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Chapman meets the press

by A.D. Wright

Graham Chapman is an enigma. On one hand a quiet soft-spoken physician; on the other a formidable comedic talent.

Before his lecture on Wednesday, Chapman held two press conferences, where he was asked questions on new projects, old projects, and his experiences as a member of the Monty Python comedy troupe.

The Monty Python series was generally good, he said, but the group really felt they were better suited to film than television. He said ideally there would be a new Python project every four years or so.

"The show lasted five years, and we all decided that maybe we could do another few shows that were as good as what had gone before, but why?" he said.

Chapman was not happy with his newest movie, *Yellowbeard*. "The editing was dreadful. I guess Universal wanted to make it more understandable to the people in Idaho," he said. Universal had the final say on the movie, but Chapman mentioned that he presently felt "impotent rage" and would like to re-edit it sometime.

Chapman felt better about Monty Python's recent film, *The Meaning of Life*, saying it "fell flat two thirds of the way through, pity. But it picks up toward the end." When asked



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about the infamous vomit scene, he said the scene had taken five days to film and a special catapult which could fire vegetable soup and sweet corn "vomit" at a rate of ninety gallons a minute.

The Life of Brian he considered to be "about the best thing we've done." He thought the initial picketings of the movie strange because "those who objected to it without exception had not seen the movie."

This type of reaction is not

new to Chapman. After the Monty Python series had been out for a while, ABC bought six episodes for American broadcast, the intention being to edit them into two ninety minute movies. On viewing the first tape, the group discovered it had been censored, in violation of their contract. They sued and won.

Chapman has several new projects on the go. The first is a movie with the working title of *Ditto*, co-written with John Cleese. A new *Beyond the Fringe* film is in the works, a synopsis having been co-written with Peter Cook. Lastly, there is a new movie that Chapman is currently writing.

"I should be working on it now," he said.

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