

BBC Charter Review Consultation,
Department for Culture, Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street,
LONDON SW 1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

In response to your 'YOUR BBC YOUR SAY' questionnaire leaflet, I would make the following observation on the SOUND aspect of many of your existing programmes:

1. The background music is OFTEN blatantly intrusive and pervasive - not least on Radio Programmes, as when the introductory music continues long after the speakers have begun to discuss the issue(s) in question - rendering the voices inaudible - especially to an ageing population with a high incidence of hearing loss.

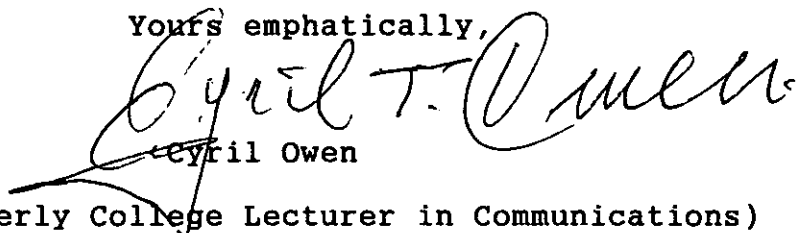
2.

There has long been a BBC programme bias towards life and events in the U.S.A. - Alistair Cook's 'Letter from America' being only one example. News of life and events in Europe has, by comparison, always been relatively minimal - except in time of war.

Europe has always (historically) been a very significant cultural and economic influence on Britain, usually to our advantage - whether it be Dutch Agrarian Practices and Art, German Science and Music, Italian Art and Opera, French Literature and Art, etc. Compared with the programme time allotted to American affairs and culture (much of the latter being of questionable value) the programme time allotted to European life and culture has long been, and still is, grossly under-represented.

The reality of Britain's increasing involvement with Europe means that NOW, MORE THAN EVER, the disparity and imbalance in programme-time allocation needs to be re-addressed to emphasise our historical links with Europe, and our present accelerating integration with so many of its institutions.

Yours emphatically,


Cyril Owen

(Formerly College Lecturer in Communications)