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Vtuber  
Community  
News



art: @ninomaeinanis

Hololive-ID going on  
COMICON! —does Ollie  
prefer cabbages or  
lettuce?

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Taken Twitter  
by storm:  
Smol Ame Game  
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# Community News

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## *The New Super Nenechi!*

After a long wait, Momosuzu Nene's new design was [finally revealed](#) on 31/01! To those who are unaware, this was different from a new costume in the sense that this would now be her main costume, replacing the old one. For that reason, her 3D and New Year's costume have been delayed and we should be seeing her 3D release later this year.

As the stream started, viewers had the chance to say goodbye to her old costume together with Nene in a small karaoke section, where performed both *Happy Synthesizer - EasyPop* and *Onegai Muscle - Hibiki Sakura & Naruzo Machio*.

Following the karaoke, the reveal of the costume began. A big teasing session began as Nene slowly showed off her new costume and all of it's new details, in this way being able to notice how big the changes in the design were.

Now she sports a pair of brown boots, socks of different lengths with ribbons on them, a dress which flaunts both her orange and pink colors in a very "idolish" design, and a removable jacket covering her dress.

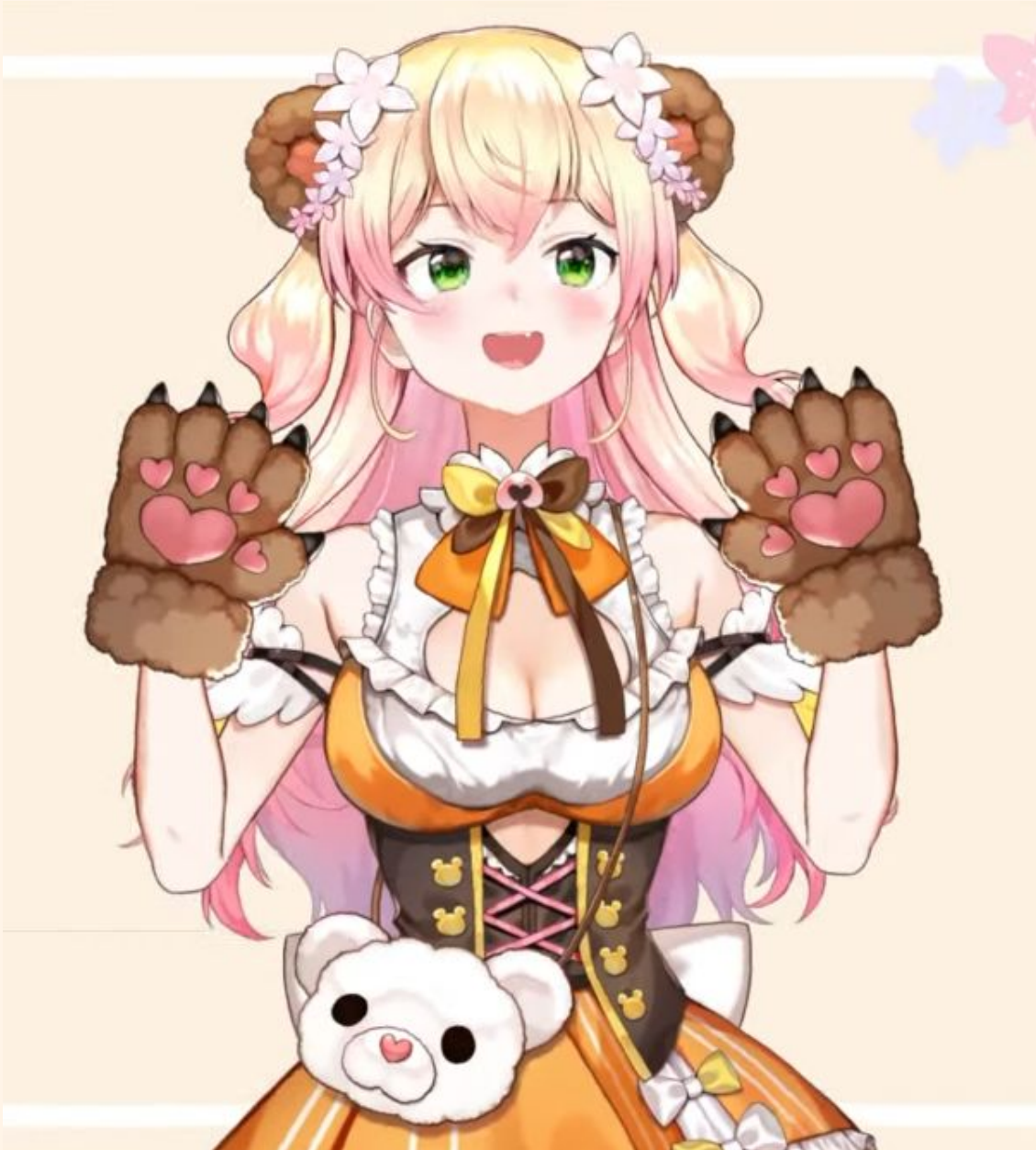
Her hair also received a major style-up, becoming way more detailed than before, adding more beauty to it, now together with flowers that are accompanying her buns.

The new details were able to come together without losing any of her essence from before, making it so that Nene was even more powerful and her idol levels were way off the charts!

You can check out the designer, Nishizawa 5mm [here!](#)



Her new costume didn't stop there, for Super Nenechi still had more to show. The secret weapon of the costume was later revealed and it was something most did not expect: bear ears and paws! She teased viewers repeatedly saying "Gao Gao" as she presented this feature, together with a bear themed accessory on her waist. This way, now all of the 5<sup>th</sup> Gen are able to use animal ears in their costumes!



