

THE CYBERPUNK ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

Konshuu

Volume XLVIII, Issue I

M-66 F6-402
Black Magic M-66
Art by Jamie You

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hello CAA! This is our weekly newsletter, Konshuu. I'm Andrew Oeung, its editor-in-chief, and we're excited and ready to start off Fall 2018 with old as well as new members! Every week we'll be releasing an eight page newsletter that will be featured online in full color at:
<https://calanimagealpha.com/konshuu/>

If you like our content, feel free to contact me through email (aoeung@berkeley.edu) or in person to apply for a position in Konshuu or submit your own articles or art. Your content will be featured by us in the subsequent weeks!

CAA holds a weekly social event for members to discuss anime, manga and play games in a relaxing space. Typically this will occur every Thursday. More information will be available on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/calanimagealpha/>

We try to provide the best content that we can day in and day out. Ongoing news about CAA and Anime Destiny, our club's yearly anime convention, can be found in Konshuu. We will also provide recommendations for anime, manga, and even chinese/korean web novels. As Editor-in-Chief, I'd like to thank our readers and longtime fans as we move towards a successful Fall 2018 semester! Go Bears!



ANIME DESTINY 2018
UC Berkeley's Anime Convention

Nov. 4th, MLK Student Union

CALANIMEDESTINY.COM

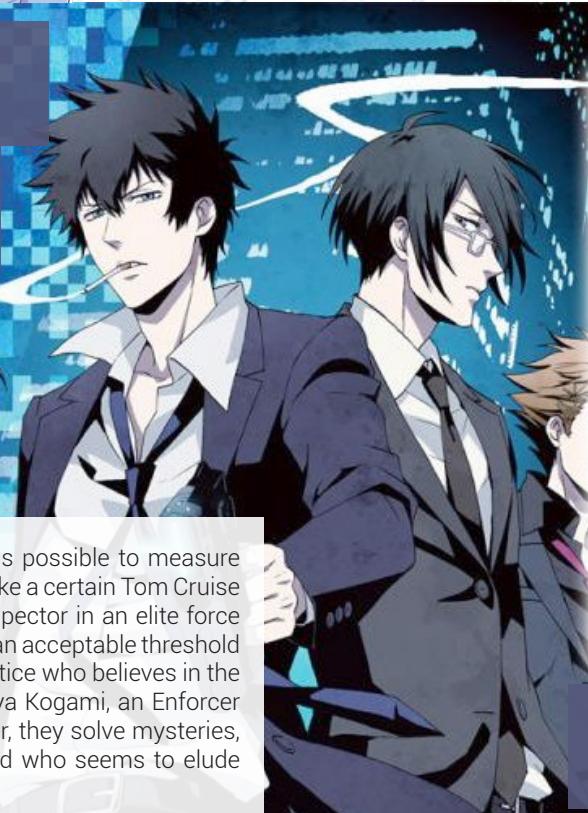
art, cosplay, music,
games, and more!

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

PSYCHO-PASS

In an authoritative dystopian Japan where it is possible to measure people's likelihood to commit crimes (sounds like a certain Tom Cruise movie, huh?), Akane Tsunemori is the new Inspector in an elite force tasked with hunting those who have exceeded an acceptable threshold called Psycho-Pass. An honest upholder of justice who believes in the system, she works alongside the violent Shinya Kogami, an Enforcer who finds Akane's approach liberating. Together, they solve mysteries, fight crime, and pursue a criminal mastermind who seems to elude their seemingly perfect system.



Fall 2012, Production I.G.
Directed by Naoyoshi Shiotani

GAME RECOMMENDATION

TRANSISTOR



May 2014
Published by Supergiant Games



In the aftermath of an assassination attempt, singer Red finds herself transported across the city Cloudbank with the very weapon meant to kill her: the magical sword Transistor, which has absorbed the narrator's consciousness and Red's voice. As Red travels across Cloudbank, she fights against the Process, a robotic force who wants the Transistor for unknown reasons, and the Camerata, a mysterious group of individuals who want her killed. A beautiful, fast-action strategic game with an amazing soundtrack and story, Transistor will have you begging for more.

