

I Loom Gov

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Oct. 5th 2004

27 OCT 2004

Dear Mr Boyle

In Ref. to "Seeking views on Scotland's Culture"
: Ayrshire Post Sept 24th 2004

Your enquiry comes at a time of drastic + heartbreaking changes in Ayr + district.

Key music programmes (eg: Ayrshire Voices 200 strong childrens choir) are being ruthlessly axed and our linked M.S.P's say they hate the situation but cannot interfere with local council policy - making beyond a certain point — Thus, from "above" + "below" so to speak, we seem to be powerless to prevent the destruction unless a commission such as your own brings a fresh set of teeth to the matter.

This is not a matter of cultural erosion like icing melting on a cake... this is the core rot in the heart of a civilization that has gone into decline + all but forgotten the

essential values/qualities inherent
in "aesthetics" "composure" "harmony"
"discipline" "true creativity"
"dedication" "team-work ethics" and
"genuine pride" [Listen to Radio 4 "Cultural State"
Mons. 9.30.]

I have lived and worked
extensively in Europe, Asia + the
United States with festival teams
that sought to ignite those values
beyond national boundaries.

I have observed N.Y. Harlem Music
etc. projects and Southside Chicago
and Korean ones plus African
Children's Choir and others --- The
elements are those that show up
in true-life-based movies like
"Music of the Heart", "Mr. Holland's Opus"
"The Mission" "The Pianist"

I cannot do justice in this note
to a plea for your commission to
probe fully the situations
I refer to --- their ilk is
not limited to musical realms but
literary + so many other "character
defining" but now eroding
institutions of our contemporary
society.

Please talk with me soon (I can
call you on a flat rate line to
minimize your expenses) and I will

help you every way that
I can (I just need your telephone no.)

Yours Sincerely
Anne Bolton.

Foot notes: Through the Adult Literacy
Volunteer Tutoring that I do
I have spoken with Librarians
who are also dismayed by
youngsters' rejection of books
+ inability to persevere with
computers when they become
challenging too.

Through my 2 daughters'
experience with instruments
at school I see a very big
gap between the standards of
public + private provision.

Only organizations like the
Ayrshire Voices give the extra-
curricular boost to state school
pupils so that they too can make
entry standard to Music Colleges etc.

The alternative choices, made
by our local council to replace
these well-proven + time tested professional
bodies, are proving internally +
externally injurious — — — Please
ask me more about this. A.B.