COMIC STRIPS!

PROTO COMICS AND THE EARLY YEARS

1. Who was the 18th century painter, printer and social critic who pioneered the use of sequential art in such works as *The Rake's Progress?*
2. Name the palm-sized picture books popular in China in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Some claim that these influenced the development of manga in Japan.
3. This character, featured in newspapers owned by both Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, gave his name to the style of "journalism" practiced by those papers – heavier on lurid headlines and sensation than on real news.
4. Inspired by the German proto-comic *Max and Moritz*, this comic strip, begun in 1897, is still published today, making it the longest-running comic strip in history.
5. The artist who created the previous answer was lured away from Hearst's syndicate to join Pulitzer's. This resulted in a landmark court case that allowed Hearst to retain ownership of the original strip, while the artist was able to create a new strip that was in almost all ways identical to the original. Name one of the two names that the new strip was published under before it ceased publication in 1979.
6. One of the most surreal and artistically ambitious of the early comic strips, this strip revolved around a small boy and his fantastical dreams.
7. This strip began in 1902, and featured a small, mischievous boy and his talking dog. Immensely popular at the time, the character became the "spokesman" for a brand of shoes at the 1904 World's Fair. Amazingly enough, while the strip has long since died out, the character still endorses shoes. Name him.
8. Begun in San Francisco in 1907, the main characters of this strip have become an everyday idiom for a mismatched pair.
9. This strip, begun in 1918, was the first to show the characters aging at the same rate as the real world.
10. Often called "Maggie and Jiggs", after the main characters, this strip (debuting in 1913) was the first American comic strip to achieve international syndication, and was published continuously for 87 years before ceasing in 2000.

TITLE CHARACTERS

Identify these title characters:

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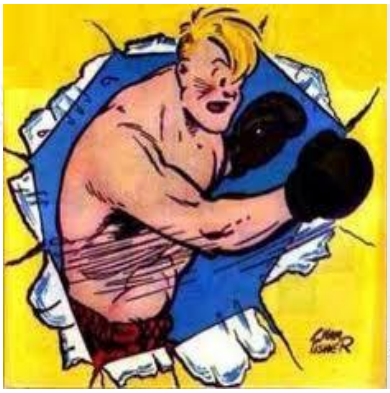
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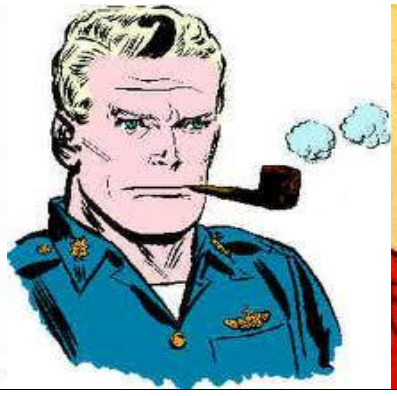
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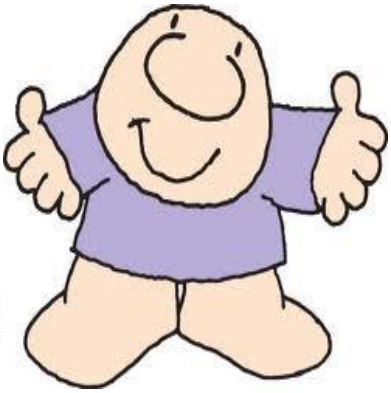
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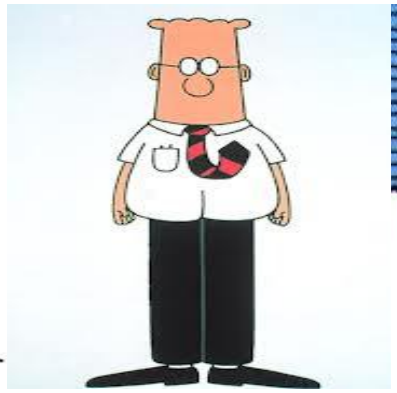
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NON-TITLE CHARACTERS

Besides the plethora of distinctive title characters, there have been plenty of other characters that enriched the strips in which they appeared (and in some cases, took over the strip completely). Given the list of characters, name the strip:

44. Rob Wilco, Satchel, Bucky
45. Jon Arbuckle, Liz Watson, Nermal
46. Mammy Yokum, Marryin' Sam, Stupefyin' Jones
47. Zoey, Hammy and Wren MacPherson
48. Min, Uncle Bim, Tilda the maid
49. Ms. Crystal, Marcia Mason, Lester Larson
50. Dot, Ditto, Thirsty Thurston
51. Milo Bloom, Cutter John, Michael Binkley
52. Riley Freeman, Michael Caesar, Jazmine DuBois
53. Pat Ryan, Connie, the Dragon Lady
54. Thor, Grog, the Fat Broad
55. B.D., Zonker Harris, Mr. Butts
56. Margo Magee, Tommie Thompson, Lu Ann Powers
57. Crazy Harry Klinghorn, Barry Balderman, Harry L. Dinkle
58. Earl, Mooch, Ozzie
59. RJ, Verne, Hammy
60. Binky, Bongo, Sheba
61. Daddy Warbucks, Mister Am, Punjab
62. Megan, Captain Quigley, Bob the Bottom Dweller
63. Judge Horatio Curmudgeon Frump, Hildegarde Hamhocker, Deputy Knuckles

