ROUNDTABLE: THE POKÉMON STARTER TO RULE THEM ALL

Almost three and a half years after the release of "Pokémon Scarlet and Violet," Game Freak has officially revealed the starter Pokémon for their next game: "Pokémon Winds and Waves." As always, the announcement has sparked plenty of discussion surrounding the three starters, and fans are left to argue over which starter is best. In honor of the reveal, the Life section has gathered to discuss their thoughts on the newest Pokémon!

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The Pokémon starters are always controversial — there is simply no world in which a newly released set of starters won't draw criticism from the masses. In this case, I think the Gecqua hatred is frankly undeserved. This little dude has a fun and interesting design, and in my opinion, is the best-looking among the bunch. There's nothing wrong with a weird-looking Pokémon!

That being said, I do enjoy Browt's design, but I'll have to wait to choose my favorite between Browt and Gecqua until after the full evolution line is released. Pombon unfortunately just doesn't hit the mark for me. It's cute, yes, but it's also just a dog, and I think it's a bit overhyped. It has some potential to be a great starter if the evolution line can make up for this dog's simplistic design. And come on, do we really need more dog Pokémon?

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Generation 10 brings one of the strongest trios the world of Pokémon has seen — as strong as a triangle with two edges. Who in the world approved Gecqua as a headliner alongside Pombon and Browt? It's like putting Lebron James, Michael Jordan and Tyler Herro on the same court. The only thing that could bail out that creature is strong stage one and two evolutions.

On that note, I'd like to see a new approach to starter evolutions with the tenth generation. Keep them small, even at stage two. This is the cutest set (duo) of starters we've had since the greatest grass Pokémon, Grookey, was introduced. When they are announced, stage two Pombon better just be a tiny lil' guy, because if Zacian isn't getting a fiery buddy out of this generation, I'm considering it a massive flop. I hope Browt stays grumpy and mean-looking and Gecqua stops looking so... odd?

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There's one thing that is undeniable about Pokémon: The team that designs them has been on fire since 1996, and the Generation 10 starters continue their streak. Browt, Gecqua and Pombon's designs are simple, elegant and adorable. They're everything you could want in a trio of starters.

Browt's design is my personal favorite. The little baby bird conveys such a deep annoyance despite its tiny size, as if the annoyance is essential to its existence. Browt is young, but I can already tell that it's sick of whatever is going on. Do not get in this guy's way or he will give you a crazy amount of side eye.

For Pombon, its brilliance comes in its eyes, which are completely devoid of any semblance of thought. It's clear that Pombon has no clue what is going on; all it knows is that it is happy to be here. Pombon's dopiness is perfect for a starter and it'll be interesting to see if its evolutions will maintain that demeanor or evolve into a fiercer beast.

And one cannot forget about Gecqua, who seems like they would act super friendly and charming before slyly pickpocketing your wallet. Gecqua has a beguiling aura that makes me think they'll evolve into a water-psychic type who is a bit of a scoundrel.

It'll be exciting to follow the announcements of the Generation 10 Pokémon to see if the rest of them match the quality of our three newest starters.

