

THE POKÉMON ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

konshuu

Volume XLVII, Issue VI

FLASHCON
2018

HAU
Pokémon Sun/Moon

Art by Jamie You

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

POKÉMON HEROES

Long ago, Altomare was an island that had been ravaged by monsters, until an old couple drove them out using a bright gem known as the Soul Dew. The island has since been protected by Latios and Latias, who have guarded the Soul Dew for generations. As Ash, Misty, and Brock visit Altomare, an evil duo plots to capture the legendary Eon Pokémon and steal the Soul Dew.



Summer 2002, OLM, Inc.
Directed by Kunihiko Yuyama

THE
 NTERMISSION
 RCHESTRA at Berkeley
Mid-Spring 2018 Concert

March 10th, Saturday
8-10 pm @ Hertz Hall
Doors Open 7:30 pm
Free Admission

AN EXPLORATION ON WHY JIGGLYPUFF IS MY FAVORITE POKÉMON



BOGEUN CHOI

3RD YEAR, APPLIED MATH

I should start cooking more...

STAFF WRITER

If you have ever expressed an interest in the Pokémon franchise, one of the first questions that comes up is "What's your favorite Pokémon?" Every time the question comes up, the response to my answer is mixed reactions and confused faces. That's probably because my favorite Pokémon is Jigglypuff.

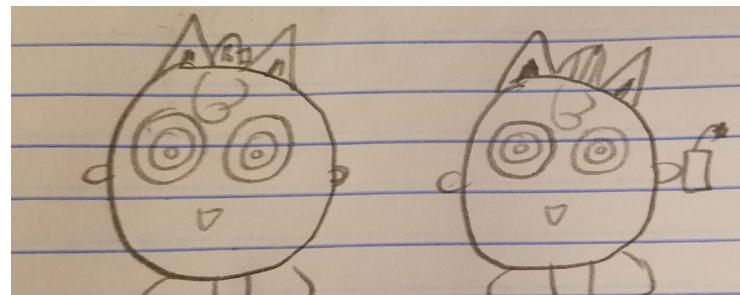


Why? That's a good question, actually. My default reason is "it's cute, I guess." But there's a whole bevy of Pokémon out there that are cute and actually useful, so why not any of those?

It all started when I was born... plus nine or so years. I was a lonely kid growing up—I had friends, but they lived too far away from me. Add the fact that I lived in a single-parent house with a mom who was working on her PhD and you get a kid who came up with all sorts of different things to have fun alone. I did the standard stuff: played video games, went outside and "explored" the apartment complex I lived in, and most importantly watched way too much TV. One of those shows I watched was the Pokémon anime. Side note: this was before I got into anime. I never watched the other standard children's anime like Yu-Gi-Oh!, Dragon Ball Z, Naruto, etc.

So I watched the Pokémon anime, but that wasn't all that I did. I played the Pokémon games, I collected the Pokémon trading cards, and I had the Pokémon random assortments of merchandise. One thing I remember pretty well was a How-To-Draw book: Pokémon edition. There was a time when I wanted to be an artist, so I used that book to teach myself how to draw Pokémon. My drawing technique was pretty much just tracing over the pictures and then trying to recreate that tracing. You can imagine how well that went (not well). The only Pokémon I had any success with was the simple-to-draw Jigglypuff. And to this day, it's still the only Pokémon I can draw well (other than maybe Diglett, but anybody can draw that).

That skill in drawing Jigglypuff evolved into a comic series I made called *Jiggly-Bob*: a slice-of-life about the daily lives of a bunch of Jigglypuff living in a Jigglypuff World. Some characters include Jiggly-Bob (the perfect one), Jiggly-Dave (the best friend of Jiggly-Bob with the affinity for "cookies" AKA dynamite), Puffo (the wizard), and Jiggles (the shy one). I had a whole cast of them: around 20 if I remember correctly, all with different fleshed-out characters and storylines. Well, as fleshed-out as a 9-year old could make them.



