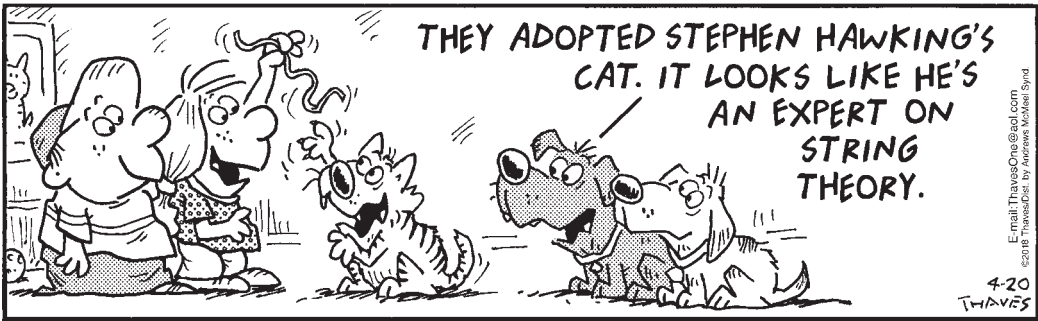


ARLO AND JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



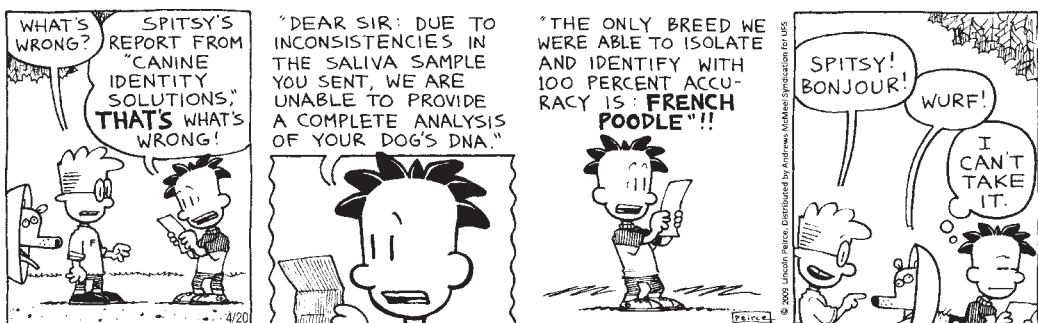
FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



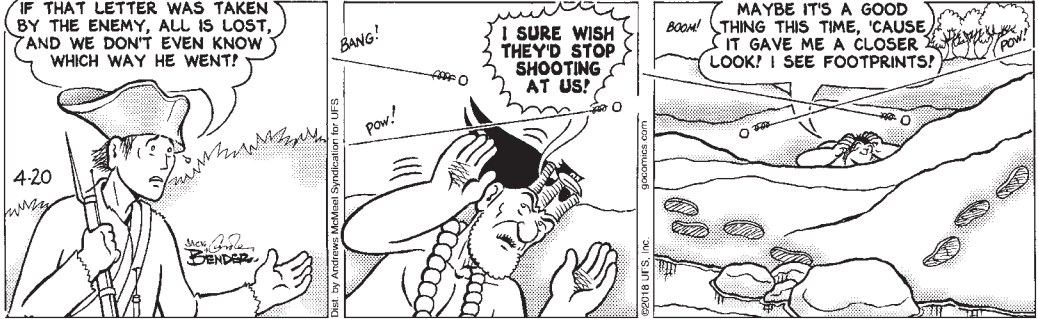
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THE BORN LOSER™ by Art & Chip Sansom



REALITY CHECK® by Dave Whamond



AT THE MOVIES

'I Feel Pretty' has its moments and confusion

(AP) -- If you've ever walked into a store and were embarrassed to tell the salesperson your real size, or entered the gym locker room and wanted to hide, you're part of the target audience for Amy Schumer's "I Feel Pretty." Whatever age or gender you happen to be.

Self-esteem issues related to body image are, without doubt, a social epidemic — a painful and dangerous one, for many girls and young women. And there's nothing controversial about that message, though judging by some of the heated online reaction to the trailer for "I Feel Pretty," you'd think the film was proposing a new conspiracy theory about JFK's assassination.

The real problem with "I Feel Pretty," written and directed by Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein, is not in its message or conception, but in its ragtag execution. On the plus side, it's often a pleasantly entertaining ride with the always appealing Schumer, and its heart is in the right place. It also features a truly terrific comic turn by Michelle Williams.