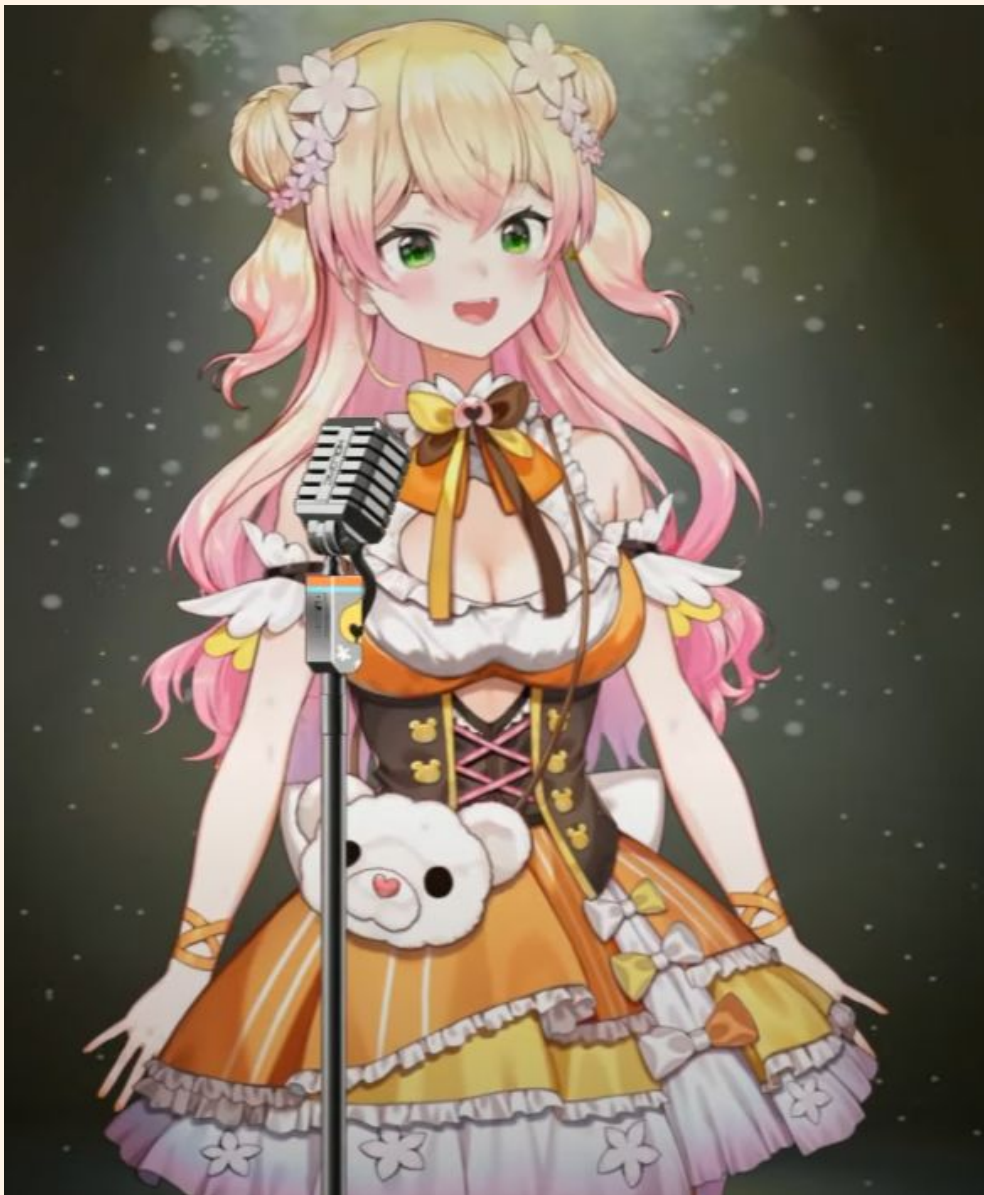
After the costume was revealed she continued the karaoke session, singing two more songs, *Hitomi - Ohara Sakurako* and *Sparkles - RADWIMPS*.

As the second song ended, she paused to give us some emotional words. She said she had been working so hard up till now, and was happy that many people were watching her, since it was a lonely time for her when her genmates received 3D and she didn't.

Still, all her genmates and senpais were really supportive to her during all this long wait and all commented that this new costume really suited Nene. Ending this very emotional moment with a thank you from the bottom of her heart to all Hololive members that supported her, and to her mama who accepted her request for a new design.

Nene decided to end the karaoke with one last song, this being the same that was sung by her way back on her debut *Nagareboshi Kiseki - New Generations, the Idol@master project!* It showed viewers not only how much Nene has come since her debut, but also reminded everyone of those nostalgic times. At the end of the stream, she announced her new cover song, which she had withheld since way back in October: *Watashi, Idol Sengen - CHiCo with honeyWorks.*

Congratulations on receiving the new costume Nene!



*Written by Kinji*

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## Haachama vs. Akai Haato – A Battle for Control

An unforgettable battle took place on 04/02 on Haachama’s channel. What was advertised as a “Debut stream” for Hololive EN0’s Haachama turned out to be an un-archived English song singing stream that was also a metaphysical fight for control between Haachama and Akai Haato. The two personalities clashed in a dramatic fashion, with both sides frequently turning the tide.

The stream started out normal enough; Haachama said she wanted to collab with Akai Haato (she treated the two sides of her as completely separate entities at this point) but couldn’t because Haato was “already dead.” Nothing unusual happened during the first song, but as Haachama sang her second song of the stream, images of Akai Haato trapped in a cell started to intermittently flash on stream. This prompted the chat to start using the hashtag #FreeHaato instead of the one provided by Haachama herself, and many people went to Twitter to demand justice for Haato.



This continued for a few more songs, as glimpses of the imprisoned Haato appeared more and more frequently. Haachama sang songs that fit the occasion, such as Alan Walker’s “The Spectre,” whose lyrics added a lot to the experience. Haato’s influence grew more powerful as the stream went on, peaking as the two personalities suddenly appeared side by side. Haachama and Haato sang *We Don’t Talk Anymore* by Charlie Puth and then rick-rolled close to 20,000 people by singing *Never Gonna Give You Up*. After that song, Haachama tried to get rid of her other personality once again, and Haato was thrown back in her cell.

After singing *Echo*, Haachama announced that she had received a song request from Haato, which was *Faded* by Alan Walker. As she sang, Haachama slowly grew more and more transparent. When the song was finished, after apologizing for what she had tried to do to Haato, Haachama faded away. This was followed by the return of Haato, sweet and pure as she was before. Haato thanked



everyone for helping her escape and announced she would be streaming Minecraft in an hour. Haachama has supposedly been sealed away, but an ominous “To be continue[sic]...” message made it clear that this is not the last we’ll be seeing of her. This part of the stream was later uploaded on her channel as a separate [short video](#).