Jiggly-Bob and Jiggly-Dave; note the different headgear

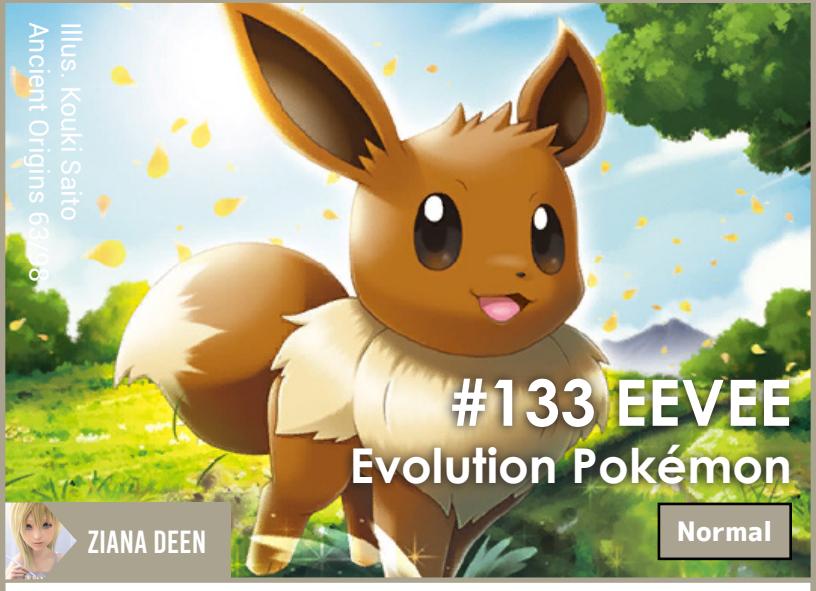
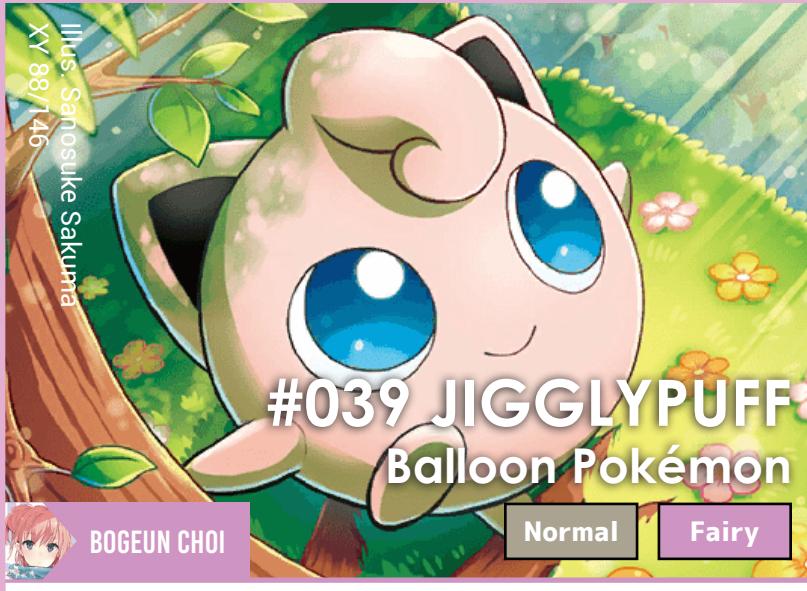
So in conclusion, there are a few things I learned from this:

1. My reason for liking Jigglypuff boils down to childhood memories.
2. General lesson: be confident in what you like
3. I was really bored as a kid.