LOST IN TRANSLATION PSYCHO PASS: THE MOVIE

ANDREW WING
4TH YEAR, MEDIA STUDIES

STAFF WRITER

I feel even stronger! My max HP and SP went up!

The *Psycho-Pass Movie* was released winter 2015 in Japan, and aired in the US in the spring of 2016. The movie is a continuation of the story from *Psycho-Pass* seasons 1 and 2, and features the return of fan favorite Shinya Kougami. *Psycho-Pass* itself is a cyberpunk anime series: cyberpunk being a genre of media that is set in a futuristic setting centering around advanced technology and science, specifically in the context of it changing the way people live and how they govern themselves. In *Psycho-Pass*, there's an organization called the MWPSB that cracks down on crime using weapons called Dominators. Dominators are high-tech guns that are able to read another person's crime coefficient - a number that determines whether someone is guilty of a crime. All of this is backed by the Sibyl system - a network/server that governs the criminal justice system in Japan. All of these sci-fi and futuristic elements come together to classify *Psycho-Pass* as a bona fide cyberpunk anime.



The *Psycho-Pass Movie* takes place some time after the events of season 2. After the success of the Sibyl system in Japan, other countries have tried implementing it to control crime in their own societies. One of them is the Southeast Asian Union (SEAUn). However, not everyone in the SEAUn appreciates this new system, and an anti-Sibyl terrorist organization attacks Japan. It is discovered that former MWPSB operative Shinya Kougami (one of the main characters from season 1) has a hand in this terrorist org, so the MWPSB sends their inspector Akane Tsunemori (a major character in season 1 and the main

character in season 2) and her team to travel the SEAUn and investigate the situation.

Interestingly, the movie takes place in Southeast Asia, instead of the usual Japan seen in most anime and in *Psycho-Pass*. In the movie, the characters from the SEAUn canonically speak English. Maybe they're from Singapore, or maybe in the future an English-only movement spreads across Southeast Asia. Anyway, this is apparent in the Japanese version of the movie, where all characters from the SEAUn speak in English, while the other characters speak Japanese. The Japanese characters even switch to English when speaking to the characters from the SEAUn. However, in the English dub of the movie, this is less apparent. I saw the movie in English dub when it aired in theaters. I think the English dub for *Psycho-Pass* is fantastic; personally, it's one of the best English dubs I've ever seen. Funimation usually does a good job with their dubs, and the dubbing for *Psycho-Pass* perfectly captures its essence as a crime thriller. As good as the dub is, things get lost in translation. Everyone in the English dub of the movie speaks in perfect English, as opposed to the Japanese version which featured two languages. This takes away from the atmosphere of the movie, and the fact that they're in a foreign country becomes less pronounced. We don't get to hear the Japanese characters struggle with English trying to communicate with those from the SEAUn. Also, the scenes where the members of the MWPSB use their voice translators don't make sense. Granted, you won't know this unless you've also seen the Japanese version of the movie, but it's interesting to think about nonetheless: how plot and atmosphere can get lost in translation when dubbing anime.





DEFINE CYBERPUNK



SHAMIN CHOWDHURY
3RD YEAR, PHYSICS AND MATH

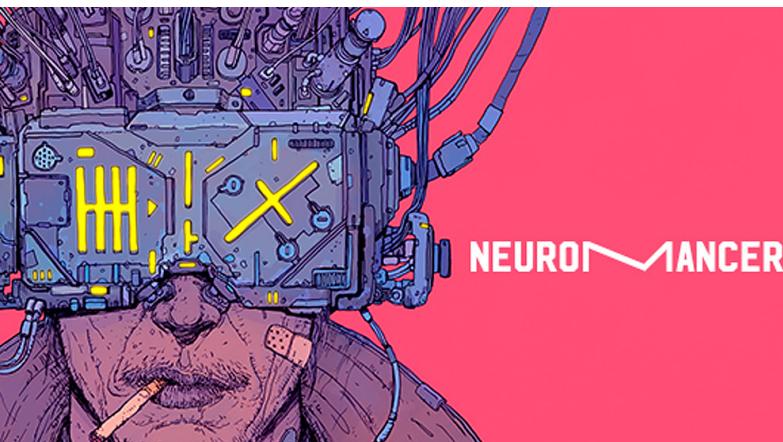
STAFF WRITER

Andrew, I need more time (and maybe space)

