

# COP STOPS MUM ..FOR EYE PATCH

By GUY PATRICK

A MUM who lost an eye to cancer told yesterday of her "humiliation" after a cop pulled her over for wearing a patch. Rachel Corkhill, 24, has worn the eye cover since she was 11. She was told to step out of her Ford Ka as she drove to work – and when she asked the officer why Rachel was told: "You're wearing an eye patch."

Rachel explained how she had lost her eye, but said the female officer replied: "I'm still within my rights." Pal Paul O'Connor, who was in the car, challenged the cop, saying: "You've got to have a reason to stop her." But he claimed she replied: "It's because she's only got one eye." Rachel, of Wallasey, Merseyside, was not accused of speeding and her tax and insurance were up to date. Drivers with one eye are allowed on the road as long as their remaining sight is good enough. Rachel, who has a 12-month-old son Ben, said she felt "absolutely mortified". She added: "I get enough stick about my eye patch as it is without the police stopping me." But a police spokesman refused to apologise, saying: "The driver appeared to have a large dressing covering her eye. "The officer wanted to ensure the person was fit to drive and not causing a danger to herself or others."

# Hat killing: 2 in court

TWO men faced court yesterday accused of the "Halloween hat" murder. Ben Gardner, 30, was attacked early on Sunday after his girlfriend's witch hat was snatched and he asked for it back. Daniel Ransom and Ross Colender, both 20, were remanded in custody by Sutton JPs, South London. The pair, both from Carshalton, are due to appear at the Old Bailey on February 10.

# FOREST THUMP

Three forest rangers were injured when a bear they tried to tranquillise turned on them in Gangtok, India.

# EXCLUSIVE: LITTLE

# BRITAIN FUNNYMAN ON COMEDY'S PC PLAGUE



By GORDON SMART Bizarre Editor

DAVID WALLIAMS found fame playing vomiting racists, incontinent old women and sexual deviants in Little Britain.

Yet over the last couple of weeks venomous criticism from the politically-correct brigade has been aimed at other brilliant British comics accused of overstepping the mark. Those in the spotlight include occasional Sun columnist Frankie Boyle. He was panned by the BBC Trust for saying double Olympic swimming champion Rebecca Adlington looks like "someone who's looking at themselves in the back of a spoon" on TV's Mock The Week. But David – who this week caused controversy of his own by yanking down super-producer Mark Ronson's trousers in front of 3,000 people as part of a charity comedy sketch – has come to the defence of his profession. Also a successful author and serious actor, David said: "This debate has always happened – 'Are comedians going too far?' "Richard Pryor in the 1970s. Monty Python and Life Of Brian. The comedian's role has always been edgy. "The idea that we want comedians to be on message, to be saying the right things – well, that's pointless.

# Naughty

"As unfortunate as it is for Rebecca Adlington, Frankie Boyle's comments were rude but they were very funny. "You need jokes about all kinds of things – race, gender, sexuality, class. "If you start saying there are things you can't make jokes about, I think it's very dangerous." David, 38, has just released his second children's novel, Mr Stink. The book is illustrated by Quentin Blake, who worked with Roald Dahl on his timeless kids' books. Mr Stink and his first book, The Boy In The Dress, are certainly good enough to see David mentioned in the same breath as the genius behind the BFG, Charlie And The Chocolate Factory and Fantastic Mr Fox. David penned the story of a tramp's friendship with a bullied schoolgirl while he was filming Hollywood movie Dinner For Schmucks with Anchorman star Steve Carrell in Los Angeles. As we discussed his time in the US, our conversation turned back to so-called "cruel" comedy – and it had me chuckling away. David said: "I bumped into Hugh Grant at the Chateau Marmont hotel in LA and I said, 'I hear you are playing BNP leader Nick Griffin in a new film. It is a story of you falling in love with your black cleaner.' "He said, 'That's actually a good idea. I'm not sure it will happen, but wouldn't it be great casting?' "David recently flew back from California where he had been out for dinner with Russell Brand and his new pop star girlfriend Katy Perry. He said: "Normally Russell's girlfriends are following him around totally in awe of him, but he is following her around totally in awe. "But I can understand that because Katy is absolutely knockout gorgeous and really funny, really provocative and naughty. He has met his match. I was pleased to see him so happy." Ladies' man David claims he is