STAFF PICKS

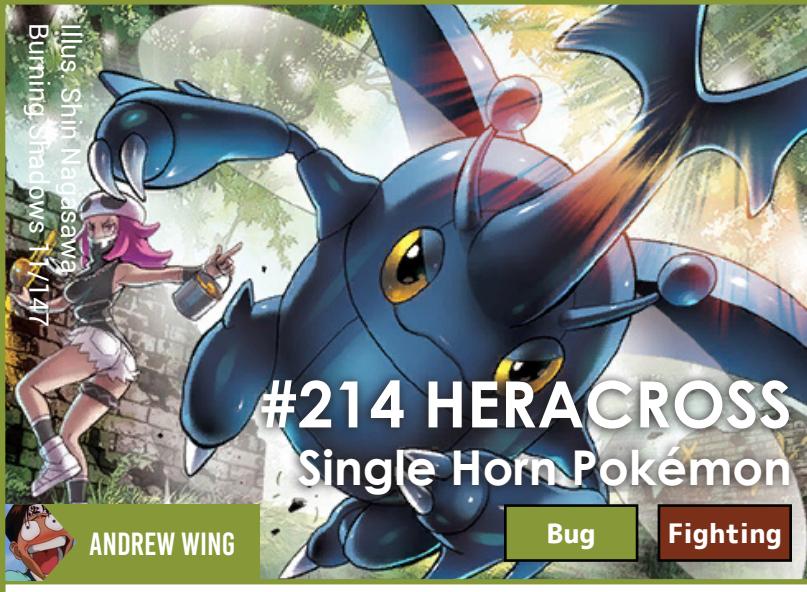


"Metapod used Harden" is my theme song!



Read my article.

Besides being incredibly adorable, Eevee's fluffy fur is irresistible. Their evolutions are adorable and I love Eevee.



Coolest Bug Pokémon IMO. And it likes honey (which never expires).



It was my first Pokémon ever.

Illus. Hitoshi Ariga
Furious Fists 50/111

#286 BRELOOM
Mushroom Pokémon

ANDREW OEUNG

Grass Fighting

Grass/Fighting is pretty unique, and Technician and Spore form a deadly combo.

Illus. Toyoste Beach
XY Promos 61

#330 FLYGON
Mystic Pokémon

EDWARD HONG

Ground Dragon

"I should really have a Mega Evolution by now but the devs had artist's block so I'll never be viable outside of RU."

Illus. Masakazu Fukuda
Black & White Promos 81

#448 LUCARIO
Aura Pokémon

KATRINA LUQUE

Fighting Steel

My last name is Luque and my friend thought it sounded like Lucario, so my nickname became Lucario.

Illus. Mizue
Next Destinies 73/99

#559 SCRAGGY
Shedding Pokémon

SHAMIN CHOWDHURY

Dark Fighting

The way he says his name and they way his pants snap back down when he tugs them up is really funny.

Illus. Makoto Eo
Decorations RC14/RC32

#677 ESPURR
Restraint Pokémon

ANDRES GONZALEZ

Psychic

I have 'special' eyes."

Illus. Naoki Saito
Guardians Rising 77/145

#774 MINIOR
Meteor Pokémon

DEBORAH LIM

Rock Flying

Totemo kawaii tsuyoi desu~
(It's very cute and strong.)

ASH DOESN'T LOOK COOL ANYMORE

 SHAMIN CHOWDHURY
2ND YEAR, PHYSICS AND MATH

STAFF WRITER

What?! Where did those five hours go!?

I don't like Ash's new look in *Pokémon: Sun & Moon*. Like many other people, I grew up watching *Pokémon* and enjoyed seeing Ash and Pikachu go on adventures, collecting other *Pokémon*, and fighting gym battles. But now, Ash just looks like an absolute derp. He's got smaller, rounded eyes, his head is more rounded, and his hair isn't as sharp. He's effectively not the same character, at least visually. While I'm not a fan of it, Ash's new look has had some supporting arguments. I'd like to address a couple of these and conclude that the new look is indeed worse.



Ash and Pikachu running away from Bewear

First, some people like to say the new look reflects how Ash is a growing child. Ash faces obstacles in his adventures. One of the first scenes in the new series involves Ash encountering a violent Bewear. Instead of having Pikachu battle it, he and Pikachu run away shocked and frightened. While this behavior isn't the coolest, it definitely makes sense for a child to do something like that. This puts Ash at a starting point from which he can now develop, and child viewers his age could appreciate that kind of development. It could inspire them to want to grow strong like Ash.

