

A PROBLEM OF GENDER KEEPS STAR WAITING THREE HOURS

By ~~PAUL DONOVAN~~

THE French, who have tried to stop English lamb, Belgian pork and Italian plonk, attempted something more sensible yesterday.

They tried to ban Boy George.

Immigration officials at Nice Airport, where he arrived en route for the San Remo music festival, scrutinised the singer's passport. Real name: George O'Dowd. Sex: Male

Then they looked at *him*. As ever, the Culture Club lead singer had long locks and his face was carefully made up with foundation, mascara and lipstick. He was wearing a full-length blue and silver kimono.

Non! said the French immigration men, this creature cannot be male.

The trans-sexually clad star who had a recent No. 1 hit with Karma Chameleon may have been accepted in his own country as just another Great British Eccentric, but the Nice Airport authorities were not convinced.

He would not be allowed in, they said, unless he changed into male apparel.

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