

SAVILE'S EXPLOITS WERE NO SECRET



This is the fifth installment of Bill Donohue's report on the BBC sexual abuse scandal and its implications for the *New York Times*:

It was reported over the weekend that BBC celebrity Jimmy Savile was so sick that he sexually assaulted his own niece on two occasions. Worse, her grandmother knew it all along but kept her mouth shut: grandma's brother, Jimmy, made sure she had a very comfortable lifestyle.

Savile's exploits were no secret. Here are a few examples. In 1976, a 9-year-old boy was molested by Savile in his dressing room, and was caught in the act by a man who simply said, "Oops," and shut the door. At about the same time, a teenage girl, whose father was a pedophile friend of Savile's, was abused by Savile. In 1985, Savile recorded a BBC song where he bragged about becoming a dancehall boss so he could meet girls. And no one thought this odd? In 1992, after a 7-year-old boy was asked by Savile to take off his clothes in a performance with male strippers, a complaint was filed with the authorities, but nothing came of it. Indeed, the BBC called the episode "a lighthearted item."

In 2000, Savile was finally accused in a TV documentary of pedophilia. But he got away with it. Astonishingly, Savile actually said he intentionally lied about not liking kids because it was a convenient decoy. "It's easier for me as a single man to say I don't like children because it puts a lot of salacious tabloid people off the hunt," he admitted.

George Entwistle, the director-general of the BBC who

succeeded Mark Thompson, wants us to believe that he was clueless about Savile's predatory behavior. "Jimmy Savile was regarded by a great many people as odd, a bit peculiar and that was something I was aware some people believed," he recently said. Just peculiar? Entwistle is now refusing to talk to the media, and Thompson, who is set to become the new president and CEO of the *New York Times*, isn't exactly making himself available for comment either. Look for this to soon change. More to come later today.

SAVILE'S SICK PAST HAUNTS BBC/NYT



This is the third installment of Bill Donohue's report on the BBC sexual abuse scandal and its implications for the *New York Times*:

Scotland Yard is hot on the trail of Jimmy Savile's victims, and there appears to be no end to them. Not only are the top cops pursuing 340 inquiries, dating back to 1959, they are being assisted by 14 other police agencies. Savile, the celebrity BBC icon, was not only a child rapist, he was known for groping women on the air. Indeed, he may even have had sex with the dead.

One of the many investigations now underway is being undertaken by Stoke Mandeville Hospital, a venue where Savile is alleged to have abused young disabled patients. The hospital is probing his "unaccompanied mortuary visits." They have reason to do so.

In 1990, Savile admitted that he liked to hang around Buckinghamshire hospital in the wee hours of the morning. He said in his *Q* magazine interview that he took great pleasure being alone with the dead. "One of my jobs is to take away the deceased. You can look after somebody, be alone with somebody, who has lived a whole lifetime, and I'm just saying goodbye."

It may very well be that Savile, a rough approximation of Dick Clark and Michael Jackson rolled into one, did more than pay his last respects to the dead. Why else would he volunteer, "I'm not a necrophiliac." After all, the child rapist always said he never abused children.

How far up the chain of command did knowledge of Savile's perversions extend? George Entwistle, the new BBC director general, will appear before Parliament next week amidst several independent investigations. If Entwistle is being called, it is only a matter of time before they call Mark Thompson to testify: he has been working at the BBC since 1979, and was the director general at the time of a spiked BBC investigation of Savile. He is also the incoming president and CEO of the *New York Times* Company. More tomorrow.