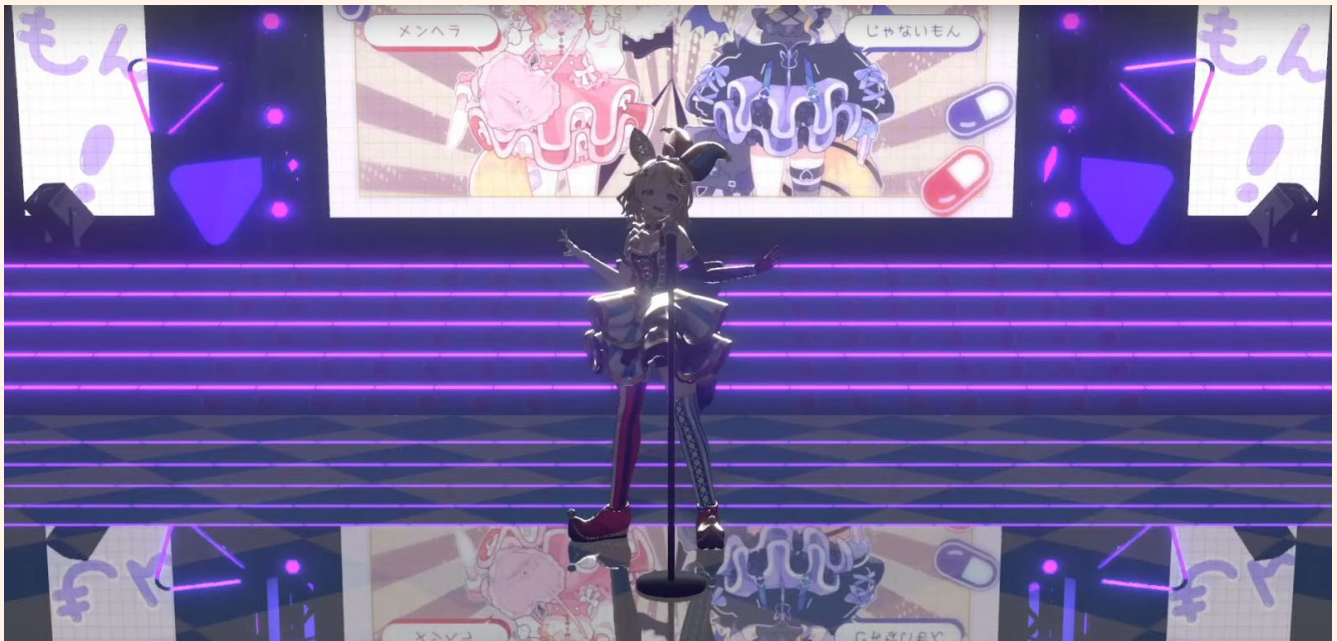
That was the conclusion to this exciting bit of Haachama lore. Haato did [stream Minecraft](#) after that; she had her classic outfit on and spoke with her calm, soothing voice, lacking all of Haachama’s insanity. She had no recollection of the things Haachama had done, such as eating spiders, expressing confusion at the idea of eating one, and thinking it would be scary. Her more recent streams were split between cursed Haachama style of content and calming Minecraft sessions with Akai Haato. It appears as if the dominant personality streams while the other sleeps. It is unknown for how long this power balance can last, but the two sides of the Vtuber seem to coexist somewhat peacefully for the time being.



Written by Key Staff

## 3D Birthday Celebration at the Circus

Come one, come all! Hololive's fennec Ringleader celebrated her birthday on 30/01 with an hour long [stream](#) filled with songs, circus performances, and laughter. The show began with a very hyper performance of the song *Menhera Janai Mon!* that Polka covered on her channel [last month](#). The song was incredibly upbeat and Polka's high energy carried it through spectacularly.



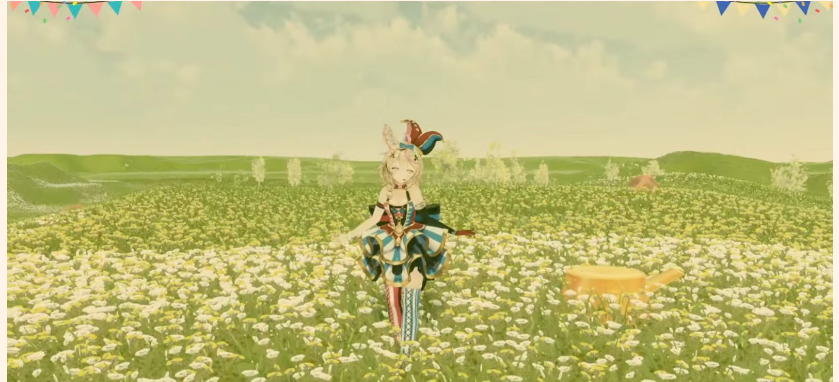
After singing *Happy Birthday* to herself, Polka moved to the circus stage, where she produced a fiery ring. With no lion around, Polka needed to jump through the ring of fire herself to entertain the audience (chat kept spamming the SUS emote as they did not accept her jump). She then proceeded to devour an oversized cake using an oversized fork. She could not eat all of it however, and she collapsed near the half eaten cake, fork still in hand. Rolling off the stage, the scene changed to a beautiful field, with Polka standing amongst the flowers.





Polka sang a number of slower, more emotional songs in this part of the stream, as chat waved their glow sticks or sent hearts. Notable performances included the acoustic renditions of Dempagumi.inc's *Ashita Chikyuu ga Konagona ni Natte mo* and LiSA's *Shirushi*. Polka managed to showcase her softer voice here, as opposed to her usual energetic self.

After returning to the Circus setting, the rest of Hololive's 5<sup>th</sup> Generation called in to wish Polka a happy birthday and presented her with a few challenges to overcome. They included the use of some



unusual objects, such as a huge hammer, a piece of meat, and a Yagoo shield, similar to the one used in Botan's 3D debut. The ring of fire made an appearance once again, and a grenade was thrown at one point in the stream. After all the shenanigans were done with, Polka moved on to the big announcements that usually accompany such events.

Birthday merch was announced as expected, consisting of a voice pack, an acrylic panel, chain and sticker and a pennant. Overseas Polka

fans can find all of these available [here](#). The stream ended with a performance of *Welcome to Japari Park* and a [new cover](#) was released on Polka's channel shortly after the stream ended. The new cover of TUYU's *Loser Girl* was accompanied by cute pink illustrations that effectively contrasted with the darker lyrics of the song. She's shown that she can do both high and low tempo songs with her incredible energy and commitment. We are all looking forward to catching more wonderful performances from this lovely clown!



