

THE SLICE OF LIFE ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

# konshuu

Volume XLVIII, Issue IV



ASTOLFO  
*Fate/Apocrypha*  
Guest Art by Jacky Zhao



# THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

## ANIME RECOMMENDATION

### DAILY LIVES OF HIGH SCHOOL BOYS



As the title suggests, this anime is literally about the daily lives of highschool boys. But there's more to it than that: from reenacting a RPG to a romantic encounter at the riverside, each sketch is hilarious while also relatable, even to those who were never in highschool or a boy (or both!). If you love comedies, this is a must watch.

信じているよ

おひさまひとつ



男子高校生  
の日常  
*Daily lives of  
high school boys*

Winter 2012, Sunrise  
Directed by Shinji Takamatsu

**2011 - 2015**  
Written by Akiko Higashimura

**MANGA RECOMMENDATION**

### KAKUKAKU SHIKAJIKA

Created by the mangaka of *Kuragehime*, *Kakukaku Shikajika* is an autobiographical work describing the journey of Akiko Higashi, a high-schooler whose dream is to become a mangaka. To do so, she joins an art class by the recommendation of her friend. This isn't any normal art class though: it's taught in the boonies by a strict old man! Follow Akiko as she learns how to be both a mangaka and an adult.

# THE ECCENTRIC WORLD OF TANUKI

 **ANDREW WING**  
4TH YEAR, MEDIA STUDIES

STAFF WRITER

Costco chicken bakes are tasty and economical

When you think "slice of life", "tanuki" is probably not the first word that comes to mind. Slice of life is a genre of anime that is often associated with school, showcasing the everyday life of a student and their friends. Tanuki are just Japanese raccoon dogs, animals that you'd hardly imagine playing a role in your everyday life. But what if I told you that tanuki and slice of life synergize well with each other and actually make a great pairing?

The thing that makes tanuki such a great element for slice of life shows is their connection with Japanese folklore. In this folklore, the legendary tanuki are reputed to be jolly and mischievous, masters of disguise and shapeshifting. On the flipside, they are often portrayed to be silly, somewhat gullible, and absent minded. Their playfulness can be their downfall, making them out to be fools. Statues of tanuki can be found all across Japan, such as in restaurants, shrines, and religious temples. Tanuki have a strong association with folklore and tradition: tanuki are seen as supernatural yokai that have ties with religious temples. Therefore, I believe that tanuki make great characters for slice of life anime. Their shapeshifting powers allow them to blend in perfectly with human society, and their gravity towards religious temples gives them great positioning for slice of life stories.

There are two anime I've seen that really utilize tanuki in their cast. The first is *Poco's Udon World*. In this show, 30 year old web designer Souta Tawara returns to his hometown in

Kagawa to take a break from his work. In his home, a closed and run-down udon restaurant, he finds a little boy sleeping in a cauldron. Souta later discovers that the boy is a shapeshifting tanuki named Poco. Souta takes Poco under his wing and raises him as his own. Poco ends up running into many difficulties because he is a tanuki. For example, getting emotional makes Poco's tail pop out, making it tough to blend in with the other kids his age. The show is just super chill and you learn a lot about tanuki and Japanese culture through Poco.

The second tanuki show is *The Eccentric Family*. The anime is based off of novels written by the same author as *The Tatami Galaxy*. Similarly to *The Tatami Galaxy*, *The Eccentric Family* possess snappy and well written dialogue and a cast of entertaining and eccentric characters. The twist in *The Eccentric Family* is that many of the characters are tanuki. In the world of *The Eccentric Family*, yokai like tanuki and tengu live among humans. The show is deeply rooted in Japanese folklore, with the supernatural having a large role. The show is a story about a young shapeshifting tanuki named Yasaburo trying to weave his way through a dense web of social connections. Contained in these connections are tanuki, tengu, and humans alike. The show is quirky, supernatural, funny, and emotional. It balances the quirky, everyday life of Yasaburo with the conflicts that he inevitably encounters with his connections. It is truly a magical ride that immerses you in Japanese folklore.



*The Eccentric Family*



*Poco's Udon World*

Both *Poco's Udon World* and *The Eccentric Family* are great slice of life anime that have tanuki in their casts. I would definitely recommend them both so you can get a taste of the mysterious creatures that are tanuki.



