

THE GRADUATION ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

konshuu

Volume XLIX, Issue 12



art by Sharrel Jan Narsico

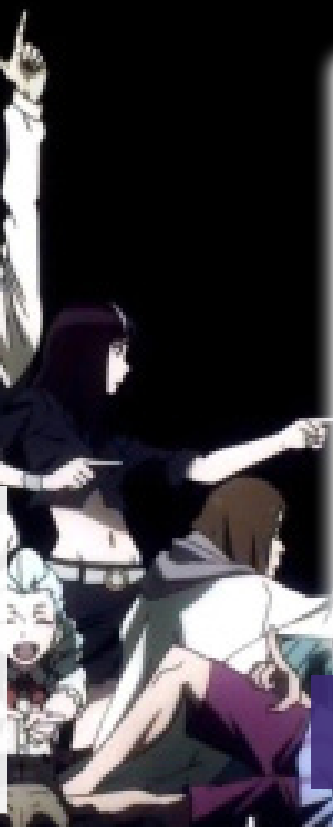


THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

DEATH PARADE

Between heaven and hell lies a bar. There, pairs of the recently deceased are challenged to a random game to decide their fates. In the process, they regain the memories of their death and slowly but surely show their true natures. Suddenly, a black-haired girl shows up one day and starts working at the bar. Where did she come from, and why is she here? A thrilling journey that will make you laugh, cry, and think.



Winter 2015, Madhouse
Directed by Yuzuru Tachikawa

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

GIN NO SAJI (SILVER SPOON)



Summer 2013, A-1 Pictures
Directed by Tomohiko Itou

Yuugo Hachiken is your normal studious hard-working high school boy. He moves to Hokkaido to attend Ooezo Agricultural High School and escape his parents, expecting an easy laid-back life. Unfortunately for him, he is proven very wrong. From waking up at 5 AM to taking care of farm animals, the newbie Yuugo is an amateur compared to his classmates who lived their entire lives in the countryside. How will he fit into this new environment?





MY LAST ARTICLE EVER



ZIANA DEEN

3RD YEAR, ARCHITECTURE

STAFF WRITER

I wrote this while crying nonstop

Dear beloved readers,

When I first started out at Berkeley, I was in the worst period of my life. I had graduated high school severely depressed, heartbroken, and hopeless. I'd been forced to go to Berkeley, had no friends, and hated everything about my life situation. I couldn't envision any future at Berkeley in which things turned out okay, because for the longest of times, I didn't think I had a future.

My first semester at Berkeley was rough. I went straight from home to school and back. There were no extracurriculars to enjoy, no freshmen events I attended, no classmates I wanted to hang out with. On weekends, I would go to my parent's house where I did homework and literally nothing else. My older sister, God bless her soul, wanted to make me feel better about Berkeley and life in general, so she sent me an event link to Anime Destiny, a convention held by UC Berkeley's very own anime club, Cal Animage Alpha. I don't know how she found out about AD – she must have looked for any event at Berkeley she knew I couldn't refuse – but it will forever be the event that changed my life.

AD 2016 was not how AD is now, but I still think it was the best. It was the first weekend I stayed in Berkeley.. I dressed up, met Ladybug and Chat Noir cosplayers, and bought art and accessories from vendors. For the first time in a long while, I saw a silver lining; there was something good after all. I had hope.

At the start of my second semester, I joined CAA as a Konshuu writer, and it has become my best decision at Berkeley. So many good things have come my way because of CAA. I met two amazing people who would eventually become my first Berkeley friends.

I played games on Thursdays, attended meetings on Fridays, and had reasons to stay in Berkeley for weekends. I wrote articles on my favorite animes, got into passionate debates about favorite husbandos, and met so many like-minded, beautiful, and talented individuals. Because of CAA, I finally had a place where I belonged.

The club also gave me so many experiences and memories to cherish. I once played Werewolf for five hours straight. I accidentally made a gaming cult (shoutout to Avalon). I've cried at the feet of stellar cosplayers. I've dressed up as a maid and served people at a cafe. I've witnessed two Pikachus fighting (and it was epic). I've contributed to the very event that changed my life at Berkeley, Anime Destiny, in hopes that if there was another extremely depressed freshman out there, their life would change too.

In my time at Berkeley, I've certainly struggled with many things: classes, relationships, mental health, to name a few. But in all this time, the one consistent, good thing in my life, has been CAA. How many people get to say that when they were in college, they were an officer for the anime club? How many get to say they wrote for its magazine?