*Written by Key Staff*

## Suisei Re-Debuts as her Old Self

The fear that haunts the dreams of every person doing YouTube for a living befell another Hololive member on 29/01, as Suisei's channel was demonetized shortly after her new cover video was released. This meant that fans' memberships were put on hold and no superchats were possible (ad revenue is presumably disabled as well). She [streamed](#) shortly after the fact, talking about the accident; she apologized to



YouTube for whatever she may have done to deserve this though Google translate and through song, but a more special stream was announced later on Twitter.

Suisei [re-debuted her](#) old indie character model the next day as a joke. The model was noticeably improved when compared to the one from her indie days, though it retains the same look. She introduced herself as a "new" Vtuber debuting as a member of Hololive SP (Space) 00th Generation. She presented her three sizes, listing her bust size as 170 cm while keeping the other two sizes the same as the ones during her original INNK debut stream back in 2019 (back then she had mistakenly listed her bust size as 60 cm instead of the correct 70 cm).

Suisei made the bold claim that her character was supposed to be seiso and that her dream was to become the most seiso out of everyone in Hololive. She followed this up by saying that she's good at war, loves guns, and sharp objects, and likes gore-type games, thus immediately ruining the illusion. Suisei then went ahead and announced the name for her fanbase: Hoshiyomi, which was the same as it was before the demonetization. Someone in chat asked why the name wasn't "Cometomo" (her fanbase name from before joining Hololive), but that question was only met with confusion on Suisei's side. The BGM stopped for a few moments, and Suisei soon returned to the topic at hand, ignoring the fan's question. She also reintroduced her hashtags and her oshi mark, all being the same as before.

Suisei then played her very first original song *Comet* and people were amazed the song already had over 2 million views despite just being released. Another recurring joke was people writing different sums in their chats and Suisei thanking them for their superchats. At the end of the stream, Suisei introduced two other (fictional) members of Hololive SP (also still fictional) and ended the stream off shortly afterwards. Fans alike wish for this issue to be quickly resolved, so that Suisei can return to driving around peacefully in GTA V.

*Written by Void and Key Staff*

## Salonpas Gang Phasmophobia Collab

On 05/02 the Salonpas gang got together to do some ghost hunting, the member count including Iofi, Ina, Reine and Pochi-sensei! This stream had been teased before by the members during the earlier drawing collabs they had in the past weeks and finally confirmed with Pochi making the thumbnail for them during one of her solo streams.

The stream featured a compilation of funny events during the members, such as making the characters do very weird poses, Iofi chanting “Dorime” out of nowhere, Reine waiting for her mama at the door of the school building just to close the door at her face at the last minute, or the group flicking the lights to scare one another. The ghosts also suffered at the hands of the group as they went from inviting the ghost to become an idol and inviting him to sing songs for them, to saying very rude comments to it, especially to poor Thomas the train.

The group completed four games during the stream, with Reine being the most courageous of them all, carrying the gang and making it so that they barely suffered any deaths during the runs. Iofi managed to maintain her record to be the first to die in every Phasmophobia collab she’s been in, followed by Ina and then Pochi. They also showed us some of their skills in the basketball minigame and the can stacking trend in between the games.

The events that occurred during this collaboration were too great to be contained in a simple article, so be sure to check it out as each pov is available in each of the participants’ channels! It’s also important to note that Pochi-sensei has been working very hard on her english studies during the past weeks and one of her objectives was to speak it as much as possible during the collab. Viewers loved this group coming together and surely look forward to the next reunion of the gang! Otsulonpas~



*Written by Kinji*

## Hololive ID Gen 2 talks in “Road to Indonesia Comic Con”

Indonesia Comic Con is one of the largest pop culture events in Indonesia. In one of the show segments, Hololive ID Gen 2 featured as one of the guests interviewed by the host, GHOSTY’s COMIC Jaret. Jaret explained that the interview was a chance to get to know the Hololive ID Gen 2 girls better. Jaret first asked for an introduction from Gen 2 themselves. After that, he began asking them about their debut streams, as well as any memorable moments of their streams.



*“In my first debut, there were a lot of my senpai from Hololive who visited that stream. While I was professing my love to Fubuki senpai, I accidentally didn’t notice Moona senpai in the chat and accidentally ignored her.”*



*“For me it’s when I wanted to decide my icon image. I wanted to choose a peacock as my image but I don’t know why people keep saying turkey was my image. Even Moona senpai sent a turkey emoji even though I’m a peacock.”*



*“For me all streams have their memorable moments, but there is one that I have been thinking about. It’s when I was playing on the Hololive Minecraft server and was surrounded by a lot of zombies. While I was running, I was saved by Sakura Miko senpai flying from above like a hero to help me.”*

The next question Jaret asked was *“What is your favourite pop culture genre?”* The first one to answer was Reine, jumping in to say she likes survival horror drama even though she gets scared while watching, she still enjoys the movie. Ollie answered next, saying that she liked reading webcomics, particularly isekai, where the main character goes into a novel world. She also shared that she had read more than 30 kinds of series shocking Jaret. The last one to speak up was Anya who answered that she liked music and in particular, the mostly unknown artcore genre.

Jaret asked Anya whether she was actually sleeping or if she just enjoyed lying on her bed, She gave a long explanation on how sleeping was in fact, superior to just lying around. He also asked Reine whether it was easier to clean her room or the kitchen, which was met with a flirty but otherwise non-conclusive answer. Ollie was jokingly asked whether she preferred lettuce or cabbage, to which she responded in an equally comical manner by screeching *“Lettuce!”* at the top of her lungs. And we also learned that all ID Generation 2 girls prefer the salty soy sauce over the sweeter one.

The final question which was asked was *“What are the hopes for the community in the future?”* Reine answered that she hoped that the community would continue to be a healthy one for both the fans and the content creator. Ollie added that she hoped that the community would become a comfortable place for the viewers so that they can interact with each other easily. Anya concluded by saying that she hoped for the community and vtuber culture to keep growing in all kinds of content, creating new fields, challenging themselves and staying healthy while streaming with reasonable amounts and not overworking themselves.

*Written by Bristly*

# Hololive Fanart

Here is this week's feature of local artists!



Artist: Maru54

[Source](#)

Artist: 些夜

[Source](#)





Artist: @Kuromuu\_9696

[Source](#)



Artist: う”いーなそ

[Source](#)



Artist: Pondel  
[Source](#)

Artist: えんだ  
[Source](#)





Artist: KAMA

[Source](#)

Artist: 桜もち@お仕事募集中

[Source](#)





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## Music Corner

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In this section we will be sharing the originals and covers released by both Hololive and Holostars following the releases timeline. We also are going to include covers and creations from the community!