Ghost in the Shell. *Ergo Proxy.* *Psycho-Pass.* *Neon Genesis Evangelion.* If you've heard the term "cyberpunk," these are anime you've probably heard associated with the term. Defining a genre isn't very black and white. People might have some core idea of what a genre is when a term is first coined, but then other works might have similar traits without exactly following that core idea. This leads to discussion and debate on a matter that's honestly rather trivial. Whether I call a work cyberpunk or not, that shouldn't change the quality of the work in itself (it's a good show because ___ or it's a bad show because ___). It might change the lens through which a viewer judges the work (as a cyberpunk show, ___ or as a show in general, ___), but you can still consider it in however way you approach anime in general. Nevertheless, I am a bit keen about stuff like definitions, so I was interested to look into what identifies this genre. With that being said, here are a few of my thoughts on what I understand is encompassed by the cyberpunk genre.

cyberpunk (the "cyber" part) and some character who'd break from the societal order using this technology (the "punk" part). These stories would often take on a police detective story, so this aspect is often associated with the genre (though it's not necessary as we can see in works like *Serial Experiments Lain*). Basically, "near-future high-tech dystopia" is a general quality pretty much everyone agrees upon, and we can use it as a good start. However, it's important to note that the dystopia has to be a result of the new technology because it's this kind of dystopia that gives rise to the "punk" characters of the genre.

Let's talk a little about a series that's somewhat debated as being cyberpunk: *Neon Genesis Evangelion*. It's near future (starts in 2015). It could be high-tech because of the Evas, but while Angel attacks occur in their lives, typical people like Shinji's classmates aren't affected by technology like people in a cyberpunk dystopia are. Furthermore, there isn't really so much of a "punk" character. Shinji is coerced into piloting Unit-01, Rei just follows orders, and Asuka does it for attention. Across the course of the series, these characters go through character development in their views of themselves, but they're still more or less subject to the whims of the system. While, *Neon Genesis Evangelion* might have some cyberpunk elements, I don't think it can really be called cyberpunk.



The term originates from a literature movement that came about in the late 20th century starting around the 60s or 70s. Writers observed the drastic changes of drug culture and technology while avoiding the utopian story aspects of earlier decades. What was common in their works was the near-future high technology dystopian setting we're familiar with in



¹ Your approach might change depending on the genre, but usually, cyberpunk shows will fall within broader genres like "detective" or "dystopia," and you'd have some sense of judging those kinds of shows.

² See the Cyberpunk Wikipedia article, the website Neon Dystopia's article "What is Cyberpunk," and a couple videos from the YouTube channel Extra Credits for more details

³ See NGE if you haven't already!