It is vital we have jokes about race, gender, sexuality and class



# Comics do go too far ... that's our job

SAYS DAVID WALLIAMS



DON'T GAG US . . . clockwise from top left, no one questioned the suggestive Are You Being Served? or the physical comedy of Fawlty Towers, Sun story on David stripping Mark Ronson, and with Matt Lucas in Little Britain

changing his charming ways after recently finding love. He said: "It is new and exciting but I'd rather not jinx it. We've been good at keeping it out of the papers. "Michael Caine said to me (putting on his best Caine accent) 'I used to be like you. I used to think with women, it was about quantity. Then I realised it was about quality. Then I met my beautiful wife Shakira.' "I know people reading this won't believe it, but people like myself and Russell have low self-esteem. "That's why we feel the need to date loads of girls. Then you realise it's not going to get you anywhere. "Michael Caine said to me, 'I realised that I couldn't sleep with

every woman in the world'. He was sharing a flat with Terence Stamp in the Sixties. They must have . . . well, it must have been a very, very exciting time to be young and famous." David is close friends with Barbara Windsor, Dale Winton and Sir Roger Moore. After the Michael Caine reference, I asked if he would have enjoyed fame in another era? He said: "The Seventies would have suited our style of humour. Are You Being Served?, Dick Emery, Les Dawson – we are much more in that sort of tradition rather than a contemporary one. "We are talking about edgy jokes

but think about Are You Being Served? "The late Mollie Sugden, who I adored, used to say, 'It was rainy today and my pussy got all wet, I had to dry my pussy with a towel'. Gales of laughter – me watching with my parents and it was 7pm! Spoon "Now, why are people laughing? Not because she means her cat. No one really questions it. If you take apart a lot of humour you'll unfortunately find things you won't like. "If I told you I saw a brilliant comedy about a hotel owner, a man who employs an immigrant Spanish worker in his hotel and

because he can't speak English properly the hotel owner physically assaults him repeatedly, you would think, 'That's not funny'. "But when you watch John Cleese hit Andrew Sachs with a spoon in Fawlty Towers it's one of the funniest things you've seen. "You've got to be careful, you can take the joy out of everything. "I think the scrutiny in the wake of 'Sachsgate' is unfortunate. Jonathan Ross is one of the most entertaining people on TV and a lot of his appeal is that he is edgy. "The fact that he is going to say the wrong thing to someone – THAT makes it exciting." The inspiration for David's career

as a children's author came during the Little Britain Live tour with his comedy partner Matt Lucas. He said: "On the tour we did book signings and loads and loads of kids would turn up. This is something for young fans. "I read a lot of Roald Dahl before I did this. I learned that you can't emulate his style because it is so extraordinary and what he wrote were bona fide classics." The Boy In The Dress sold 50,000 copies a week in the lead up to Christmas last year and every child who sent him a letter about the book received a personal response. David said: "I got loads of letters last time. I replied to every child. I

remember it was a big deal writing a letter as a child. You need a whole day, sat down, making mistakes, starting again, crying. Some of the feedback pointed me in the right direction for the next book. I'd ask what their favourite bit was and they would say where the boy sneezes on the other boy and covers him in snot. "They will take on the big themes but they like those things best – toilet humour and bottoms." Let's just hope the straight-laced critics don't turn their attention to the scandal of snot, bottom and burp gags in children's novels next. g.smart@the-sun.co.uk See TV Biz pullout

Pictures: DAVE HOGAN

britishgas.co.uk

# We're never far away in a one-off boiler emergency

# Freephone 0800 000 999



- An affordable fixed price, including parts and labour\*
- No call-out charge
- No fix, no fee
- 12 month guarantee on all work
- Plus you don't even have to be a British Gas customer

# British Gas

Looking after your world

\*Terms and conditions apply and can be found at britishgas.co.uk. Your call may be recorded and/or monitored for quality assurance and compliance purposes.