CUTE BOYS EDITION

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

konshuu

Volume XLV, Issue III

Cover art by: Rika "satoimo" Sato

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SHUICHI SAIHARA

(DANGANRONPA V3)

MAR 09 2017

THIS WEEK'S SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

MEMORIES

1995 | Studio 4C & Madhouse
Directed by Koji Morimoto & Katsuhiro Otomo

Memories (1995) is a triumphant attempt of chronicling the human experience: capturing the joy that is a part of existence, the power commanded by a lover, and the considerable consequences of unchecked aggression. A three-part animated movie, *Memories* is composed of unique segments, each directed by a different artist. I use the term "artist" as opposed to "animator" because *Memories* is a work of art. On a topical level, *Memories* presents the tales "Magnetic Rose," "Stink Bomb," and "Cannon Fodder," which describe the intrigues of a besotted opera star, the unintentional creation of human weapons, and the trials of a city plagued by perpetual warfare against an unknown rival. It is the emotional response these stories evoke that elevates *Memories* from a commonplace entertainment piece to a culturally significant masterpiece. The musical score, art, and storylines harmonize, creating an array of sensations that will cut any audience to the quick.

MANGA RECOMMENDATION

KARAKAI JOUZU NO TAKAGI-SAN

2012 - Present | Gessan | Created by Tomoki Matsumoto

Karakai Jouzu no Takagi-san introduces perpetual underdog and protagonist Nishikata, who is troubled by his encounters with the opposite sex. Faced with an assertive female classmate (Takagi-san) who specializes in heckling him, Nishikata swears revenge against his counterpart and begins a comical journey to one-up her. Of course, all of Nishikata's attempts to out-tease the tease master are futile, considering that Takagi-san's methods are inviolable and Nishikata is your typical yet endearing adolescent male blockhead. Although Nishikata is stumped as to why he is being tormented by a schoolgirl, the audience is not left in the dark concerning Takagi-san's motives for bothering Nishikata. The clumsy adolescent courtship is a compelling facet of the manga's general plot, leaving the audience anxious as to whether Nishikata will understand Takagi-san's emotions. Overall, *Karakai Jouzou no Takagi-san* proves to be an amusing read, perfect for reminiscing about those mortifying middle school days.

THIS WEEK'S SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

SEKKOU BOYS

Winter 2016 | LIDENFILMS | Directed by Seiki Takuno

An original short, *Sekkou Boys* tells the story of Miki Ishimoto, a recent college graduate who starts her career at Holbein Entertainment Co. managing a brand new idol group. Only this idol group isn't a normal idol group: this group is a bunch of statues! The statues in question, the Sekkou Boys (AKA The Rockies) are composed of four Greco-Roman sculptures: St. George, Mars, Hermes, and Medici, each with their own personality and quirks. Normally, the only problem conscious statues cause is their lack of mobility, but it causes more problems for Miki as the memories of her struggles in art class regarding sculptures still haunt her. With these memories looming over her, Miki is posed with the hard task of ensuring that The Rockies become the world famous group they wish to be. Will she accomplish this task? Or will they get a stone-cold reception?

MANGA RECOMMENDATION

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA

1996 - 2000 | Nakayoshi | Created by CLAMP

Sakura Kinomoto is your average ten-year-old fourth grader, until one day, she stumbles upon a mysterious book containing a set of cards. Unfortunately, she accidentally stirs up a magical gust of wind and unintentionally scatters the cards all over the world. Sakura learns that she has released the mystical Clow Cards. However, the Cards are no ordinary playthings; each of them possesses incredible powers, and because they act independently, they were sealed within the book. Now that the Cards are set free, they pose a grave danger upon the world. Appointed the title of "The Cardcaptor" and granted the Sealed Key, Sakura is tasked with finding and recapturing all the Cards. Alongside her best friend Tomoyo Daidouji, Sakura must learn to balance her new secret duty with the everyday troubles of a young girl involving love, family, and school, all while taking flight on her magical adventures as "Sakura the Cardcaptor."

ALINA "PICKLES" YANG

ULTIMATE VOLLEYBALL SON

I can only assume how much fun (or insanity) linguists feel when they dive into the world that is fandom talk (fan speak). For the "uninitiated", you may find yourself perplexed by the way people refer to characters and topics. The rise of meme culture further illustrates the strange ways people communicate. "Same" brings about despair and laughter and is likely just as confusing to the "uninitiated" as the term of endearment Tumblr users have for some of their favorite characters: "my son."

