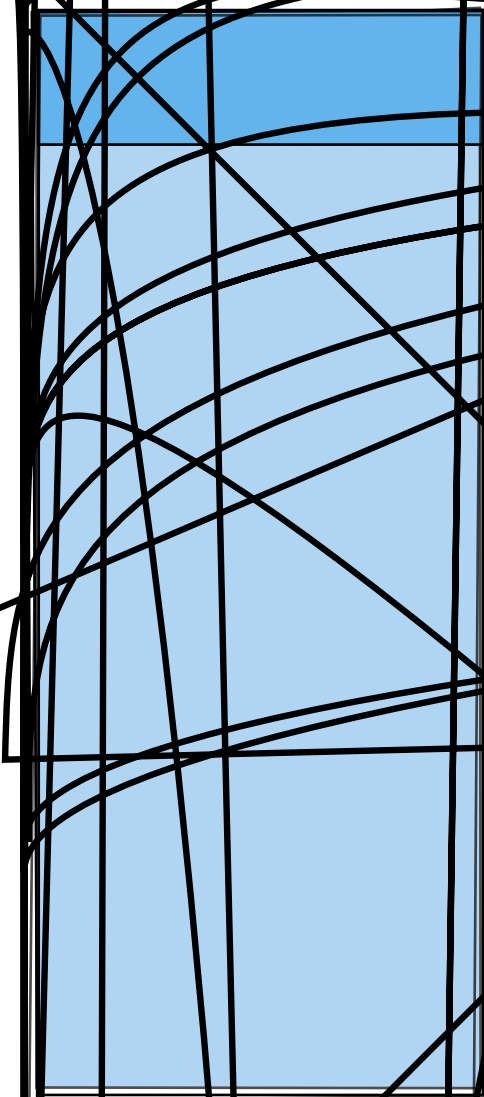
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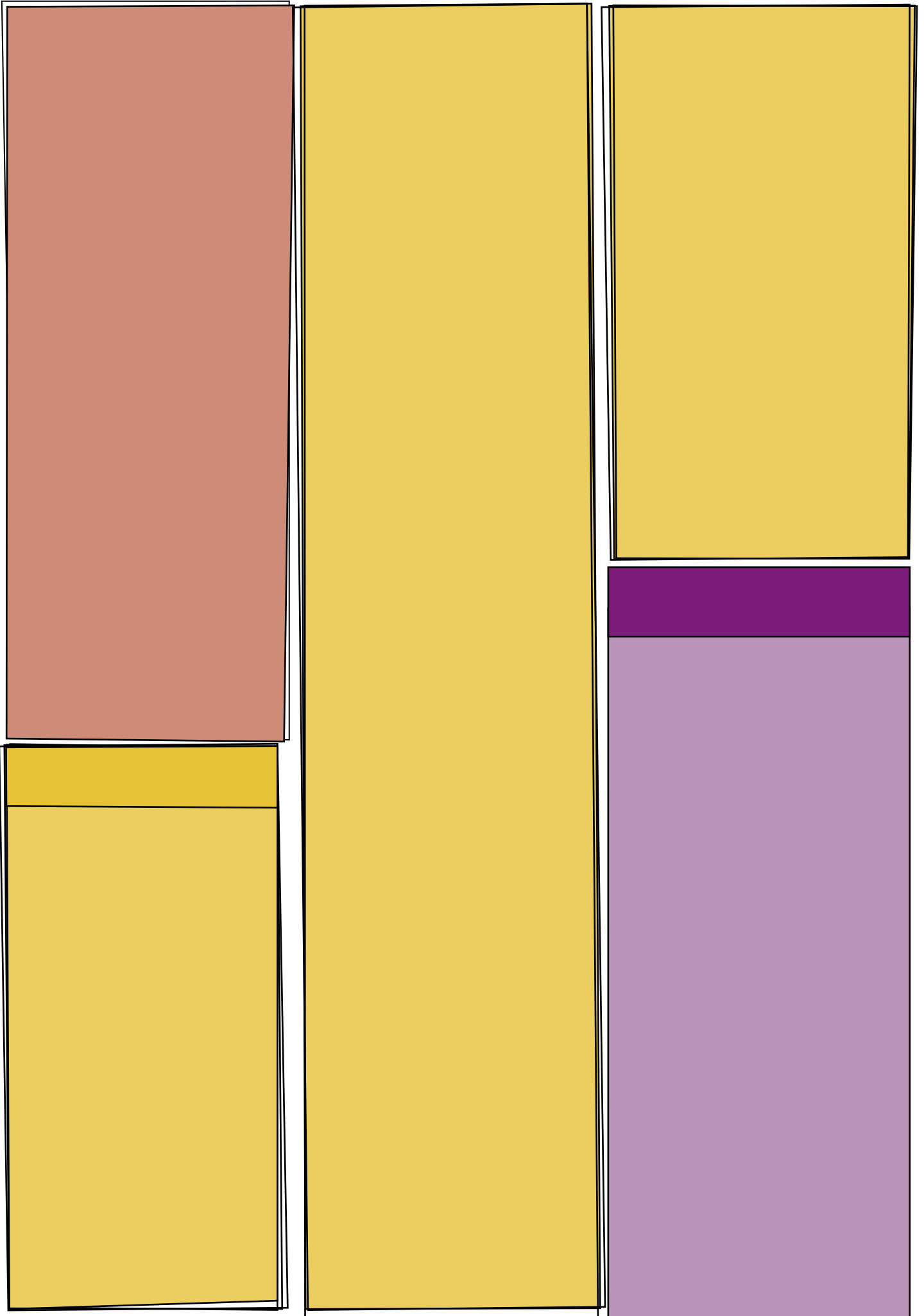


