

# To hell with speed demons

Irene Thorpe didn't have a hope.

On that fateful night in November of 2000 when she lost her life, she couldn't have possibly seen them coming.

Taking her faithful dog out for a walk was her last act, in a life apparently brimming with goodness.

At almost 140 km/h, Bahndur Singh Bhalru and Sukhvir Singh Khosa fuelled by the insanity of street-racing, tore up the road like there was nothing there. When Mr. Khosa hit and killed Ms. Thorpe, there was nothing left.

Nothing except the shattered lives of Ms. Thorpe's family.

In the ensuing seven years, while Mr. Bhalru was appropriately jettisoned from these shores back to his homeland, Mr. Khosa, the man who killed Ms. Thorpe, has managed to mambo through the legal process, delaying his overdue departure with surprising ease.

Last week we discovered, with astonishment, I'm sure, that he has yet to be sent packing.

With family now, he must weep his way through one last hurdle as the Supreme Court of Canada weighs in.

But who weeps for the rest of us?

There is something fundamentally wrong with a country's immigration laws that allows a convicted, street-racing, non-citizen killer seven years of appeal from extradition.

A maggot should be afforded more quarter.

When B.C. Supreme Court Justice Linda Loo sentenced Messers. Bhalru and Khosa, the shock then was enough to begin to ask some serious questions about our legal system: Two landed immigrants, who obviously felt that they would selectively pick which Canadian laws they would choose to follow,



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were given two years of house arrest, 240 hours of community service, three years of probation and barred further from driving for five years.

Irene Thorpe was sentenced to a

casket.

In this province, six speeding tickets over a two-year period gets you six months of having your licence suspended.

That's exactly 10 per cent of the driving penalty, alone, meted out by Justice Loo. This was justice served? How could anyone in their right mind not know, instinctively that street racing kills? What a farce.

Immigrants to this country should respect all the laws of Canada and not follow them conveniently piecemeal.

I have never been an advocate of a broad-based death penalty in this country. But save and except for terrorists, rapists and child molesters, I can't think of another group of sufficiently sick enough bastards to whom I would happily have the government consistently throw the switch.

Street racers who recklessly flout the laws and show little remorse, if at all, other than the perfunctory words of regret in court or before the cameras of the six o'clock news ... ?

I would have accepted Messers. Bhalru and Khosa going back to India, quietly, without any legal fanfare or noise, never to return to Canada, ever. But with Mr. Bhalru already long gone, seven years of stubborn appeals for Mr. Khosa seems an absolute outrage. The man who killed Irene Thorpe should have been on a plane home years ago.

Then again, if we want real justice, we should just make him swim.

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