

Hon. Director: DOROTHY ROSE J. GRIBBLE

5.3.04

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your leaflet sent via Media Watch.

Personal view, shared by many friends. The coverage on news, relative programmes, sports, arts and education are obviously very important. I think the World Service does give as impartial a view as is possible - so heeded in the Middle East and other regions that false information would be rumbled! The same is not always so on home programmes, when opinions sometimes are offered in words or in vocal inference as if they were news.

I do regret that some women now tend to be so coy and almost giggly. This is increasing, and a very great pity. At one time, their voices gave as much cause for respect as do now most men's.

I should like less ugly language, and particularly less use of the name of Jesus as a minor swear word. Such is not the practice with Mohammed's name, or that of Buddha, Moses, or other great teachers. It is unnecessary, vulgar, and nothing to boast of.

Violence happens, but should be shown for accuracy, not as a matter of course. And certainly not as indicating how to do real harm. Naturally children enact what they see - we all did so in childhood. Best indicate, not teach. I know westerns etc showed mighty fights - but what child could hope to emulate the blows given in stage or film fights!

It is a pity to play down to audiences. Some programmes do that too much. I remember a family, in theatrical digs where I stayed, used TV as education, and such people do deserve respect. Radio errs less than TV these days. And I know people who, if they had to choose, would opt for radio only for that reason.

Myself, I would go for licence rather than commercial financing because in commerce, the BBC cannot but be controlled by backers. I do dislike ITV ads, but use them for making tea, or perhaps dealing with short letters!

Lastly, the BBC ought to avoid control by Parliament, specially what we have now. It looks as if well-intentioned rulers are making laws that will greatly benefit later dictators. We have programmes offering discussion of politics, but those given temperately rather than rudely are more valuable. Offensive criticism is not the best way of winning discussions!

I do apologise for my faulty typing, and hope some comments may be of use. No need to reply though!

Yours very truly



Hon. Director

BBC Charter Review Consultation  
Department of Culture, Media and Sport  
2/4 Cocksour Street  
London S.W.1 Y5DH