While the idea sounds nice in principle, it's founded on valuing relatability, and I don't believe so much value is needed. When I grew up watching *Pokémon*, I admired Ash. No matter what obstacles he faced, Ash learned to overcome them, and his appearance matched how awesome he was. Whenever I see

Ash's old look, I'm reminded of that coolness. His new childish look simply doesn't do that.



Ash doesn't understand the Cottonee's love

Another argument I've heard in support of his new look is that it matches his dense, childish shonen protagonist personality. Ash has shown this trope¹ side of himself multiple times throughout the anime. One particular episode in *Pokémon: Best Wishes!* illustrates this: Ash and his friends encounter a Cottonee that's trying to mate with another Cottonee. Ash interprets this as the Cottonee wanting to become "buddies" with the other Cottonee to which Iris responds by calling him a "little kid."

The idea of matching appearance to personality also makes sense when you consider other similar shonen protagonists. Gon from *Hunter × Hunter* has big, bright eyes and a huge smile that easily portray his joyful, simple-minded personality. However, this idea is easy to reject because not all shonen protagonists who are dense or childish have to look that way. Take Sonic from *Sonic X* for example. Sonic has blue fur, hedgehog spikiness, and determined eyes, yet these don't express the denseness that he shows Amy. Similarly, Ash might be dense and childish, but his looks don't have to match that.

Ash's old look is sharp, both physically and aesthetically. It's memorable and makes you want to look confident like him. Ash's new look on the other hand is a poor result of the show trying to be fresh, and in my opinion, it needs to be changed back. If Ash is gonna be ready to catch 'em all, he's gotta look ready to catch 'em all.

¹Maybe "archetypal" is more appropriate considering how old *Pokémon* is, but that's another discussion.



Dear Konshuu-sensei

Got a question about school? Need some advice? Don't worry, Konshuu-sensei is here for you! This advice column features answers to questions that our readers posed last week.

Gamer asked:

How do I keep myself productive when I just want to play some games?

Gamer, I completely understand what it's like to be torn between doing what you want to do and what you need to do. I suggest setting up a reward system. For every problem set you finish, every reading you complete, or every page of an essay you write, give yourself 20 minutes of game time. You deserve a break!

Anon asked:

**What's the best place to get ramen near campus?
Gotta satisfy the crave.**

Like any proper Berkeley sensei, I am heavily fond of Asian Ghetto. The ramen at Kimchi Garden is ridiculously good and there's deals on Wednesdays! There's also Bear's Ramen House, where the workers are really sweet and there's so many options.

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

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

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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

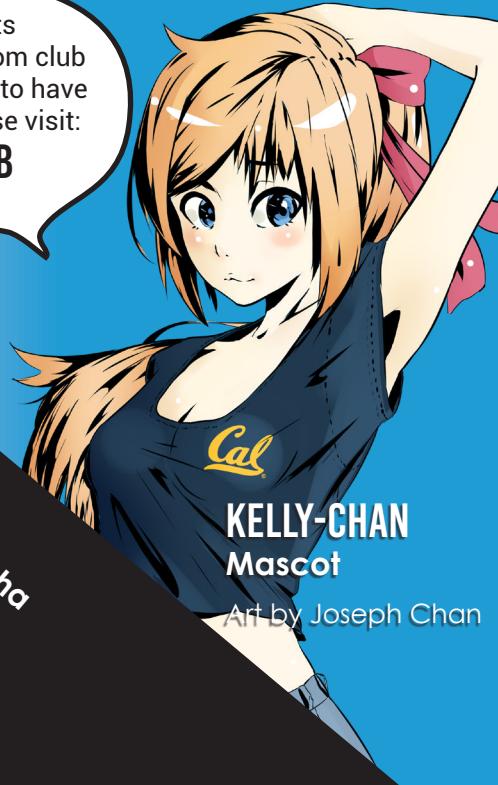
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CLUB EVENTS

Weekly Showings: Weds, 8pm - 9pm, Barrows 166
Game Nights: Thurs, 8pm - 10pm, Wheeler 222

NINETALES
Pokémon

Art by Deborah Lim



KELLY-CHAN
Mascot

Art by Joseph Chan