On the minus side, it muddles its message with an overstuffed script, choppy editing, and some unnecessarily over-the-top moments. Not to mention a sappy ending that actually comes close to contradicting its own premise.

Schumer is Renee Bennett, a young woman who looks in the mirror and doesn't like what she sees. What she sees, is, well, Amy Schumer — and that's one of the things that has annoyed some people, who say if Schumer epitomizes unattractiveness, what about the rest of us? Still, the actress is plenty believable as an average-looking, Spanx-wearing woman who aspires to look more like the Amazonian supermodels she runs into at SoulCycle, and at the cosmetics company where she works, relegated to an offsite basement in Chinatown.

What's less believable is the overly negative reaction of some of those around her. A pretty saleswoman immediately approaches Renee in a chic clothing store and says, "You can probably find your size online." A baby even breaks into tears at the sight of her. OK, that's a little much.

In any case, one day at SoulCycle, Renee has an accident. She hits her head — three times! — falls unconscious, and wakes up thinking she's beautiful.

And therein lies another objection from critics of the trailer: Does a woman have to be knocked unconscious to think she's beautiful?

It's fun to see Renee suddenly confident enough to go for that plum promotion at Lily LeClair headquarters, working alongside snooty CEO Avery LeClair herself.

She gets the job. She also gets Ethan, the cute guy in line at the dry cleaners (a wry and appealing Rory Scovel). On their first date, engineered by Renee of course, they wind up at a bikini contest filled with supermodel types where

Renee fearlessly flaunts her stuff. Afraid for her at first, Ethan quickly admires how comfortable she is in her own skin, and falls for her. Their relationship alone is a nice, simple lesson in trusting one's own attributes.

But this film doesn't stick with simple. It finds multiple ways to say the same thing. Another apparently budding relationship, between Renee and Avery's rich and coddled brother, Grant (Tom Hopper), is toyed with and then seemingly dropped, as if the movie was just getting too long.

Inevitably, things go astray. Renee offends her two buddies, Jane (Busy Philipps) and Vivian (an underused Aidy Bryant), by getting too big for her britches, metaphorically. And then, just when she's about to hit real success on the job, something happens to make her see herself in the old way, once again.

But, as they do in romantic comedies, things have a way of working out. At least, for Renee. As for us, we're left with one of those let's-wrap-it-all-up scenes that reaffirms Renee's special qualities — so far, so good — and then spills over into unmitigated sap.

"I Feel Pretty," an STX Entertainment release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for sexual content, some partial nudity, and language." Running time: 110 minutes.



CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS**

1 Sound boosters

5 Service charge

8 Web addr.

11 Boxing match

12 "Rag Mop" brothers

14 Luau fare

15 Courses of study

17 Melancholy

18 Delete

19 Longhorns

21 Gourmet appetizer

23 Diner sign

24 Bright flower

27 Copycats

29 Ben & Jerry rival

30 Kind of collision (2 wds.)

34 Blouse feature

37 Fishing pole

38 Rochester's Jane

39 Take by force

41 Affirm

43 One in a million

45 Winter cap

47 Type of vinegar

50 California fort

51 Messy

54 Commit perjury

55 Umpire's shout

56 "— kleine Nachtmusik"

57 Van —

58 Silent assent

59 Allot

**DOWN**

1 Kindergarten trio

2 Wry face

3 Contented sound

4 Purse handles

5 Aspect

6 Non-flying bird

7 Congers

8 Turn over

9 Thunders

10 Box tops

13 Glossy fabric

16 "—, old chap"

20 Toward sunrise

22 Breadwinner

24 Farm enclosure

25 Lemon cooler

26 MOMA's home

28 "Uialume" poet

30 Fragrant tree

31 Previous to

32 Turndowns

33 Banned bug spray

35 Not dull

36 "Music and —"

39 Court summons

40 Use a coupon

41 Craggy abode

42 "Star Wars" heavy

44 Played a part

45 Typeface option

46 Panache

48 Huron neighbor

49 Monthly expense

52 Roswell crasher

53 Ruby or Sandra

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

BRAD	FURLS
LEASER	PIGEON
CASTLE	ATHENA
DUPE	FIN LEG
ROUSTED	
MSG	HGT EIRE
BOOTE	ARCADE
APRONS	NIECES
HERR	ETE ENS
OYSTERS	
VIN	EON EAVE
ORANGE	NUDGED
LOVERS	ARGUES
SNEER	NEAR

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