

29th March 2005

BBC Charter Review,  
 Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport.

Dear Sirs,

I am certainly not the only person to breathe a sigh of utter relief at the thought of a new broom being appointed as the new Controller of BBC1, and to express delight at the departure of Lorraine Hegessy. Despite repeated complaints from various quarters that she was responsible for totally 'dumbing down' the output from BBC1 she continued to refute any such suggestion and to vainly insist that she was right and took no notice whatsoever of viewers' and listeners' complaints. A very arrogant young woman!

Let us pray for better things from Mr. Peter Finchem. Miss Hegessy seemed to regard the national news as a "show", with even the gravest reports referred to by news readers as "Top Stories"! Never a hint of gravitas, and those of us who regard the news as serious have been constantly irritated by having <sup>to</sup> watch two people present it, one male, one female, bobbing their heads at each other and reading one sentence each at a time. Particularly annoying on "Breakfast" when one only needs to hear the items of news presented intelligently before having to start one's busy day - we do not need a "show" at that time of day. Nor only is there the opening

performance of the couple but the reading of the news paper is then handed over to yet a third person! This is all quite ridiculous and unnecessary, and in view of the fact that jobs are to be lost in the BBC it would be wise and welcome for at least half of your newsreaders to disappear. Think of all the large salaries to be saved!! As the day progresses we have single presenters at news times, and 'jolly good too'.

Then after the Breakfast news has been disposed of we are left with the male & female readers having to bring on endless 'celebrities', a lot from the soaps, telling everyone what's going to happen in that day's episode - it really is sickening.

At weekends we watch endless football, rugby, cricket, tennis et al - all very nice and great for sports lovers, but on this past Easter weekend we were only told of the Oxford & Cambridge boat race in the evening news - nothing of the race itself during the day. This takes place only once a year - and it was largely ignored by the BBC.

National Holiday breaks are abysmal for entertainment. It is true a box full of ancient films were totally destroyed; there is never any rest from some 70 yr. old films being dragged out [Lancelot & Hardy, Charlie Chaplin etc] - and without looking at the programme we know damned well that we shall get Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, the Sound of Music, the Railway Children, Mary Poppins and so on and on. This is sheer laziness on the part of the BBC.

'High Post' Parsons Lane,  
Crockerton  
Warminster  
Wiltshire BA12 8AR

Tel 01985 215907

We are told that a larger and larger part of our population is made up of old people.

I visit several who are in Residential and Nursing Homes - a great deal of their day is taken up simply watching television, and my heart bleeds for them having to watch so much rubbish. When programmes which really ~~do~~ should cause great pleasure, such as the David Attenborough programmes on wonderful nature programmes come on they are totally ruined by the backing of Pop music, bashing drums, weird loud noise which has nothing to do with the mood of the programme and often drowns out any commentator who has to compete to be heard. Why are we not allowed to watch sheer beauty with silence or a quiet commentary?

Before News programmes came on we used to have a very brief but serene and beautiful scene of the globe - in silence - one of the few restful items on 'the box'. But Lorraine Heggessey replaced that by idiotic scenes of two men, ineptly doing handstands, or women doing a frantic shoulder shrugging 'dance' - or a group of Asian men & women doing a 'dance routine'.  
All quite horrid to watch.

In the advertised newspaper item "You BBC, You Say" it is gratifying to hear that you really do want viewers & listeners to be involved - as you say "The public pays for the BBC."

Up to now very little notice has been taken, and especially by people of Lorraine Heggessey's calibre.

Mr. Fincham - we now rely on you to make a tremendous difference - please do.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Alison M. Riley.