

Lunatics, the Asylum, Self-parodying ...

What is there left to say? We've already heard about all **this** stuff:

The [United Nations Human Rights Commission] now includes six of the world's most repressive regimes - Cuba, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, China and Vietnam. A UN committee on the rights of women is headed by Iran. The former regime in Iraq was at one stage scheduled to chair a conference on disarmament. Meanwhile, the US two years ago lost its seat on the body it helped to set up in 1947. The situation can only be described as cultural relativism gone mad.

And we've all heard that Libya *chairs* the UN Human Rights Commission.

If there was still *any* sanity left in the institutions that purport to regulate international affairs, there would now be a good **opportunity for satire**. "Whatever next?" one would ask, and then one would invent an even more extreme travesty.

But what chance does a satirist have, if the reader can instead just look at today's news and find something so outrageous that no satirist would have dared invent it? So - try it. Think of a joke appointment that would be more absurd than the above.

Done that? OK now look at **this**:

Zimbabwe's police commissioner, who is accused of being a driving force behind President Robert Mugabe's brutal repression of opponents, has been appointed honorary vice-president of Interpol.

Augustine Chihuri is on a list of close Mugabe associates subject to sanctions by the European Union and the United States because of the regime's human rights abuses. Yet it emerged yesterday that he has accepted an invitation from the international police organisation's President, Jesus Espigares Mira, to take up the honorary post. The Zimbabwe Herald, the state-owned newspaper which is a mouthpiece for the Mugabe government, said the appointment was a "show of confidence" in the Zimbabwean police force by the international community.

How did you do? Was your idea more absurd and wicked than the

reality, or less? If more, we think you should consider abandoning your day job.

Fri, 05/09/2003 - 01:55 | [permalink](#)

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