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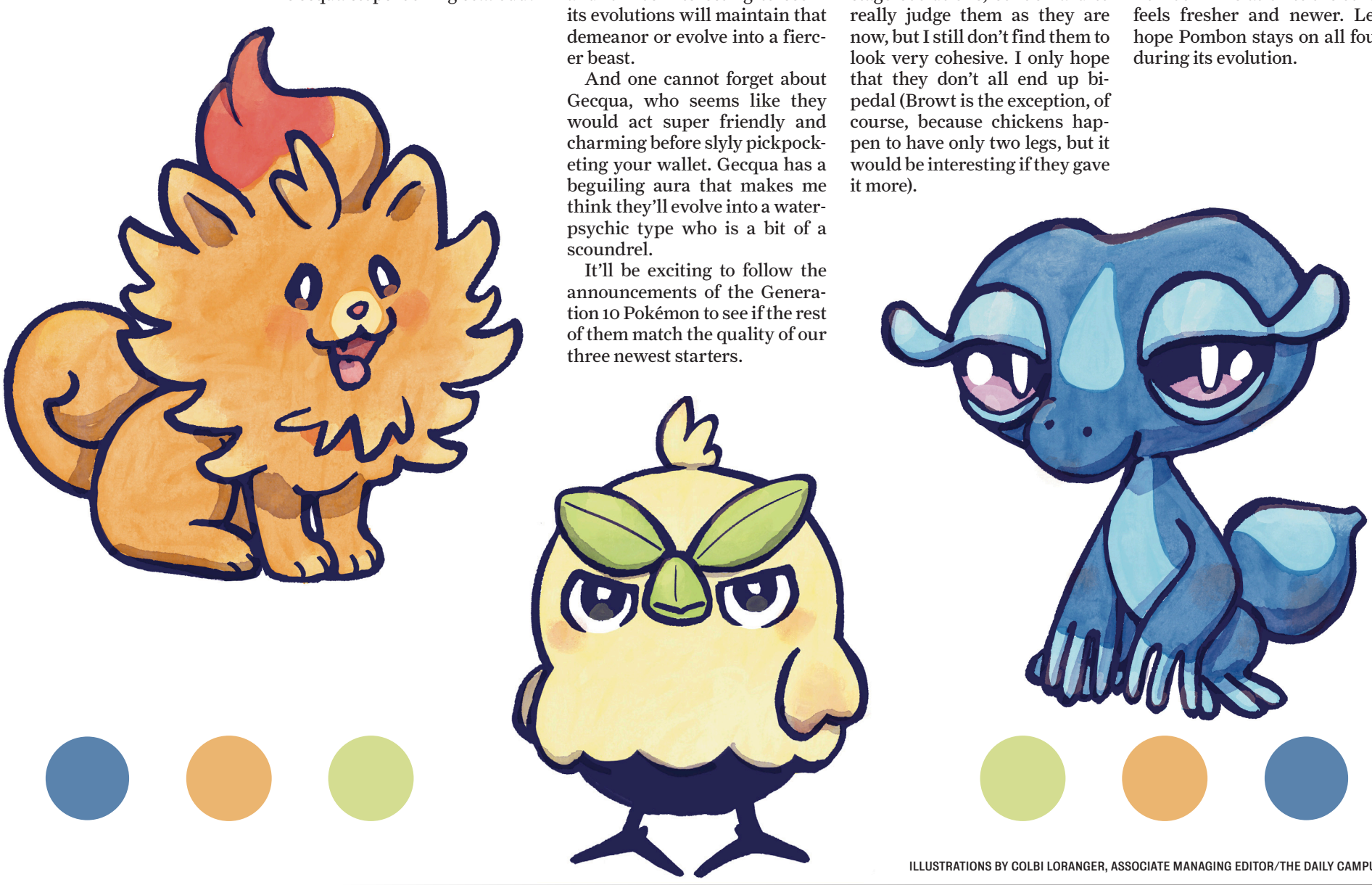
There will always be people who complain that whatever the new Pokémon game is has terrible graphics, a forgettable story and "fake-looking" starters. While I have my problems with the most recent games, I am a major fan of all things Pokémon and haven't seen a lot of issues with the more recent starters (aside from the bipedal trend). Truthfully, when I first saw the starters for "Pokémon Winds and Waves," I was underwhelmed, thinking they didn't feel like Pokémon and that the trio looked disjointed. Now that I've had some time to sit with them, there is one design I have become very fond of: Browt.

I may be biased since I have chickens living in my backyard, but I find this little creature to be extremely adorable and I want it to become a mighty warrior chicken that is nothing like the Torchic line. We still don't know the starters' final and middle stage evolutions, so it's hard to really judge them as they are now, but I still don't find them to look very cohesive. I only hope that they don't all end up bipedal (Browt is the exception, of course, because chickens happen to have only two legs, but it would be interesting if they gave it more).

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The newly announced Generation 10 Pokémon starters have seen a lot of mixed feelings from fans to the general public. I find at least one of them intriguing. Starting with the grass type Browt — a chicken with a mean brow, as the name implies. I'm indifferent on this Pokémon as long as its evolution doesn't copy the Torchic line and if it has a cool eyebrow razor move.