# KYOTO ANIMATION AND SLICE OF LIFE: NAME A MORE ICONIC DUO



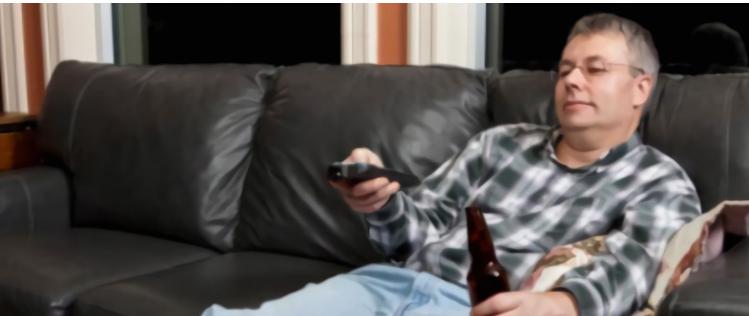
**BOGEUN CHOI**

4TH YEAR, APPLIED MATH AND DATA SCIENCE

STAFF WRITER

I should really start studying for this midterm...

If there's one thing you need to know about me, it's that slice of life is my favorite genre in anime. If you don't know what slice of life is, it's pretty self-explanatory. According to Wikipedia it is "the depiction of mundane experiences in art and entertainment", which makes it sound way worse than it actually is. Well, maybe not. Because that's what slice of life is: literally characters living their lives, whether they're normal or not. You may be thinking, "why does this guy like that sort of thing?" Well that isn't the first time somebody asked that about me. The reason I give people is that it's nice to watch other people live their lives, as creepy as that sounds. After a hectic day of work/school/sitting in my room for 12 hours doing nothing, it's nice to relax to something slow-paced to distract me from the struggles of real life. For some people that distraction comes from great action scenes, but for me, that comes from character interactions.



me\_irl except without the couch and oldness and actually never mind

So having said all that, when it was decided that this week's theme for Konshuu was "Slice of Life", you can imagine I was all about it. So much so, in fact, that I put myself down for a three-page article (which in hindsight was a terrible idea, so thanks Zee for taking a page away from me).

Not to get a bit too meta, but this week's process for coming up with an article was a bit different than most weeks. For a little behind the scenes info, there's usually a weekly meeting where we (the staff of Konshuu) decide the theme for the next issue. If it's something I know I don't have any experience in -- say cyberpunk or Naruto -- then I take the week off. Otherwise, I think about any potential topics to write about relating to that theme and depending on a number of factors either write an article (1-2 pages) or don't. The idea can be as generic as writing about a show related to the theme or something fully fleshed out. For example, the article I wrote in the sports issue from two weeks ago was literally me thinking "hey I want to write about *Haikyuu*", with the other details filled out later. On the other side, take the Valentine's issue from last semester: the article I wrote in that was an idea I wanted to do long before the theme was decided.

[By the way, random side note: don't read that issue. Just don't... you can't find it anyway and it's one of the worst issues of Konshuu ever. Trust me.]

Anyway, tangents aside this week when the theme was decided, I immediately volunteered without any



# THE STORY OF MY FIRST WAIFU

STAFF WRITER

BOGEUN CHOI

3RD YEAR, APPLIED MATH

This article gets the "Cringiest Article I Ever Wrote" award.

Excuse me I didn't ask for this

It all started around high school, where I was reading all kinds of visual novels (VNs). I was reading all kinds of stuff, starting with *Katawa Shoujo* (everybody's girl dating sim), then moved on to other stuff like *Clannad*, *K-On!*, *Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon*, the list goes on. In fact, you could list all of their shows and it's a safe bet they're slice of life.

Idea for an article in mind. Which brings us to today: me thinking of an idea for an article while typing said article. Usually in these types of situations I look at a list of shows I watched that relate to the theme and try to come up with interesting article ideas that can stem from them. With slice of life there was a whole bevy of shows to choose from, so it was a harder choice. At first I wanted to write about my favorite show *Yahari Ore no Seishun Love Comedy wa Machigatteiru*, better known as *Oregairu*. As a writer, though, you want to save the topic of "favorite \_\_\_" to when you truly run out of ideas. Looking at a list of slice-of-life anime, though, there was something I noticed -- a lot of the shows were from one particular studio.

Now studios are an interesting topic to talk about for anime fans. A lot of people assume studios play a big role in making an anime: thus statements like "why won't STUDIO make new season of ANIME?" being a thing. Unfortunately, that's not right at all. The truth is that anime studios are given projects by a production committee composed of many different companies and people ranging in all sorts of industries. So studios have no say in creating a show -- they're just given the work. That means they can't be judged in the same ways people who work on anime can. People such as directors and animators actually work on anime and thus have their own specialities that people can usually judge pretty well. Studios, however, are not the same, yet that doesn't stop fans from attaching labels to studios. Examples like DEEN being the "QUALITY" studio, Doga Kobo being the "moe" studio, and so on. Now to an extent, there is some exceptions to this. For example, take Bones, a studio that mostly specializes in action shows (with a few outliers like *Ouran Highschool Host Club*). But the biggest exception to the studio/genre notion is one I consider to be my favorite: Kyoto Animation, better known as KyoAni.