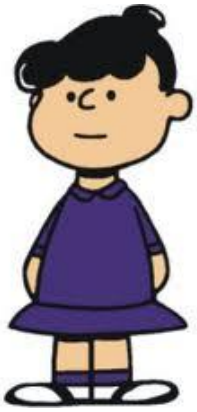
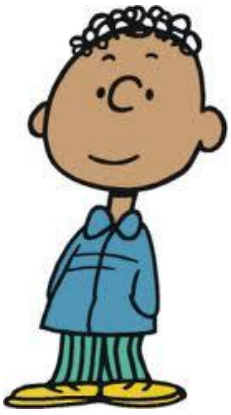
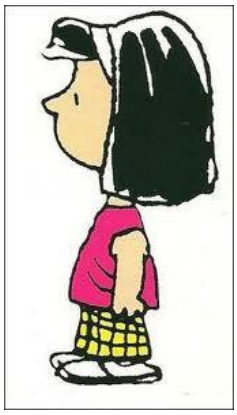
As previously mentioned, sometimes secondary characters gain a following of their own, and take over a strip previously starring a completely different character. Each of these strips were renamed … give the name that replaced these.

64. Thimble Theatre
65. Fritzi Ritz
66. Barney Google
67. Robotman
68. Apple Mary
69. Ernie

PEANUTS

70. Prior to the national syndication of the strip, Charles Schulz created a proto-version of the strip that ran in the Minneapolis Tribune and the St. Paul Pioneer Press for two and a half years. Name it.
71. Schulz despised the name Peanuts given to his strip. Why was the original name changed, and why was Peanuts selected to replace it?
72. What three characters appeared in the very first Peanuts daily strip?
73. Although adults don't appear in the strip, some details of Charlie Brown's parents have been revealed. What does his father do for a living?
74. Who is Charlie Brown's favorite baseball player?
75. Speaking of baseball, what position does Snoopy play on the neighborhood team?
76. Schroeder's address is 1770 James Street … why is that significant?

Identify these Peanuts characters:

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THE COMICS CURMUDGEON

87. Who is "The Comics Curmudgeon"?
88. What is his website's URL?
89. In 2008, he appeared on what game show (and lost)?
90. There have been many "memes" created by the Curmudgeon … what strip had a storyline referred to as "Aldomania"?
91. What real person did Aldo greatly resemble?
92. What was Aldo's ultimate fate?
93. Another long-running joke is the AJGLU-3000. What is it?
94. Yet another is "Finger-Quotin' Margo". What strip is that referring to?

Name the real strip, given the description as warped by the Curmudgeon:

95. The story of an ultra-fundamentalist cult living in isolation on the "Keane Kompound".
96. The story of a demon-spawned hellhound who devours his neighbors, burying their stripped bones afterward. And, his owner is Adolf Hitler.
97. The story of an asexual photographer who defeats the (inevitably bearded and side-burned) villain of the current storyline by pummeling him into submission with his "fist of justice".
98. A formerly amusing comic strip that has over time become so focused on cancer and death that it is actively depressing to read.
99. The story of a true juvenile delinquent that has, over time, morphed into a not-very-amusing story of a mildly mischievous child.

STORYLINES

Given the plot, identify the strip:

100. One of the characters tries to end the Cold War by hacking Pravda and changing the front page to read "Gorbachev Urges Disarmament: Total! Unilateral!", but faulty translation causes the headline to read "Gorbachev Sings Tractors: Turnip! Buttocks!"
101. The main character invents a "Duplicator Machine" and uses it to make a copy of himself. That copy then makes more copies, and the copies realize that they can do whatever they want, because the original will be the one who gets in trouble.
102. The main character goes to "Plunder Island", and is forced to battle against a monstrous creature named "Alice the Goon", before helping Alice to escape the clutches of her evil master.
103. Some of the characters form the "Jack Acid Society" (a thinly-veiled caricature of the John Birch Society), and attempt to blacklist everyone who is not a true American (in their view, the only "true Americans" were Native-American Indians).
104. The youngest child of the family falls into a stream and nearly drowns, but is saved by the family dog. Unfortunately, the frigid water and the strain of saving the child are too much for the old dog, and he dies.

CALVIN AND HOBBES

105. What is the name of the girl that Calvin openly despises and often crosses swords with, but really has a secret crush on?
106. She is unique in the strip for what reason?
107. Who is his long-suffering teacher?
108. How long until she retires?
109. What is the only consistent rule of Calvinball?
110. What is G.R.O.S.S.?
111. Calvin has multiple imaginary identities … what is his imaginary superhero identity?
112. He also pretends to be a star traveler … what does he call himself then?