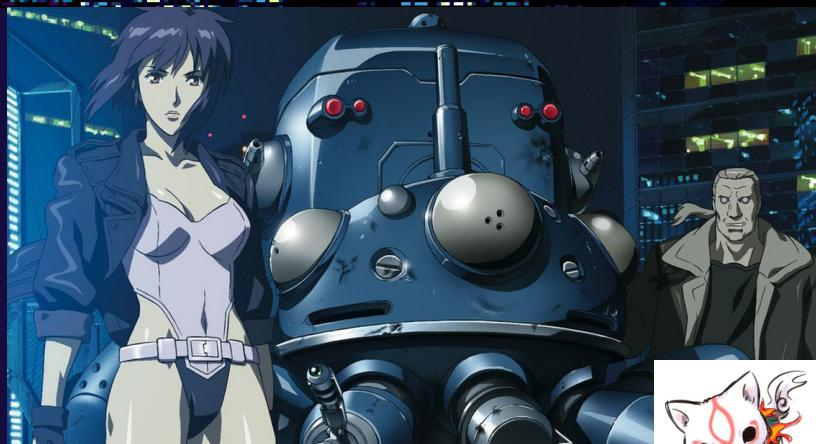
STAFF PICKS

FAVORITE CYBERPUNK TITLE



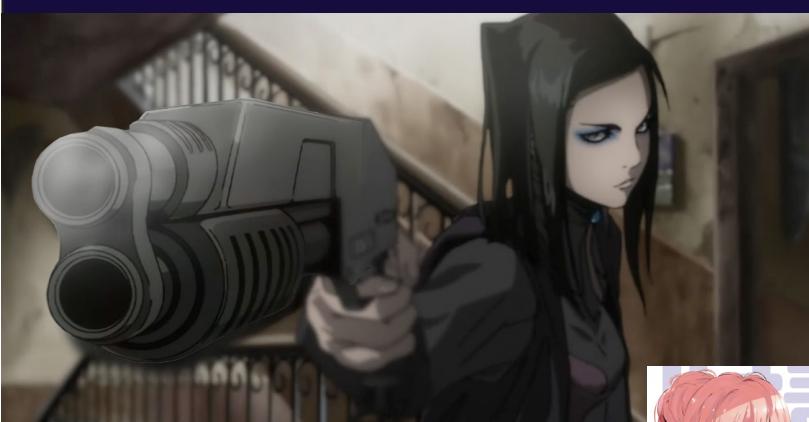
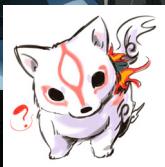
TRANSISTOR

| ZIANA



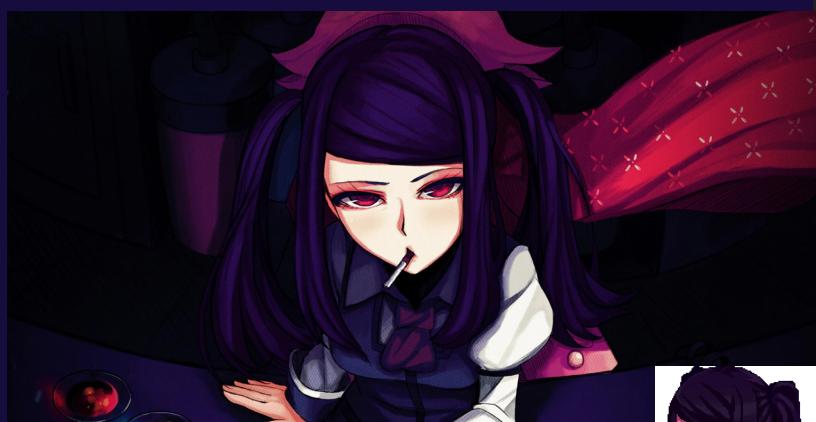
GHOST IN THE SHELL

| ANDREW



ERGO PROXY

| BOGEUN



VR-11 HALL-A

| ANDRES



PSYCHO-PASS 2
サイコパス

| ANDY



BLADE RUNNER

| BORAH



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.

Peon-san asked: Who are you?

I'm Konshuu-sensei, Cal Animage Alpha's very own advice columnist. I am here to answer all your anime or non-anime related questions. I am not qualified and do not have any professional background at all, but I've watched enough anime and read enough manga to know what I'm doing.

Spaget asked: How do you get your non-weebs into weeb material?

All weebs were originally non-weebs, the same way all Berkeley students were once non-Berkeley students. In order to hook your friends, tempt them with something they cannot resist, be it an action packed or cute romance anime. And like the Stockholm Syndrome we experience at Berkeley, they will keep coming back. 10/10 guaranteed response.

Read what have people said about Konshuu-Sensei:

"Konshuu-sensei is clearly the more SUPERIOR and TALENTED advice columnist...they're so good, I've been going to them for advice."
– JEAN PHILLIPS, current advice columnist for DEAR ABBY

"Konshuu-sensei is why I decided to GO TO BERKELEY"
– CAL, one of two official CAA mascot of Berkeley

Ask a question at tinyurl.com/konshuusensei and it might be answered by Konshuu-sensei in the next issue!

Disclaimer: Konshuu-sensei is not responsible for any consequences that result from following their advice.

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CLUB EVENTS

Follow us on social media or visit **cal.moe** for updates!
Bi-Weekly Showings: Wednesday Sept 12, 8-10 pm
Game Nights: Thursday 8-10 pm, 222 Wheeler

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

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Akira

Art by Deborah Lim

