

16th Feb. 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

I picked up your leaflet called 'Your BBC, Your Say' in my local library today.

My 'Say' is as follows :-

1. Very good things.

(a) BBC 4 (TV) (b) Radio 3 (much more varied and interesting than before, without any quality loss)

(c) BBC Parliament (TV) - if only people could be persuaded to watch the ^{important} debates rather than question time they might see that many M.P.s are actually articulate and well-informed. ~~all~~

(d) Radio 5 Live

(e) Radio 4

2. Good Things

(a) Radio 2

(b) BBC 2 — slowly improving; less mind-
—destroying rubbish

(c) BBC News 24 — its ever-present nature is
useful.

3. Bad Things

(a) BBC 3 (TV) — not even young people
that I know watch it. Disce

(b) Radio 1 XTRA, 666, BB7 — there is
little here that can't be found elsewhere;
a waste of resources

(c) BBC World (TV) — O.K. as a voice

of the BBC Worldwide but totally
flawed in that it is often late on
the news and gives no view or
information about the UK itself. Hence it
is hardly ever watched by the thousands
of British Abroad.....

(d) The whole of the BBC's endeavours.

This is best left to those who really
depend on i-services for their business.
A wasteful (and pointless) luxury for
the BBC I think.

4. Something not specifically referred to in your pamphlet.

The combined excellence, in all respects, of the work of the BBC Regional and National Orchestras and Chorus.

These must all be maintained wherever else has to go.

5. A more general, philosophical point.

Lord Hutton got it mostly right in his recent report on the David Kelly affair.

The BBC is not there to 'make' news (or make read 'invent'). The growing overconfidence of news presenters/interviewers in recent years has led to a situation where people who have never had substantive responsibility for any large and/or important public institution think they can do everything better than the surgeons, headteachers, ~~stage~~ theatre directors, aircraft designers, architects etc etc etc they are talking to on the programmes.

They have become overbearing, intolerant and bullying. Why aren't they made to take lessons from Sean Rafferty on Radio 3 in how to make points whilst realising that the ~~modern~~ people they are talking to actually can do things which are utterly beyond the grasp of the presenter. A dose of humility for people of the Saxman, Wark, Humphries, Naughtie ilk would not go amiss.

And finally, please don't appoint another ~~wheder dealer~~, ill educated man like Cress Dyke to be Director General. And sack some of the rent-a-mobs who spent my money demonstrating to 'save Cress' after he had resigned. Why is the BBC employing people like that?

P.S. I also agree fully with the views in the first leader of The Times newspaper of 16.2.04 (enclosed)

Yours faithfully,

John Biggs