And I wouldn't have been able to do any of this if it wasn't for you. Thank you, Cal Animage Alpha. Thank you, readers. Without you, I wouldn't be here and I wouldn't be the person I am today. I've grown so much from that hopeless, depressed freshmen and it's all because of you. Thank you.

This has been my last article for Konshuu, ever. It's been an extreme honor.

Sincerely,
Ziana Camila Deen (aka Zee)

ANIME AND ME: A LIFE STORY



BOGEUN CHOI

4TH YEAR, APPLIED MATH AND DATA SCIENCE

It's been a long journey: thanks to everybody who I met along the way

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

So this is it --- the final article I'm ever gonna write for Konshuu (barring any surprise cameos). It's been around 2 years since I was hired as a writer for Konshuu, and I don't hesitate to say that joining CAA was the best decision of my life. If anything, my biggest regret is that I didn't join sooner and grow closer with all of the wonderful people I call my friends. But enough sappy talk -- I don't want this to be a sob fest where I just talk about how CAA was good to me and all that.

It took me a while to figure out what exactly to write for my final article. I started writing this around three weeks ago, expecting it to not follow the theme at all. After all, that's what the previous editor-in-chief did with his last article, so there is precedent. But it worked out because what I'm writing somewhat relates to my graduation from CAA and Berkeley (kinda sorta).

What exactly did I want to write, though? That was the big question. Before writing, I looked through all of the old Konshuu (conveniently located on our website cal.moe) to see my past works and concluded two things. One, I wrote a LOT of articles for Konshuu: 22 articles/38 pages in five semesters. Which kind of connects to point two: I wrote about everything I wanted to. I remember one of the questions I was asked when I interviewed for the Konshuu position was "what would you want to write for your first article?", which I responded to with "something on *Oregairu* (my favorite anime)". Truthfully, it would be nice to write about that -- plus the previous editor-

in-chief's last article was on his favorite anime. Unfortunately, I already wrote about *Oregairu*, and another article would just repeat most of what I said in the past one. And I don't want to subject people to more *Bandori* especially since I wrote a 3-page article on it, and writing about another favorite anime just seemed... underwhelming.

But there was something I discovered while I was reading through my past articles: my growth. For those who don't know, I'm still relatively new to the anime fandom. I didn't start watching anime until I got into college, though I dabbled a bit in Japanese media with visual novels the summer after my junior year of high school. CAA helped me grow into the person I am today, but ultimately, anime was the catalyst to help get me there in the first place. So this article isn't going to be an in-depth analysis. It's not going to describe the new, hot anime of the season. In fact, it most likely won't talk about anime at all. I'm going to the style I enjoy writing most: a personal blog-like style where I talk about my experiences. No pictures this time: just words. So if you don't mind, let me get a little personal and talk about my life for a bit. I promise there's a reason why I'm doing so.

I was an awkward person. Actually, scratch that: I still am an awkward person. Though now, it's something I've accepted as a part of who I am as an individual, and I feel more comfortable in my own skin. I look back at my childhood in two stages divided by elementary and middle/high school. Elementary school was fun, and while none of my friends lived near me, at least there were some to hang out with after school or during weekends. Middle school was when everything changed. Looking back, I didn't have the worst childhood -- if anything, I had a boring childhood. But as time passed, my friends and I didn't

hang out as much, people changed, etc.. If you ever experienced middle school, you know how hard it is -- teenagers going through puberty, learning about themselves and the world around them. Whenever I think of middle school, I remember bad times like the time I cried out of nowhere when my teacher suddenly asked me a question. In fact, I'm thinking and I don't remember a single good thing about middle school. That's not an exaggeration.

High school, to put it lightly, started off on that same note. During freshman year, I had no friends and I didn't want to sit alone at lunch, so I would just hang out at the library all period and not even eat the lunch I packed. It got better though. Sophomore year, I actually had friends to sit with. And I remember some good times at high school, like hanging out with said friends during lunch shooting bottle caps across the hallway or finally making the varsity tennis team senior year and being a part of the postseason state tournament.

Unfortunately, I would have to leave all of my friends to go to Berkeley (out of state life). And thus I started anew. Fortunately, my hallmates at Foothill became my new family, and I was able to slowly acclimate into college life thanks to them (shoutouts to 8D44! You know who you are). Unfortunately (again), I was one of those people who rarely left their room. I partially blame my roommate for this: he was the same except much worse, pretty much always in his room doing computer science stuff when he wasn't in class or eating. I looked at him and thought, "well at least I occasionally go out with friends for boba and stuff!". My excuse at the time was that I wanted to focus on getting good grades to make the GPA requirement for the computer science major, but looking back I'm pretty sure I would've dropped CS even if I did make it for what I'm doing right now in data science. Truthfully, I was looking to join CAA my second semester, but I was afraid. Keep in mind that at this point, I was a few months into my journey towards weebdom. I was afraid I would be shunned for not watching enough anime. Thus, I waited until my sophomore year after I gathered more experience.

