

From: Mrs. Stella Inacki,

26th March 2004

First, answered to the questions in your leaflet: what I value most about the BBC is its INDEPENDENCE from Government interference, and the talent of its journalists: John Simpson, Jeremy Paxman, John Humphries, Kate Adie, David Dimbleby, Andrew Neill, to name a handful. It should cope with the internet and digital TV, but not at the expense of terrestrial channels. I admit reception is much better via digital radio. The licence fee is wonderful value - cheap. Less management - I was very glad to hear that Greg Dyke had untangled some of the money-wasting systems set up by ~~John~~ John Birt. The BBC needs brave and creative people, not kow-towing lackeys. The Board of Governors overseeing themselves and The BBC seems a most ~~unsatisfactory~~ unsatisfactory regulatory system. Could the license-fee-paying public not vote them in - not the Chairman - like the (e.g.) National Trust? I have the impression that the governors are a set of retired people lying back on their laurels looking for a soft option. They certainly lived up to that image in spades during the upset over the Gilligan/Campbell affair. Accountability: one can always contact the BBC and the relevant official bodies if one ~~has~~ has a complaint (or a compliment), and unlike government ministers (who are also answerable to the public), one has a speedy answer.

Other points: There has been ^{a sig} significant dumbing-down process. I resented having to pay for a digi-box to access the stimulating programmes, foreign films etc, that should be on BBC2. There are too many makeover programmes, and poor quality drama documentaries coated with metaphorical sugar. And all those over-excited presenters waving their arms about while pontificating on art and heritage, e.g. that gangly young man recently to be seen fronting a really bad programme on Brancusi on BBC4, no less. Please could we have real experts like Brian Sewell, David Starkey and Tim Marlow (excellent ~~in~~ ^{when} fronting art progs on Ch5) News: Breakfast became too giggly; evening news - when John Sergeant moved to ITV so did I, and haven't moved back. The ITV local news covers my area far better than the BBC. As ~~to~~ ^{to} I live in Hampshire, I'm not that interested in jumble sales ~~in~~ ^{near} Brighton. I'm afraid Jon Snow on Ch.4 News beats all other news progs hands down, though I appreciate News 24. Andrew Neil's programmes on politics are first rate. Radio 4 I like, but not all changes are for the best. I.e. no more book readings at the end of Woman's Hour, but dramatisations which I don't listen to. I rarely listen to Woman's H. as it is a bit too earnest for my taste. I love Dead Ringers, and on TV, Nighty Night.

WARNING: if any crony of John Birt's is appointed to any of the top jobs at the BBC, or if the Government interferes any more with the running of the organisation, I will never vote for the ~~the~~ Labour again. The whole Gilligan affair (and I heard ~~the~~ the original Gilligan error) was a ridiculous storm in a teacup, stirred up by the hysterical Campbell (saw him foaming at the mouth on Ch4 news). After an apology, there was absolutely no need for either Greg Dyke or Gavyn Davies to resign.

LONG LIVE THE BBC