First of all, the term "my son" is often in reference to a fictional character. The 3D real world cannot possibly cross dimensions to the 2D world, despite how many real-world-to-RPG plots exist. Second, this social media user is likely not old enough to have a child. They are also not the writer or artist of the series, so why are they claiming this character to be related to them? Finally, too many people are claiming that the character is their son. . How does that joint-custody work? There's also "my daughter", "my brother", and other variations.

My point about the mess of fandom linguistics is to prove that I am sane when I say that a fictional volleyball player is my son. This is simply how fandom talk operates. Nevertheless, this phrase became widely utilized for a short period and persists even to this day.

A "son" character doesn't necessarily only apply to characters who are younger than you. An older character can also be "a son;" it generally refers to your feelings of wanting to take care of this character and being a parental figure of sorts, despite the impossibility of it. Such is the life of memes.

So, in relation to this, I want to pitch to everyone that Tsukishima Kei from *Haikyuu!!* is a son that you should adopt. First of all, Tsukishima is one of my favorites. Series about sport teams usually focus on team building, friendship, and challenges. It's a holy trio that always draws me in, perhaps because of the sheer enthusiasm of players. A type of energy that I could never properly muster up myself. Due to that, I find myself invested in Tsukishima's story arc. As a character who questions the amount of effort needed to reach the lofty goal of Nationals, Tsukishima is relatable to me. Of course, many others in the series have similar doubts, who I also consider as "sons". But the dynamic of actually being adept in this sport vs his reservations is an unique contrast.

This blond child is tall ("tol" in fandom speak), towering with a height of 6'2" (188.3 cm). He's clever, often times too witty; it's evident throughout the series when he makes snide comments at others. So Tsukishima didn't have the most likeable personality; he's arguably more aloof and less expressive than his teammates as well. But within the sport of volleyball and especially within the small team he's in, he is a valuable member. His height and intelligence are vital to Karasuno, but among the members, he is the least enthusiastic. Truthfully, he is somewhat superficially arrogant at first. At best, he was indifferent towards the notion of applying effort. Tsukishima knows height and talent can easily trump a person's diligence if they possess natural talent.

Tsukishima is an example, becoming a regular member of the team despite being a new first-year student. But as the team starts to come together and members find themselves staying late or getting advice from alumni, Tsukishima drifts further away. He doesn't join anyone, not even his close friend, in practicing more. Once practice ends, Tsukishima heads home.

Despite his initial introduction, Tsukishima does not come off as a character who is inherently mean. While he may have outwardly looked down on effort, he doesn't make a snide remark when his friend, Yamaguchi, mentions extra practice lessons. Instead, as they progress in the tournament and throughout the series, he wonders why any of them bother to do so much. In the end, "isn't this just a club?" becomes a significant question to him.

This question is one that I wondered many times as well. Not that I slacked off and ditched lessons when I participated in sports, but I never found the enthusiasm to work my hardest. After all, this is a competitive activity. Not everyone is going to win. So why bother to do more when you can be mediocre?

The truth is, Tsukishima Kei enjoys volleyball. Why else would he continue to do it for years? Sure, he didn't want to apply himself. He wasn't sure if it was worth pursuing.We all face that: do I continue to work on this? Do I really like it or am I victim to the sunk cost fallacy? These worries plague all individuals. Thus, I admire his character and the struggles he faces because I find them relatable. He is hesitant to apply himself because he's afraid of failure. He's a perfectionist. His backstory reveals more about his reasons and choices, and I feel that I must leave this out so you can experience it yourself. My favorite arcs are (clearly biased and) focused on his development and acceptance.

Deep down, the truth is that Tsukishima thinks people who work hard are cool. He likes volleyball, but it takes him a while to realize it. Things are more complicated than they really have to be, but when you're a teenager who wants to have a cool image, it just doesn't turn out like that. He's also a huge nerd and has a love for dinosaurs. His nickname, Tsukki, is also a pun and possible reference to a Japanese dinosaur mascot.

Everything about this child should be appreciated and there's so much him that I love and I hope others do as well. Please consider adopting him. This son doesn't really need protection, but I would give it to him, he's that precious. He's also sort of a lame geek since worrying about appearances is something very adolescent, but perhaps his charm increases this way. He is still a child who is figuring things out, and I appreciate him despite his flaws.

JOSHUA "SIER" SIADOR

MOE INTENSIFIES

Warning: Mild Spoilers Ahead!