My awkward self said otherwise though, as I was still hesitant to go to showings and interact with people I didn't know even after gaining some anime knowledge. What really pushed me was my living situation -- I was living in the newly-renovated Bowles

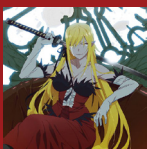
Hall, which was both the worst and best decision I made here in Berkeley. Worst because my neighbors were frat-types who partied almost every week until 3 in the morning, and also best because it made me get out of my room because I didn't want to hear said neighbors having sex loudly at 2 in the afternoon. Where did I go? CAA. I actually applied to be an officer that fall semester (as a tech officer), but got rejected. I joined as a general member, got to know people in the club, and was able to get in as a Konshuu writer the next semester. And that's how I got here.

CAA in general has helped me socially. It feels weird to say, since you wouldn't expect an anime club to help in that aspect. But with everything in life, you need experience, and working in a social club really helped with that. Especially leading a group of people, where you learn how to balance being a boss and being a friend. But even before that, as a general member I got to meet so many different people who shared one common interest: anime. All the life experiences I chose not to take part of in my youth were made up through being in this club. I went to parties. I hung out with people outside classes. I did all that, and through it all, it helped me transform from an awkward teenager to a less awkward young adult.

Anime in general has helped me in so many ways. Mostly introducing me to a great community of people, but also teaching me some life lessons that I think about to this day. Though I grade anime on a purely subjective scale where level of enjoyment = higher score, most of my favorite anime are ones that left a lasting impact on me. Take for example *Oregairu*. The anime was super relatable as somebody who was pretty much a loner, but it was also a cautionary tale. It didn't idolize the main character's unique way of thinking (which can be summed to "die normies"). In fact, it critiqued it and basically said don't be him. Don't choose to be a loner, because you'll be more miserable. Make genuine relationships with people. Live life. Messages like that. Then there's *The Tatami Galaxy*, which I've talked about pretty recently, with "don't live in the past, live in the now." There's other examples, but basically the tl;dr is that anime taught me a lot, for better and for worse. And combined with CAA, it's helped me become the person I am now: Bogeun Choi, 22 years old, lover of anime and sports. So thanks for reading through the years. Thanks to Konshuu. And thanks CAA.

FAREWELLS ARE A DIFFICULT THING

Please don't graduate.



ABEER HOSSAIN

2ND YEAR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND ASTROPHYSICS

This past Sunday's GoT episode is the worst thing I have ever watched.

STAFF WRITER

Major Spoilers for Assassination Classroom

Today, we have the graduation issue for Konshuu. You have already (most likely) read through Zee's and Bogeun's articles and seen the impact Konshuu and CAA have had on them. Saying farewell to something that you love and have been a part of for so long is difficult. I'm just a sophomore and this is only my second semester in CAA, so I have neither been a member as long as the other two, nor am I graduating this semester. Even so, saying farewell to my friends is definitely difficult. This is, of course, an article about anime, so I'd like to connect it to one of my favorite school-based animes: *Assassination Classroom*.

At the end of its 2-cour run, the students are saying goodbye to more than just each other and their teachers in terms of culmination, but they have to kill and say their final goodbyes to Koro-sensei. How does one say their final goodbyes to a person? Especially when they have been as impactful as Koro-sensei, completely changing the lives of those in class 3-E. A normal graduation may not be nearly as heart-wrenching as the death of a beloved friend and mentor, but a farewell is a farewell, and ultimately they all hurt. For the members of class 3-E, they are also saying farewell to their past selves. They all grew tremendously throughout their time with Koro-sensei and the wails each student lets out during this scene in which they graduate not from their school, but from the *Assassination Classroom*, gives a tangible representation of their loss and of the pain of their farewell. The students know that because of Koro-sensei, they became smarter, kinder, more

understanding. They learned more about each other and about people and society. They learned of the cruelties of the world and how to overcome many of the seemingly unfair hurdles life throws at you. The people and places they had become so intimate with, they must leave behind.



