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Audrey Willsher

27:3:04

Dear Madam

What I value most about the BBC is Radio, 4, 3 and sometimes 2. This is what the BBC should be proudest of. Radio enjoys an audience loyalty television could only dream of and yet it is sidelined and undervalued. If only television aspired to the same intellectual content. Where are the book programmes? and why is Newsnight Review tucked away in an eleven o'clock slot on a Friday night? Mustn't scare the punters. Let's have another, Never Mind the Buzzcocks instead. Another moan, what has happened to Sainsbury Choir of the Year? Completely sidelined, and Cardiff Singer of the Year looks set to meet a similar fate. The BBC shouldn't be chasing audience numbers all the time, minority tastes ought to be catered for as well.

I think the BBC should continue to be funded by the licence fee, although when I see Jonny Vegas in a fridge and another bloke swinging around in a leather chair, it often feels as if I am watching a commercial station. Before I switch off in disgust, I also pause to wonder how much of the licence fee is going into the pockets of these characters and how much that leather chair cost.

Women should definitely play a much larger part in the running of the BBC. Nowhere was this more obvious than in the recent Gilligan/Campbell spat, with all that testosterone flying about.

The public should also have a greater say in how the BBC is run and panels could be set up around the country to deal with this.

Lastly the BBC should never allow itself to be intimidated by politicians or press barons. Political parties come and go, as do avaricious press barons. The BBC is valued and trusted the world over, and long may it remain so.

Yours faithfully

Audrey Willsher

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