You may have heard of KyoAni for a number of reasons:

their great animation, their same-face character designs, their yuri undertones, their incomplete romances... or maybe the fact that their animators are salaried instead of freelancers paid by number of frames done (resulting in said better animation because more focus can be put on the quality instead of quantity). You may have also noticed KyoAni has made a lot of slice of life shows. Examples include stuff like *Clannad*, *K-On!*, *Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon*, the list goes on. In fact, you could list all of their shows and it's a safe bet they're slice of life. After checking the list of shows they made, the only exceptions I could find are *Full Metal Panic! The Second Raid* (the only season they did of the three seasons out of) and *Sora wo Miageru Shoujo no Hitomi ni Utsuru Sekai* (which I literally never heard of even as a huge KyoAni fanboy). KyoAni specializes in slice of life, and that can be said because unlike most studios they take a lot of their shows from their own IP. Speaking from a biased viewpoint, KyoAni does great work: I enjoyed almost all of their shows I watched (with one colorful exception below):

Truly, KyoAni and slice of life are a great pair. Name a



*Musaigen no Phantom World* if you're curious

more iconic duo... I'll wait.

By the way if there's a lesson to be learned today, it's to actually have an idea for an article before writing it. Otherwise you get something like this: a random assortment of ideas written by a guy who hasn't started studying for his midterm that's in two days.



# HORIMIYA – A SLICE OF LIFE AND THEN SOME

 **ZIANA DEEN**  
3RD YEAR, ARCHITECTURE

STAFF WRITER

Slice of life is a genre of manga that usually depicts the day-to-day of seemingly normal characters. Often times, it's pretty low key and uneventful and somehow, that's what makes it so relatable. *Hori-san to Miyamura-kun*, often shortened to *Horimiya*, is my favorite example of a slice of life that captures the absolute perfection in being absolute normal.

I found the manga a couple years ago, when there were only fifteen or so chapters. The premise is this: Hori is popular and flashy at school, but a domesticated caretaker for her younger brother at home. Life is split between her two personas until she meets her gloomy and nerdy classmate Miyamura outside of school. Like her, he has a dual personality, appearing at her door in punk clothings, arm tattoos, and several piercings.

At the surface level, this manga seems to be about two people who find solace in being a part of each other's secret lives. On a deeper level, it's about two characters who grow together and learn to be comfortable in their own skin, not only with each other, but with their friends and family. At any level, this manga is amazing if you need a wholesome, fun, fast read.

*Horimiya* is my favorite slice-of life because of how much it emulates real life. The characters are just as complex as you and me, with mood swings and quirky traits. The manga develops Hori's wild side, an aggressive, bossy, and demanding personality that enjoys teasing her friends. Miyamura, on the other hand, has a depressing history of being purposefully left out. His tattoos and self-administered piercings are the result of his need to feel something more. He is physically violent to people he opens up to – which makes Hori oddly jealous (and possibly opens new kinks in her life).



The other characters are also involved in lighthearted conversation I feel I have had, or could have, with my own friends on a day to day basis. Some chapters consist of conversations about what kind of uniform is best (I'm for blazers), the best excuse to get out of swim lessons (which I did do in high school), or accidentally calling your girlfriend "Nee-san" (which I have thankfully never done). The ridiculousness of Hori's parents had me dying, partially because I see in them my own parents who are meddlesome and capable of immaturity. The more emotional chapters capture painstakingly relatable feelings, such as missing others, internalizing negative emotions, being brave when we don't feel like it, and learning to love the flaws of our friends and family even when we don't love ourselves. *Horimiya* is not just another slice of life manga – it is so much more.

# Dear Konshuu-sensei

Got a question about school? Need some advice?

Don't worry, Konshuu-sensei is here for you! This advice column features answers to questions that our readers posted last week.

**Anonymous asked:** I've been really stressed by midterms lately, how can I go about relaxing and bettering my focus?

**KS:** Don't worry about your midterms. In fact, don't study for them at all. Take a long, long anime-filled break. Watch anime. Read manga. Once you've relaxed, get back into studying. You can't work all day without a little play.

**Anonymous asked:** What are some fun activities to do in Berkeley?

**KS:** JOIN CAA GAME NIGHTS AND SOCIALS!! Or if you want a night of semi-fun only, go sing karaoke at Jaguar with friends. Watch movies in the Shattuck theaters. Grab boba and visit campus events. Go have a ball at Indian Rock. The world is your oyster.