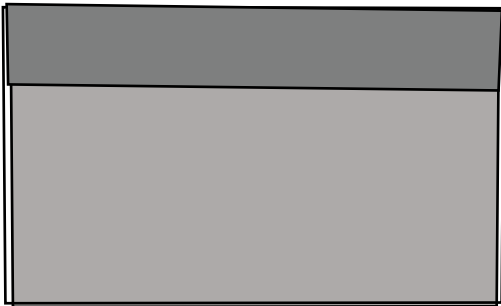
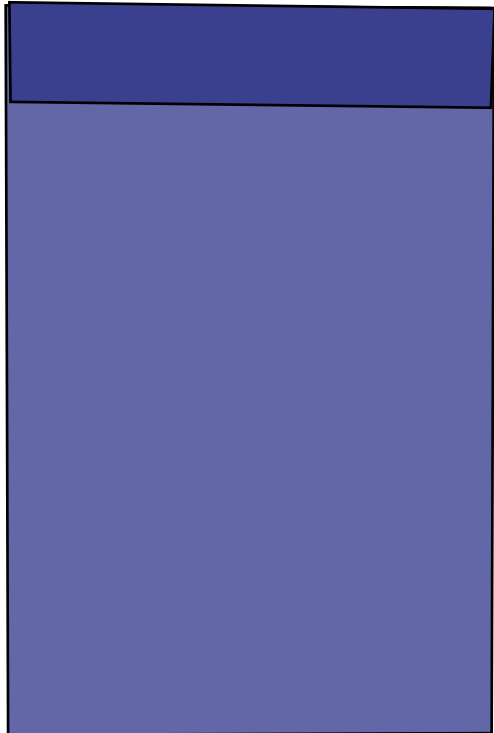
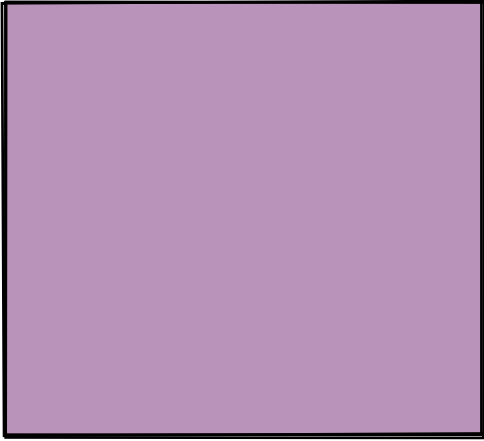




what's on week 8 april 25 - may 1 what's on week 8 ap







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It's easy. Just send an email to whatsonblitz@union.unsw.edu.au containing the following information about your event: Event name; Organiser; Location; Date; Time; Cost; and a Description of 50-100 words. The description is compulsory! You can also find a template on the Union website.

The deadline for What's On is twelve days before (always a Wednesday) the magazine is released (always a Monday).



Misty Blue by *Cheryl Tse*

Every week, students contribute their artwork to Visual Blitz and every year, Visual Blitz culminates in an exhibition of student work with prizes awarded to the winning entries.

If you're in the habit of making creative statements then Visual Blitz is your canvas.

Send your contributions for 2005 Visual Blitz to: blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au (Please include a 50 word explanation)



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Costa Rica is not a common holiday destination for many Australians. After all, it is on the other side of the world and not many people actually know where it is. I am often asked “How was Puerto Rico?” by some, and by others, who get the country right, “Where exactly is Costa Rica?”

Costa Rica is actually in Central America, squeezed between Nicaragua and Panama. Panama borders with Columbia, which is part of South America. If the mention of its proximity to Columbia makes you wonder why anyone would go there except to buy cheap drugs, the opportunity to lose yourself in a rural community in Costa Rica is the perfect answer.

I spent eight weeks of the summer holidays with fourteen other Australians and Canadians in a community of about five hundred people, whose main occupations were working on pepper and pineapple farms. Our project involved building an aqueduct to provide the town with clean, fresh water, but due to the locals’ lack of enthusiasm about working on the aqueduct (for reasons too complicated to explain) and the adverse weather, we went out into the community instead and got to know the ticos (what Costa Ricans call themselves) in our village really well. The exchange of ideas, both cultural and at times intellectual led me to a new meaning in travel. It wasn’t just about beaches, volcanoes and rainforests – it was more about bringing myself

closer to their way of living and identifying with the ticos on a level that actually meant something to me.

This became blatantly obvious when the project ended and my three companions and I travelled around the country without sticking out like a sore thumb. Having spent two months there, it meant that we could talk with the taxi driver about everything from soccer to politics, we could get tips on how to buy tickets to a soccer match from scalpers, and we could sit in the stadium, fearing for our lives and hurling abuse at Mexicans (I do not have anything against Mexicans but this seems to be a favourite pastime of the ticos – especially at a soccer match against Mexico in a World Cup qualifier).

And Costa Rica is undoubtedly a traveller’s haven. From arguably the best backpacker’s hostel in the world in San Jose to perfect little beach towns all along the coast, there is an amazing amount of fun to be had. Zipping along the rainforests and hearing the rumble of the volcanoes (and seeing the lava if you are lucky), you might mistake this as the reason why the phrase ‘pura vida’ (literally, ‘pure life’) is so often said and heard.

The unfortunate reality is that most of these activities are out of reach for a lot of the ticos. Costa Rica may be the most affluent country in Central America, but they are still in need of a lot of support, especially in rural areas. Some

