

In July filming began on "THE COLOR PURPLE," based on Alice Walkers' Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The movie, starring Whoopi Goldberg, is being directed by Steven Spielberg.

--News clipping sent in by a reader from Monroe, LA

NOT A JOKING MATTER

EDITORS' NOTE: I Know You Know, a lesbian publication, has an advice column entitled "Dear Butch". The following letter was originally sent to IKYK, but they choose not to print it. IKYK's address is 5119 N Keystone Ave Suite 104, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

"BUTCH": I know you know that every dyke who reads you will assume your name to mean what "BUTCH" has always meant in the queer community. In a society that even genders its buttons (girls left, boys right), your explanation [IKYK, Dec 84] of that "name should not automatically denote a role" is simply liberal bullshit - you wish the world was different, you pretend out loud that it already is different, you do nothing basic to change it, then you celebrate your original fantasy as fact.

The term "BUTCH" is not funny or "humorous". When it is not celebrating sexism, it is used as a slur against competent women by everyone (including "us") to bully and defraud especially non-white and working class or poor women. Mostly, it is a male-identified term that has recently been hysterically embraced and adopted by faggots to prove that they are real men, too. "Real" men glorify the abuse of women and those forced to substitute for women: children, poor men of all races, transsexuals, prisoners. Real men. Real hard. Real cool. Real good with yr fists. Real abuse. "BUTCH" is synonymous with dominance. Sexual dominance. Male dominance. And, male supremacy is very sexy to men, and to those women who are male-identified. The sexual investment that our community has in male supremacy (read: sexualized abuse) is in the way of those of us who believe that liberation, freedom and justice are all possible, meaningful and worth fighting for.

Since I know you know what I know now, I can only assume that if you choose to continue using "BUTCH" as an enticement, you are also choosing male supremacy over women. What this means is that since you are "BUTCH", you claim access to women, like men do, and because "BUTCH" is fun, humorous and cute -- and so sexy for you -- the women who don't want their lover's fist in their face are plainly just shit-out-of-luck. One last thing: you know the male supremacist saying and myth, "all you need is a good fuck!"? It's not true.

--sign me, "BUTCH" for forty years and changing, San Francisco, CA

Sexist language is not going unchallenged in outer space. On a recent Discovery flight, Margaret Rhea Seddon, a surgeon, sewed pieces of plastic together to create the flyswatter-like tool used to repair a satellite. When a man at Mission Control referred to Seddon's work as that of a "seamstress" astronaut Sally Ride corrected him, saying, "That is the work of a surgeon." --National NOW Times

Big Sisters of Saskatoon, Canada have changed their policy regarding lesbians being matched with little sisters. A few years ago the local organization of Big Sisters passed a policy prohibiting lesbians from being Big Sisters. That policy was revoked by the board and now lesbians wishing to be big sisters will be judged on the same merits as other women. Parents will be asked if they have any objections to their daughter having a lesbian big sister. Parents have always been questioned about areas of potential concern, such as religion. Big Brothers of Saskatoon continue to reject gay men as candidates for being big brothers. --Rites

During May a pink granite monument to the gays killed in Nazi concentration camps was unveiled in Hamburg, West Germany. The monument, apparently the first dedicated only to gays, was placed at the site of the Neuengamme concentration camp by a group called the Independent Alternative Homosexuals. About 150 people attended the dedication. The monument bears the inscription, "Dedicated to the Homosexual Victims of National Socialism. 1985."

However, according to two of our readers from France, a collective of lesbians and gays were expelled from the commemorative ceremonies being held at the site of a camp in eastern France. The wreath the collective had brought to honor the 250,000 lesbian women and gay men who died in camps was violently removed as well. One of the attending jewish survivors (a man) made the following statement to the press: "they should have killed them all". Another stated that "the real victims and survivors should not be confused with deviants".

--The Blade and Nicole Bonnin and Viviane Clarac, Poitiers, France