**Anonymous asked:** What food do you recommend around Berkeley?

**KS:** Join CAA Dinner Socials (biweekly, Thursdays 7-8 pm) to try food with us. That said, I personally recommend Famous Bao, IB's, Asian Ghetto, Top Dog, and Dumpling Express, but feel free to explore and try new foods!!!

Ask a question at [tinyurl.com/konshuusensei](http://tinyurl.com/konshuusensei) and it might be answered by Konshuu-sensei in the next issue!

# VOLUME XLVIII, ISSUE 4 — SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

## CLUB EVENTS

Follow us on social media or visit **cal.moe** for updates!  
**Bi-Weekly Showings:** Wednesday October 3, 8-10 pm, 222 Wheeler  
**Game Nights:** Thursday 8-10 pm, 222 Wheeler

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[facebook.com/calanimagealpha](https://facebook.com/calanimagealpha)  
[instagram.com/calanimagealpha](https://instagram.com/calanimagealpha)  
[discord.gg/h7ymn3A](https://discord.gg/h7ymn3A)

Konshuu accepts guest submissions from club members! If you'd like to have content featured, please visit:  
**J.MP/KONSUB**

## STAFF



Andrew Oeung  
Editor-in-Chief



Andres Gonzalez  
Layout Editor



Andy Lo  
Layout Editor



Andrew Wing  
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Writer



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Writer



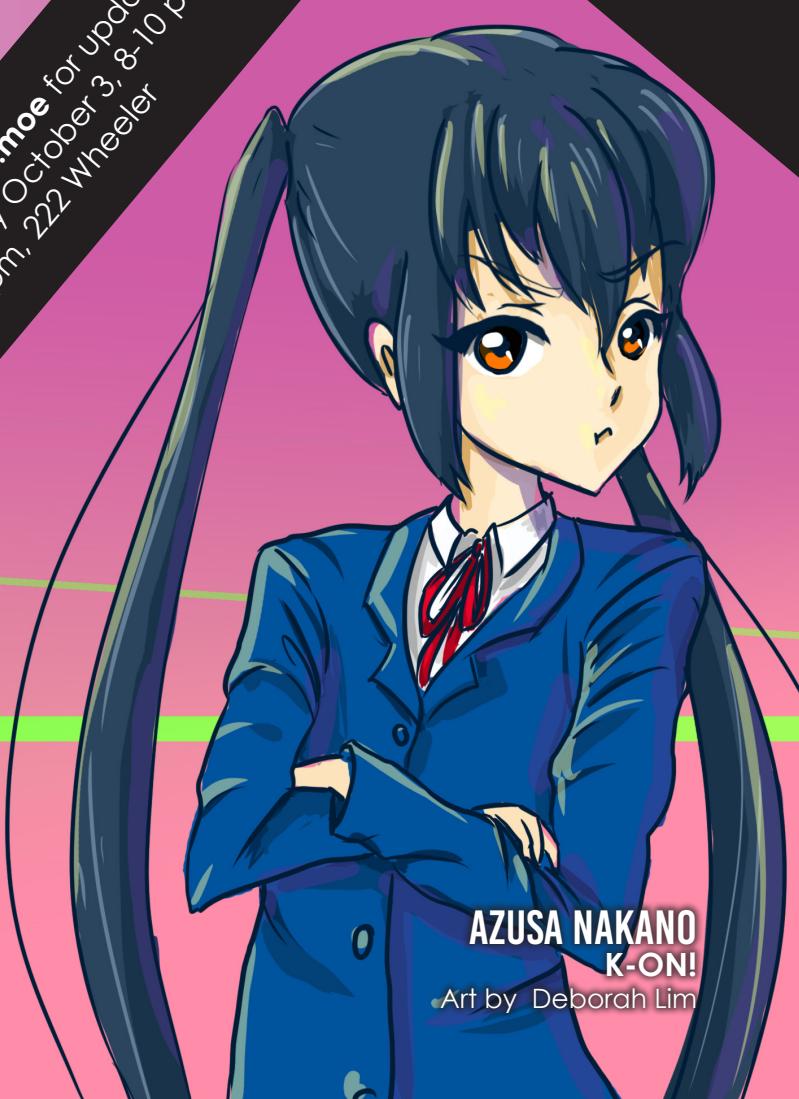
Jamie You  
Artist/Writer



David Chang  
Artist



Deborah Lim  
Artist



AZUSA NAKANO  
K-ON!

Art by Deborah Lim