Moe moe kyun~! Ugh… absolutely disgusting! Get that stuff away from me! We intellectual fans don't fall for the basic moe, cuteness, and eye candy that creators simply throw at us. Unlike the casual fans, we consciously *search* for moe in the unexpected and sometimes controversial characters, allowing us to value these characters more and form deeper connections with them. This is what people refer to as gap moe, a type of appeal when a character does something unexpectedly uncharacteristic. A simple example is the really tough and serious male character who actually cares about small animals and likes desserts. Another example is a mature teenage character who still believes in Santa.

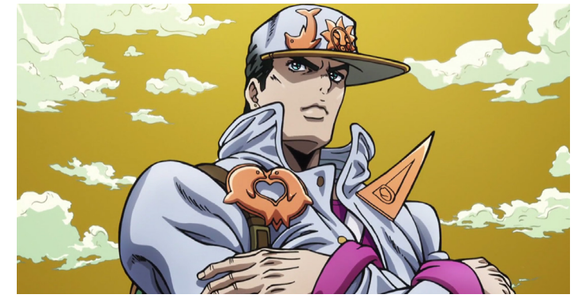
Gap moe is arguably one of the central charm points of all dere archetypes, especially the tsundere archetype. Tsundere characters exhibit polar behaviors and reactions, depending on their immediate surroundings and who they're interacting with. From the perspective of a fictional character interacting with a tsundere, there's pleasure with seeing the hidden side of a tsundere because they feel exclusive and special enough to be shown a unique expression, as well as vulnerability. That's not to say that gap moe is exclusive to tsundere characters, it's just one of their key points. Additionally, eye candy, visually appealing, and relatively shallow characters should not be automatically disregarded because it's possible that even these characters have some depth and potential for gap moe.

That being said, let's look at some examples of gap moe in male characters, in honor of this issue's "Cute Boys" theme. Looking at examples and improving your understanding of gap moe will help you understand why you like certain characters.

***Final Fantasy XV* – A Trip to Flavortown**

Gladiolus Amicitia is a Crownsguard, responsible for the protection of the royal family of Lucis, particularly for Prince Noctis Lucis Caelum. As an esteemed soldier and bodyguard, he is expected to keep himself in top physical shape. However, he has a particular fondness for Nissin Cup Noodles, as shown by the side quest, "The Perfect Cup," where you gather ingredients to make Cup Noodles because Gladiolus really wants to eat the best Cup Noodles around. It was likely done for product placement purposes, considering there was an actual collaboration between Nissin Cup Noodles and Final Fantasy XV. It is common knowledge that instant noodles, when consumed frequently and in large quantities, is generally detrimental to one's health (but arguably good for the soul). However, the association between Gladiolus and cup noodles creates a dissonance, or gap, between expectations and reality of our understanding of Gladiolus' character. In a sense, this particular fondness for Cup Noodles breaks down the image of Gladiolus. He's able to run around in the open world, work out, and swing his giant sword in battle, fueled by the power of Cup Noodles. However, Cup Noodles has very low nutritional value, but it has no negative effects on Gladiolus's power and vitality as a fighter. Through this example, gap moe allows for the endearment of character quirks, comedic moments, and blessed fanart that capitalizes on these particularities.

***JoJo's Bizarre Adventure* – Dolphins Are Cool**



Jotaro Kujo generally has a stoic, cool, calm, and collected demeanor and dons a high school delinquent appearance with the iconic gakuran, but his Part 4 (*Diamond is Unbreakable*) appearance introduced something quirky: dolphins. We learn that, in between the end of Part 3 (*Stardust Crusaders*) and the beginning of Part 4, he is a PhD student in marine biology. To non-fans and perhaps regular fans, this ocean-themed concept seems random and out of character for someone who solves his problems by seriously injuring anyone he comes in contact with and delivering sick one liners to his enemies. His study of marine biology implies an appreciation of life itself, yet it only seems to apply to marine life, like sea stars and dolphins. So some people find gap moe in the idea that Jotaro is actually a caring person under his steel-like exterior. If anyone's curious, I think this fondness for marine life originates from Part 3, specifically the Midler and Anubis battles.

An interesting thing about Part 4 is that it ends with a brief epilogue of what happens to the characters after the events of the story. Jotaro, finished his thesis on sea stars in Morioh Bay, which was unforeseen yet endearing. Jotaro's academic progress had very little to do with the story, but I couldn't help but feel proud of him for doing whatever he wanted and being a badass. I have never felt so proud of someone ever since I saw Charlie (popularly known as Cr1TiKaL) graduate from University of Tampa in Spring 2016.