Their graduation is so much more than that, but at the same time, it's no more than a simple graduation. Yes, not all graduations include killing your human-turned-monster teacher who taught you how to assassinate at will and undergo covert operations at ease (suggestions for IRL schools), but they all include letting go of important parts of your past. They all include reflecting back on the people that made you who you are on that day, and of course, feeling tremendous sadness at having to let them go. I still have quite a bit of time left before that day comes. But once it does, the past four years will have felt like a blur. Look at me now, I'm about to be an upperclassman and it feels like I moved into the dorms yesterday.

To those who have given so much to Konshuu and have now moved on or are now moving on, thank you.

Eulogies

RIP graduating officers :c

Publicity heads... you will be missed :(what a power team

Shoutout to Owen AKA Newo AKA tofupacket AKA the best crossplayer in CAA. Thanks for being my roommate for 2 years, and for convincing me to join CAA. We even became officers at the same time. Good times.

Congrats to all the other seniors who graduated. You survived! Time to move on to the real world... :(

Bogeun Choi, one of the most faithful adherence of religion of church of CGDCT I have known and whom I have worked with during this past semester, has been called into a lower and more depressing place called adulthood. Leaving as a Applied Mathematics and Data Science double major this May 2019, may waifus, idols and SSRs bless his journey to the lower plane. His undying service(deadlines) as the Konshuu head will forever be branded in the hearts of his Konshuu slaves. It's difficult to imagine a CAA without him.

Sister Rika Sato, whom grinded and died together with me playing Granblue(aka Grindblue) Fantasy, has been called by our lewd and savior Lucio into his service. May she not fall further into the hell of Grindblue with the free time given by her release of service as a Chemical Biology major this May 2019. Her art continues to ensnare gullible customers to help her buy accursed rainbow crystals for gacha games.

Brother Andres Gonzalez, who is sinful for forcing passion for graphic design into the innocent minds of Marc Castillo and Lea Nakatsukasa, will finally pass the gates of Sather to pursue his higher service. Moving on this May 2019, his meticulous, tireless work for Konshuu shall forever be remembered. May you continue to curse those Skullgirls hitboxes years beyond this date, and never stop being the number one go-to person for Facebook messenger memes.

Ziana Deen will finally pass the gates of Sather and the accursed building of Wurster, as an architect in May 2019. She is remembered as:

Aesthetic beauty,
Architectural blossom,
Anime fuels her. -A Haiku-

Youtube Facebook Twitter it's your main man Newo back here with another SUPER OFFICIAL eulogy can you dig it baby i know you can hey listen man, here with Andrew AKA Wingdrops (subscribe to his youtube channel) who will always be remembered for his trademarked catch-phrases such as "Nice!" and "We're done here", his clean ping pong spins, and being the best roommate one could ask for <3. So yeah overall gonna have to give Andrew a straight 5 all day baby

Mother Diana, who will be missed as she passes on beyond the gates of Sather to pursue their dreams to work in education and maybe one day finding a true husbando. We'll miss your idol training lessons at AFX parties (tightest whip in the game) your drag show fabulousness (we love a sister that can floor grind) and more than anything else, your smile that can turn anyone's day around.

To Erin, may your passing beyond Sather gate be more peaceful than that of Anton from Spy, and more honorable than that of De Luca... also from Spy. You deserve the comfy cozy life of being a hotshot accountant that awaits you, hopefully with plenty of dogs and not as much stress. You're a girl who knows what she wants and we absolutely stan, queen. Thank you for being the best president I could have asked for and showing me the ropes, and being such a kind, supportive friend all these years.

Borah, Bora, Demetria kin, UPS package recipient Eden Spade: Konshuu will miss the Big Sexy you brought to the cover art industry, with classics such as Ahegao on Main and Anime Tiddies Part Two, Electric Boogaloo. CAA will miss your infectious laugh, your chill vibes, and all of the Epic Gamer Moments you've given us over these past semesters. Thanks for providing us such CAA classics like "niceeeee", "el ____", "gotta ____", and "Dark ____". We're all so happy to have you here with us for just a bit longer. Here's a big, wholesome shoutout to everyone's favorite E-Girl. <3

Thank you!

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

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CLUB EVENTS

Follow us on social media or visit **cal.moe** for updates!
Bi-Weekly Cosplay/Art Workshop: Wednesday, 6-7 pm, 228 Dwinelle
Game Nights: Thursday 8-10 pm, 229 Dwinelle



MAKI HARUKAWA
Danganronpa V3: Killing Harmony
Art by Alexis Lopez