### *Hololive/Holostars*

#### *King - Kanaria / Cover by Pavolia Reine*

On 29/01 Pavolia Reine released the cover [on her Youtube channel!](#)

She later hosted an aftertalk on her Youtube channel during one of her brunch streams, which can be found [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

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### *Ranbu no Melody - SID / Cover by Hoshimachi Suisei*

On 29/01 the cover was released on Suisei's Youtube channel, you can check it out [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

### *Aishite x3 - Hatsune Miku / Cover by Kanade Izuru*

Also on 29/01, Izuru released the cover on his Youtube channel, you can check it out [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

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## *Loser Girl - Pure White Canvas/ Cover by Omaru Polka*

On 30/01 Polka released the cover on her Youtube channel, which can be found [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

## *Next\_Wednesday - TamaOnsEN/ Cover by Roboco*

On 31/01 Roboco released the cover on her Youtube channel, which can be checked [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

## *Watashi, Idol Sengen - ChiCo with honeyWorks / Cover by Momosuzu Nene*

On 31/01 Nene released the cover right after her new costume release, it can be found [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

## *Off With Their Heads - Calliope Mori*

On the 01/02, Mori released her new original song, which can be found [here](#). It's also available on all [streaming platforms!](#)

Right after the release, she hosted a release party for the song, and the archive of the stream can be found [here](#).



[Image source](#)

## *Gimme x Gimme - Hachioji P \* Giga / Lapix Remix, Cover By AZKi x Such*

On 02/02 AZKi released the cover on her Youtube channel, which can be checked out [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

## *Stardust Song - Hololive*

On 03/02 “Stardust Song” was released, being the 7th song released in preparation for Bloom

The short version of the song can be found on the [Hololive Youtube channel](#), and the full song is available on many [digital platforms](#).



## *King - Kanara / Cover by Tokoyami Towa*

On 3/2 Towa released the cover on her Youtube channel, which can be checked out [here](#).



[Image Source](#)

## *Shirushi - LiSa (The first take) / Cover by Omaru Polka (The Holotake)*

On 6/2 Polka released the cover on [her Youtube channel!](#)



[Image Source](#)

*Written by Kinji*

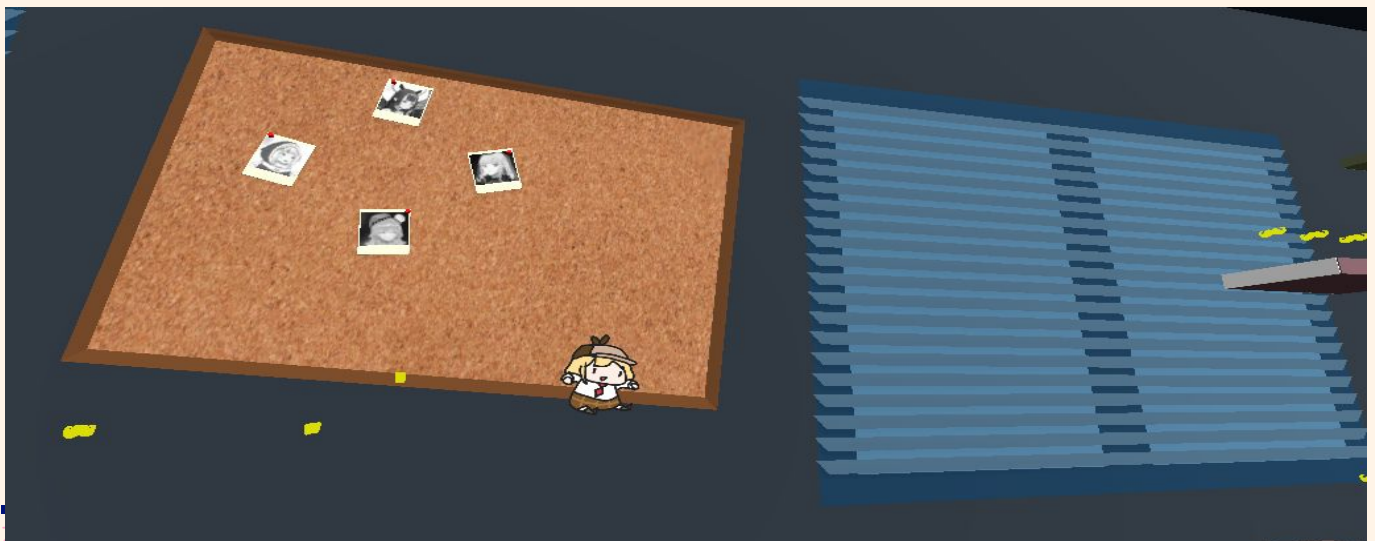
## Interviews

### *Smol Ame The Game: A Study in Ground Pounding*

In the past few weeks, a smol fan game has been sweeping through the Hololive community. That game would be ‘Smol Ame’ by KevinCow. So what is this game and what about it has taken the community by storm? Well, I decided to take a dive in and find out!



Smol Ame is a game about the talent that Ame herself might be most proud of, her ability to ground pound. The game sees you journey through levels as [Wallfie's](#) Chibi Amelia using her infamous ground pound to stop on the spot or bounce to higher jumps while you navigate levels, collecting mustaches and Bubba tokens or speedrunning if that is your desire. At the time of this article, the game currently has three levels. One level is based around Smol Ame navigating Amelia's office (with some camos from her gen mates), another navigating a world of spiders in the clouds based on Hacchama's Big Red Heart song, and a third based on Amelia's popular cover of Pops on Rocks.



The game has also seen a speed running community form around it in the days since its creation. The community has broken runs into two categories, any percent completion and Bubba percent runs, where the player also collects the Bubba tokens in the stage in addition to speedrunning the level. Some players have put up absolutely blistering speeds such as Riceboy completing the first stage in 12.272 seconds, BloodyRedditor completing Pops on Rocks in 35.83 seconds and Tryptech completing Big Red Heart in 81.317 seconds.

So, what about the thoughts on the game by the Detective herself, Amelia Watson? On 05/02, Ame decided to jump into the [pounding herself](#). While platforming isn't quite her thing, she did have some fun with the game. She focused on just completing the stages and had some great fun with the game, even if it took her over thirty minutes to complete Big Red Heart.



If you want to give the game a try yourself, you can find it [here](#).

*Written by Tython, KFP Legal Drone*



## Interview with: Kevin Stevens, creator of Smol Ame

We also managed to sit down and ask the creator of the Smol Ame game, Kevin Stevens, a couple of questions about the process of creating the game and where we can expect it to go from here.



### **Q) Were you new to Hololive with EN or have you been in the rabbit hole for a while?**

*A) I think I learned about Hololive and Vtubers in general around the time the EN branch launched. Though it actually wasn't the English members that got me started down the rabbit hole, but the Korone Eekum Bokum meme. That led to other Korone clips, which led to Hololive EN clips, and... well, you know how it goes.*

### **Q) So, were there any specific moments involving Amelia that led to you deciding to take on a project like this?**

*A) Not really anything specific. I just saw Walfie's sprite and thought it would be fun to run around as, so I made a quick prototype in a couple days and posted a video on Twitter. This was in early December. That got a decent amount of attention, so I kept working on it. I'd actually had a vague concept floating around in my head for a while of a platformer where the main mechanic is ground pounding, so I took this opportunity to develop that.*

### **Q) What was the development like, any particularly tough moments? How long did it take to make?**

*A) Honestly, the toughest parts have been after releasing it. Before, there were no expectations. I was just making a game I wanted to make, and if anyone else liked it that would be cool, and if they didn't then oh well.*

*But now that my game has fans, I really don't want to let them down. So I've been working harder since it came out to fix bugs and implement requested features than I did before it came out.*

*As for how long it took, the time between the first line of code and the first demo was about a month and a half.*

### **Q) What was your reaction when the game first started making its way around the community?**

*A) Honestly, my head's still kinda spinning. I was expecting a bit of attention, but not like this. I didn't expect to hit the front page of Reddit. I didn't expect to get fans. I'm still a bit overwhelmed by it all.*

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**Q) Did you expect the game to build up a speed running community like it has?**

*A) What's funny is that while I intentionally designed the game's mechanics in a way that I hoped would make it interesting to speedrun, I didn't actually expect anybody to care enough to do so. I put some shortcuts in the first level that let me beat it in just under 30 seconds, and I thought it would be fun to post my time after people had some time with it and challenge them to beat it.*

*I didn't have a chance to do that, because people found all my intended shortcuts and then some I didn't even know about and beat my time by 10 seconds within just a couple hours of releasing it.*

*There's a Discord server dedicated to speedrunning my game. It's nearing 500 members. Something like that wasn't even within the realm of consideration when I was making it.*

**Q) The question some might be most interested in, best personal time?**

*A) That's hard to answer, because I don't actually play the released versions very much. Most of my play time is done in development builds that wouldn't be accepted to the leaderboard. I also don't record my times. But I think my best time for level 1 is just under 17 seconds.*

**Q) So, you're still working on the game. What are your plans from here?**

*A) I'm still figuring that out. People enjoy it, so I definitely want to keep working on it so they have more levels to play. I'd love to have enough of a game to get an official speedrun.com leaderboard, maybe even see it run at GDQ someday.*

*But even with a company as supportive of fan works as Hololive, the fact that it's a fan game is still limiting in a lot of ways. So I'm still considering my options on how exactly to move forward with it.*

**Q) Anything else you want to share?**

*A) The Hololive fanbase has to be the most positive and supportive fan community I've ever encountered. In my experience, most large internet communities have a decent amount of toxic jerks who are just mean and negative for no reason, so I was expecting to get some of that... but I never did. Any criticisms I've gotten have been constructive and have helped me make the game better.*

*It's also an incredibly talented community. This game wouldn't exist if Walfie hadn't drawn such an adorable Smol Ame, and it wouldn't be the same without the music from SaltyHotcakes and Holo Bass. This game started out as just a little project I was working on for fun. I'm humbled by the fact that so many people are having so much fun with it.*

You can follow Kevin on Twitter where he sometimes posts updates about the game [here](#).

*Written by Tython, KFP Legal Drone*

# KFP Kitchen

This week we have Daigaku Imo by Mise and Ground Pork & Tofu With Black Bean Garlic Sauce by Houki!

## Daigaku Imo

*“Hello again! Mise here. I will cook some Candied sweet potatoes! Daigaku imo is a popular japanese side dish (as my japanese friend told me hehe) usually eaten at dinner. It has a crunchy yet sticky sugar coating, crispy crust and very creamy and soft inside. You can also eat it as a snack! It means University potato, called that because of its cheapness. As a result, it became popular in universities in Tokyo.”*



### Ingredients:

2 Large sweet potatoes	5 tbsp Sugar
2 tsp Kosher Salt or sea salt/1tsp table salt	1 ½ tbsp Water
Neutral oil (For deep frying)	1 tbsp Mirin
1 tsp Japanese rice vinegar	1 tsp Kikkoman Soy sauce
1 tsp Toasted Black sesame seeds	

### Instructions:

1. Wash your sweet potatoes thoroughly. Do not peel them. Now cut your potatoes in chunks (or oblique cut).
2. Once your sweet potatoes are cut. Soak them in water with 2 tsp of salt for 15 minutes. This will draw the starch out of them.
3. Discard the starchy water and dry your sweet potatoes with a kitchen towel or paper towel. Doing this will get your sweet potatoes to have a crispy outside!
4. Now heat your oil on your preferred cookware for frying. Heat your oil to 320F (160C). While heating up your oil, toast your sesame seeds in a pan until it turns brown.
5. Once your oil is heated, fry your sweet potatoes for 10 minutes or until golden brown.
6. Now transfer your cooked potatoes on a wire rack or on a paper towel to drain the excess oil and set aside.
7. Now on a separate pan (don't turn the heat on yet) put 5 tbsp of sugar, 1 ½ tbsp of water and 1tsp of Mirin. Turn the heat to medium and bring it to boil.
8. Once it is boiling, add in your 1 tsp of rice vinegar and 1 tsp of soy sauce. The vinegar will help prevent the sugar from hardening when it cools down and the soy sauce will give it that umami taste.

9. Stir the sugar constantly until it's reduced. When it is reduced, add in your sweet potatoes and mix them. Add your sesame seed while the syrup is hot so it sticks to the potatoes.
10. Serve it warm.

### Chef's Tips!

- The Satsumaimo variety of sweet potatoes would be better but you can substitute what sweet potatoes you can buy
- To check if your sweet potatoes are cooked, use a knife and poke it, if it goes in smoothly it's cooked all the way through.
- It's important that you use either Kikkoman or another Japanese brand of soy sauce in this recipe
- Korean rice vinegar is also good to use for a much more milder flavor
- It's alright to substitute the black sesame seeds for white ones
- To know your sugar syrup is reduced, use your spatula or your preferred cooking utensil. If you can draw a line on your syrup, it's ready to mix your potatoes and sesame seeds. If you want a sweeter and nuttier flavor, use the white sesame seeds



## Ground Pork & Tofu With Black Bean Garlic Sauce

*Fermented black beans are a mix of savory, salty, with a hint of bitter. The beans themselves are readily available at Asian markets if you like to make your own sauces from scratch, but for weeknights when you need a quick 30 minute meal, a jarred sauce works quite well. Firm tofu is recommended since it will hold up to being tossed around in your wok or pan. By mixing the sauce and cutting your ingredients ahead of time and setting aside, the cooking process will be quick and smooth.*



### Ingredients:

1 block of firm tofu, cubed  
 1 lb ground pork or ground beef  
 4 chopped green onions/scallions  
 2 tbsp oyster sauce  
 2 tbsp cooking oil

### Ingredients for the Black Bean Garlic Sauce:

4 tbsp black bean sauce, such as Lee Kum Kee  
 1 tbsp minced garlic  
 1 tsp black pepper  
 1 tsp sugar  
 1/2 tsp sesame oil  
 1 tbsp chili paste/doubanjiang (optional)

### Steps:

1. Mix all of your sauce ingredients and set aside.
2. Chop up your green onions and set aside. Chop up the tofu into cubes, approximately 1/2 inch in size. Set aside.
3. Heat oil in a pan or wok on medium-high heat. Add in ground pork and cook 2-3 minutes. Increase your heat to high.
4. Use your spatula to mince up the pork, and then add the oyster sauce. Mix well and continue to cook the pork until well done.
5. Tofu releases moisture after cutting, so you can pat dry with a paper towel if needed. Add tofu, and toss to coat in the juices/oil from the ground pork. At this point, add in your black bean sauce and stir well so pork and tofu are coated well.
6. Give the food 30 seconds to sit, toss/stir-fry.
7. Repeat for 5 minutes to allow the tofu to heat evenly and for the flavors in the sauce to meld. Add your chopped green onions and stir-fry for another 2 minutes. Remove from heat and serve with steamed rice (pictured).

### Cook's tips!

If you really enjoy garlic, add 1 tsp minced garlic or a crushed garlic clove to the oil while heating up. Once it becomes aromatic and infuses the oil, it will begin to brown. At that point add your pork and continue cooking. The same sauce can also be used for other stir fries, such as with chopped chicken thighs and bell peppers, or with pork and Chinese cabbage. Mix and match your ingredients to your liking!



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# Fanfiction

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## *Emotional State*

Kiara watched silently as the mouse crawled back into its little hidey hole with its trophy of a chicken nugget. There was a time when she would be panicking right about now, locking herself in her bedroom while calling up the professionals regarding this matter. But now, she could not even be bothered to raise a finger to do anything about it. *Not like it matters, he is like a housemate here now anyway*, thought Kiara.

She had been standing in the kitchen for the last couple of hours now doing nothing, staring at various objects, and being lost in her own head. Kiara had no appetite, no desire to work, and even the thought of trying to go to sleep for the umpteenth time that day didn't appeal much to her. She had been in this little rut of hers for the last couple of weeks now, and today it seemed to be a particularly bad one in terms of her mood. Not that she hadn't tried to find ways around it, but the world had been adamant in its choice of not playing ball.

The Wi-Fi had been iffy over the last month, resulting in at least 6 streams ending early as no meaningful interaction with the chat had been possible. Crashes galore and disconnections had been plaguing almost every stream attempt, save for the one time when she tried her hand at Dark Souls 3 and made it all the way to the second boss before calling it a day. Things finally came to a head when the Internet access gave out completely about a week ago, though Kiara had her mobile data to browse Twitter and chat on Discord at the very least.

The Internet providers had been slow in their response due to the pandemic and had said that while they would try their best to get to her as soon as possible, it was likely to take a lot longer as a result of a lack of manpower. EnMa had also recently moved to the outskirts of Tokyo so going to her for streaming purposes was not entirely ideal since it was a 2 hour journey each way.

“Well, just go out and meet up with friends then! We understand that it isn't your fault, Tenchou!”, her fans had stated. A small smile formed on her lips as Kiara thought of the KFP and how patient they had been. With that being said, a few members had started voicing their displeasure on various social media platforms. While it wasn't an outright rant or anything of the sort, the comments from said members had been passive-aggressive in nature. Kiara wasn't

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exactly an intellectual individual, but she was emotionally and socially aware enough to sense it, which didn't help her mood at all. As her train of thought continued down that path, the smile faded, and Kiara sighed. She couldn't blame them for feeling that way.

Meeting up with friends wasn't an option either, given the current lockdown which prohibited social gatherings of any sort, with the sole exception of funerals. Most entertainment venues were closed anyway, and restaurants only allowed takeaways, which meant that even just sitting down and having a chat over lunch was not really possible. Kiara had attempted to invite some of her seniors over, but they were too busy to do so. Not wanting to be seen as needy, she had left it at that.

On top of that, Calli had gone back home about a month ago to visit family when the travel bans had kicked in worldwide, meaning that international travel was all but prohibited. Sure, they had spoken on the phone several times, but it just didn't feel the same, plus the time zones made it a little trickier to do that on a regular basis.

Sighing again, Kiara shuffled over to the kettle to brew a cup of chamomile tea. It was meant to be a brew that calms you down, but that hadn't been working as well recently either. Sipping at the tea, Kiara sat down on the floor by the dining table and leaned against the wall. Closing her eyes, she let her mind wander again, hopefully towards brighter thoughts.

Then, Kiara was struck with an idea. *Maybe I could head down to the nearby pharmacy and buy a bottle of pills to down,* she thought. Getting up to go get dressed, Kiara stopped herself as she went back into the bedroom. She froze for a moment, wondering why on earth she had such an idea in the first place. Shaking her head, Kiara muttered to herself, "No Kiara. No. That is not the way." Trying to push those thoughts out of her head, she turned and headed back towards the kitchen.

Upon re-entering, Kiara noticed the bottle of plum liquor that had been gifted to her a while back sitting on top of the microwave. Not being much of a drinker, she had had only a small glass of it out of respect for the kind gesture, but while she enjoyed the flavour, the alcohol gave her a headache. True, plum liquor wasn't exactly what one would call a strong drink, but this one in particular had a higher alcohol content which made it more potent than any standard red or white wine.



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Dumping what was left of the tea in the sink, Kiara went over to the bottle with the glass in her hands. After fiddling with the cap for a few seconds, she poured herself a full glass and raised it to propose a toast. “To us all, I guess,” Kiara said to no one in particular, and downed the drink in one go. The bottle, which would have taken Kiara forever to finish in any normal setting, was soon empty after 20 minutes. Being a borderline teetotaler, she soon felt the effects of the alcohol as she began to sway on her feet.

Kiara stumbled over to her phone that she had left on the floor and scrolled through her playlist titled *Play when down*. It had anything ranging from shoegaze to early-2000s emo rock, and soon she was lost in the music. Kiara began dancing around the kitchen as the various tunes continued to echo around the room, bumping into furniture as she moved about. Tears slowly came unbidden to her eyes, but she tried to ignore it and continued on. Alas, the combination of the alcohol and her emotional state soon proved to be too much to bear, and Kiara stopped dancing.

She curled down next to the fridge in a fetal position, hugging her knees and sobbing quietly onto the hardwood floor. *Why*, thought Kiara, *why do these things happen?* Oh how she wished she were home with her cats and family so that she had someone to be with.

Kiara’s head snapped to the door as someone knocked upon it. Furrowing her brow, she wondered who or what it could be. Perhaps it was the delivery of headphones that she had ordered online, but that wasn’t due to arrive until the following week. Furrowing her brow, Kiara stood up, wiped her tears away as best as she could and went to answer the door. Gazing through the peephole didn’t work, for whoever had knocked had stood off to one side, which was understandable since it was a narrow corridor outside.

After a few moments of struggling with the chain on the door, Kiara opened it, her eyes widening as she was greeted by an unexpected sight. There stood Calli with a smile on her face. “Hey Kusotori! Bet you weren’t expecting to...” Calli’s words trailed off as she saw Kiara’s red eyes and detected the odour of alcohol. Her smile faded as she asked, “Have you...have you been drinking?” A little speechless, Kiara simply nodded in reply.

Without another word, Calli stepped forward, embracing Kiara in a bear hug that she so desperately needed. As Kiara returned the hug, she managed to choke out, “Calli...? But how are you back in Japan? I thought...”

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“The health authorities had allowed those with work visas to return. I’ve just come out of quarantine today and wanted to come say hi.”, answered Calli still holding Kiara. “I see that things haven’t been easy for you.”

“No, no they haven’t,”, whimpered Kiara. “No they haven’t...” She began bawling into Calli’s coat, holding her tighter as if she were afraid of losing her. And there in the doorway they stood, the silence only broken by the sounds of crying and sniffing.

*Perhaps things are getting better after all,* thought Kiara.

*Written by Pudding*

## *Submit your own fanfic!*

### **Requirements:**

- Must be about Kiara, or Kiara must be part of it.
- Must be in English
- Must not be more than 3k words
- If it is a series, must be the first chapter

You can submit by DMing NaGeL (NaGeL#0182) on Discord with your fanfic, a title and a link to your other works.

# Special thanks to the team at Kiara Family News

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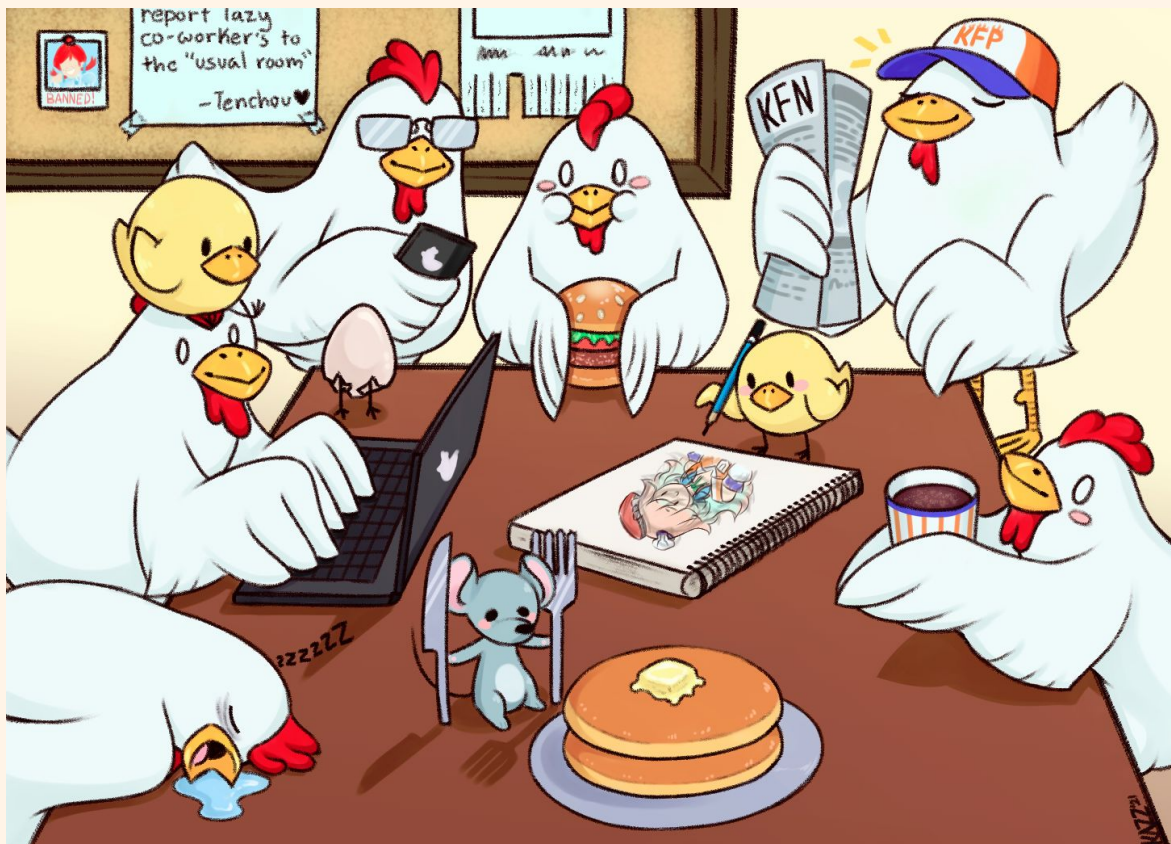
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Thanks for reading!



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