***THE iDOLM@STER CINDERELLA GIRLS* – Your Smile**

Takeuchi-P is the fan-given name (based on the voice actor, Shunsuke Takeuchi) for the nameless Producer in the series. He gives off an intimidating presence: tall, stone-faced, and monotone. Anyone would be suspicious of such a man trying to recruit female idols into 346 Production, the idol talent agency. But he's so sincere about helping each idol reach their potential and shine in the pop idol industry despite their preconceptions that they're only normal, common people. His determination shines more brilliantly, precisely because of his awkwardness and appearance. It's difficult not to support and cheer on a character who overcomes their own social insecurities for the sake of others. He tried to be there for the various idols when issues arose. He took their feelings into consideration, pushing them to challenge themselves and strive for brilliance, but not to the extent of harsh and intolerable standards. One example is when Uzuki Shimamura started to backslide and was unable to perform properly and with confidence. Takeuchi-P was pressured to force Uzuki to quit; instead, he does not give up on her, and he does not let her give up on herself, thus helping her regain self-confidence. Why does he go so far for just one person, who believes she's only average and is being left behind by the rest of the idols? As he's always stated throughout the series, it's because of their smiles: the smiles that are theirs alone. At one point during this critical scene, he forces a smile, and it's one of the most blissful scenes vignettes in the series because it's not fitting for his character, but there's a heartfelt sense of effort in attempting to do something outside of his comfort zone for the sake of others.

Hopefully you learned a thing or two about gap moe from these examples of good boys. You might also see the term "gap moe" pop up somewhere in a forum or post, (so) now you'll know what people are talking about. The next time someone dares to ask you for reasons why [insert character name] is best husbando, waifu, or what have you, you're ready to respond like an intellectual badass and prove that your fondness and interest in a character is not just because of looks or something shallow.

SPRINGTIME of LOVE

(KONSHUU STAFF DRAW THEIR BEST BOYS)

UR HOT

UR HOT

UR HOT

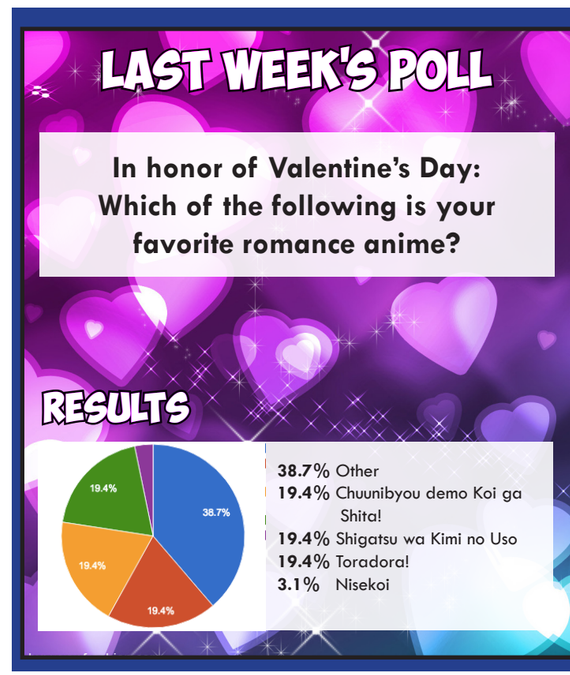
I CAN'T DRAW. (faces)

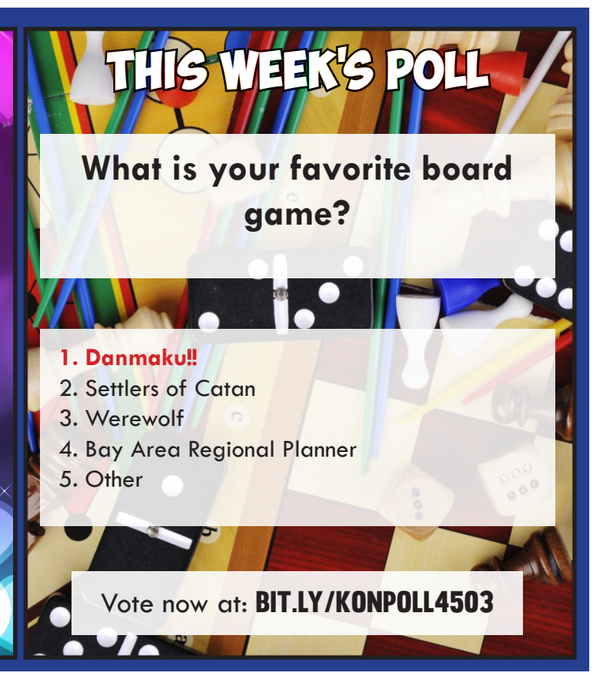
In honor of our "Cute Boys" theme, here are some of our picks for best anime songs by male artists! Scan the QR code to get a link to the YouTube playlist.

