

2nd April, 2003

## EFFING & BLINDING!

DEAR DIARY, I have a confession to make which might make things difficult for me when I get to the gates of Heaven (or the gates of my mum and dad's house). My confession is I appreciate swear words – they have their place. I do have a very good on/off switch and my swearing hardly ever hits the ears of children and my elders and I'm also respectful of people of a delicate disposition and professional situations. As for overly-sensitive people who are easily shocked and offended, well swearing's wasted on them. You might as well save it for people who like a bit of effing & blinding!

In terms of swear words, my preference is Jamaican swear words. They don't seem as harsh as the F or C word. In terms of classification, the F and C words are A class swear words and words like bloody and flipping are C class swear words. Then there are those in between, the B class e.g. sh\*t, b\*ll\*cks and b\*stard.

There's nothing subtle about the C word. When it's used, it's verbalised with conviction. If someone calls you a c\*\*\*, you know exactly what's meant by it, whereas if you're being described as a b\*tch, it's variable. A lot of people don't like the C word because of its literal meaning, but its literal meaning is the same as p\*ssy. But it's funny how even though the literal meaning is the same, if you call someone a p\*ssy, it just mean's that they're a bit of a w\*nker, but if you make a mistake and call the wrong person a c\*\*\*, there's gonna be some tossing and turning over of tables and chairs! Someone will end up hurt.

As for the F word, it's used in so many different ways. You can tell people to f\*\*\* off. When you're surprised you say f\*\*\* me! When you don't like someone very much they're a low life f\*\*\*\*r or when someone get's their comeuppance, you can use the term "that f\*\*\*\*r" as an expression of "serves him right". When you're drunk, you're f\*\*\*\*d. When you've got bad intentions you're f\*\*\*\*d up. When you're being playful, you're f\*\*\*\*g around. When you're wasting time, you're also said to be f\*\*\*\*g around. The F word is often used for emphasis. Keep the f\*\*\*\*g noise down. Look at the state of your f\*\*\*\* hair, looks like you got it cut by the Council! Didn't you get the f\*\*\*\*g message? Or who the f\*\*\* is that? What the f\*\*\* are you looking at? F\*\*\* off!

# The AUGUST MAYFIELD Diaries

I also appreciate the use of the Americanism, motherf\*\*\*\*r. The actor and stand-up comedian Bernie Mac describes the many ways to use the word motherf\*\*\*\*r in his Kings of Comedy stand-up routine.

Then there's p\*ss. P\*\*\* off is get lost. P\*\*\*\*\*d off is fed up. P\*\*\*\*\*d is drunk and to have a p\*\*\* is to wee.

Now, Jamaican swear words give me pleasure because I love Jamaican patois. The thing about writing Jamaican swear words is there's no real way of spelling them. Patois is a dialect, to be spoken, not written like a language. So when people spell Jamaican swear words, it's just phonetic letters put together.

One of the first ones I ever used was "to rahtid". The operative word being "rahtid". This word crossed my path before I started school. I used to spend a lot of time with my dad and would sit amongst him and his friends when they were talking so I picked up rahtid, blouse-nart, bombo and rass-clart. Another one I got to grips with at an early age was thanks to my friend Eve. I heard her say it at school so I used it at home! I used it in front of my mum. Let's just say Imperial Leather doesn't taste as good as it smells. The word was "kaka fart". Kaka fart is used as an exclamation. It's funny because I spent last Christmas with Eve and her mother came round for dinner. Her mum was watching TV and said kaka fart when things started to get heated during the Christmas episode of Eastenders. Well Eve and me laughed our heads off because we both know that I heard it from Eve at primary school and although we didn't say it I felt like she understood that I was thinking *so that's where she got it from* and Eve was thinking, *that's where I got it from!* Other Jamaican favourites are the clarts. Blood-clart, bombo-clart and p\*ssy-clart.

We can't forget the mild swear words like prick, tosser and arse. I think I can say those ones in front of my mum without her unwrapping a packet of Imperial Leather.

August Mayfield