The water type Gecqua is a water gecko. This starter has seen the most backlash with people calling it a "Littlest Pet Shop" character. I feel like both Browt and Gecqua in a vacuum are fine but putting them together on a starter line just feels stale and like Game Freak is rehashing Hoenn. The fire type Pombon is my favorite and who I'd pick as of right now. It's an adorable Pomeranian puppy and even fits with the Southeast Asian archipelago region that this game is themed around. Pombon in relation to the others feels fresher and newer. Let's hope Pombon stays on all fours during its evolution.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

YALE PROFESSOR PRESENTS 'THE INDIGENOUS ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION' IN A FASCINATING LECTURE

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On Mar. 2, Yale University history professor and award-winning author Ned Blackhawk gave a remarkable lecture about the American Revolution's indigenous origins. The lecture took place at the Dodd Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut.

In the lecture, Blackhawk, of the Western Shoshone tribes, argued that Native Americans played a significant role in the American Revolution. Blackhawk began the lecture with a question on how the United States, which was founded on indigenous lands, can become one of the world's most powerful countries. Building off the question, Blackhawk described that within the past two generations, the history of the origins of the American Revolution has expanded, so it includes Native Americans in it.

The first thing Blackhawk presents is the last grievance against the British crown. The last grievance targets Native Americans by calling them "the inhabitants of our frontiers" and "merciless Indian Savages" whose warfare rule contributes to "an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions." The discussion of Native Americans being called "merciless Indian savages" brought attention to how Native Americans were seen and treated by the colonists.

The next thing Blackhawk presented was a map of eastern North America. The map was flooded with the names of Native American tribes, including Nauset, Mohawk, Okehocking, Mosopelea and Accomack. This map is significant as it represents the owners of the land the British stole from, Blackhawk said. It also represents how Native Americans contribute to the origins of the American Revolution since they were a massive presence in eastern North America in the 18th century.

Blackhawk showed another map containing the locations of forts that were owned by the British and the Native Americans. While the map was shown on the projector screen, Blackhawk talked about the Seven Years' War, a massive conflict between Great Britain and France that took place between 1756 and 1763. In his discussion about the Seven Years' War, Blackhawk mentioned the Proclamation of 1763 and how that resulted in the division between Native American settlers and American colonists in terms of land. He said the proclamation resulted in serious conflicts between the colonists and the Native Americans. One conflict he described was the Conestoga Massacre, which led to the deaths of several Native Americans and the jailing of the ones who survived.

Moving on from massacres, Blackhawk discussed Benjamin Franklin's stance on the Conestoga Massacre. In the discussion, Blackhawk said that Franklin made a pamphlet that identified racist beliefs within white Christians that targeted Native Americans. A quote from the pamphlet was shown on the auditorium's projector screen.

"The only Crime," the quote said. "Of these poor Wretches seems to have been, that they had a reddish brown Skin, and Black hair. I call thus publicly call on the Makers and Venders of these Accusations to produce their Evidence...What had little Boys and Girls done; what could Children of a year old, Babies at the Breast, what could they do, that they too must be shot and hatcheted? Such action is done by no civilized Nation...(especially) not against their Friends."

At the end of Blackhawk's lecture, Blackhawk hosted a question and answer session for attendees. An array of questions were asked, including ones that talked about the Intolerable Acts and Confederate Native American tribes.

After the session, the audience gave a massive round of applause for Blackhawk. One audience member, Ryan Tfaif, a fourth-semester student majoring in education, said he enjoyed the lecture.

"I found it pretty interesting," Tfaif said. "I have an extra credit assignment for this, so it was good to go over something we haven't done in class and learn about things like the proclamation line of 1763. It was good to come to an event like this."



Dr. Ned Blackhawk of Yale University. Blachhawk presented a lecture on 'The Indigenous Origins of the American Revolution' at the Dodd Center for Human Rights. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PHILLIPSACADEMY ON INSTAGRAM

After the talk, Blackhawk noted the importance of taking the time to understand more about Native American culture and mentioned an upcoming screening of the movie "Up and Down the River."

"It's very important to think about the erosion of our Native American society," Blackhawk said.