	Title	Artist	Series	Staff Member
	Maru wo Sagashite	Keiji Fujiwara	The Tatami Galaxy	Josh "bubeez" Roque
	Kyouran Hey Kids!!	The Oral Cigarettes	Noragami Aragoto	Cassie Sonne
	Namae wo yobu yo	Luck Life	Bungou Stray Dogs	Nimsi Garcia
	Kuchizuke Diamond	WEAVER	Yamada-kun and the Seven Witches	Bogeun Choi
	Tell Me Why	PENPALS	Berserk (1997)	Katrina Luque
	Karma	Bump of Chicken	Tales of the Abyss	Andrew "arched" Oeung
	Kotonoha	Piko	Katanagatari	Edward "Edo" Hong
	Trust Me	Yuya Matsushita	Durarara!!	Joshua "Sier" Siador
	Summertime record	Mafumafu	Kagerou Project	Jacky Zhao
	19 sai	Suga Shikao	xxx Holic	Rika "satoimo" Sato
	Redemption	Gackt	Final Fantasy 7 Dirge of Cerberus	Ziana "Zee" Deen
	Hyadain no Kakakata Kataomoi-C	Maeyamada "Hyadain" Kenichi	Nichijou	Andres Gonzalez

How well do you know your husband OTPs? Can you pair up each character with their appropriate partners?

Answer Key: A&4 | B&3 | C&1 | D&2





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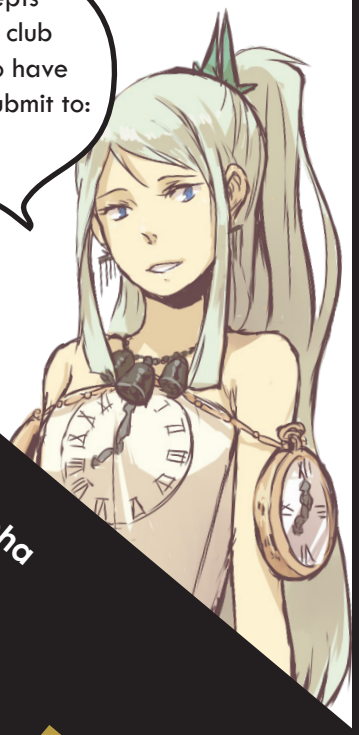
Konshuu proudly accepts guest submissions from club members! If you'd like to have content featured, please submit to:
J.MP/KONSUB



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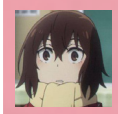
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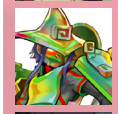
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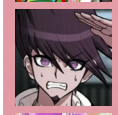
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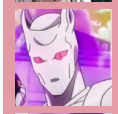
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Andrew Oeung
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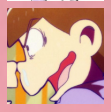
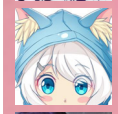
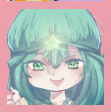
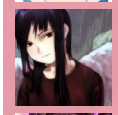

Rika Sato
Artist


Jacky Zhao
Artist


Lulu Wang
Artist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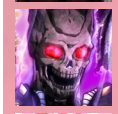
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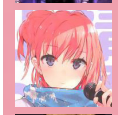
Bogeun Choi
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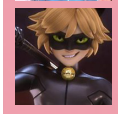
Ziana Deen
Writer

WEEKLY EVENTS

Manga Social: Thurs, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, 106 Dwinelle
Game Night: Thurs, 8:00pm - 10:00pm, 109 Dwinelle
Check Facebook for location announcements!

POKÉMON OBITUARY

"Give me your husbandos, waifus,
Your huddled otaku yearning to argue free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming AOTY.
Send these, the NEETs, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my Pokéball beside the golden door!"

January 26, 2017 - February 26, 2017
"RIP Pikachu, the guardian balloon and shining beacon of CAA."
- Elijah Bartolome, CAA Department Head of Technology

(parody of "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus)