BEDRIN

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Dead teen never had a chance

It's tough to decide which is more disgusting; the fact that a 16-year-old boy was beaten to death while in the Wellington Detention Centre or his parents' reaction to his death.

James Lonnee was killed in his cell at the centre last week and his cellmate, another 16-year-old, was charged with first degree murder.

Lonnee's lawyer, Mary Birdsell, wants the government to explain why Lonnee was sharing a segregation cell.

Two days after Lonnee's death, his parents, Cynthia and Tim, were pictured on the front page of a Toronto daily holding a portrait of their son demanding answers from the government and saying, "We want to know exactly what happened and we want satisfaction..."

Exactly what kind of satisfaction is Cynthia Lonnee seeking?

By all means the government should investigate how Lonnee was killed, but before everyone points fingers at the failings of our corrections system perhaps we should take a good hard look at James' upbringing.

At the time of his death his nowconcerned parents hadn't even seen him in two years!

Make no mistake folks, this was a troubled kid. He had attention deficit disorder and was hyperactive. He also had one conviction for assault and was facing another assault rap for an attack on an inmate at a youth centre in Cobourg. The Children's Aid Society came into his life at the age of three and at 14 he was in jail.

While his lawyer is concerned with why he was incarcerated where he

THIS THAT



JOHN McGHIE

was, I'm more curious about the job his parents did in raising him.

His mother claims they made attempts to get counselling for James but also said they couldn't visit him for the past two years because he was often housed too far away.

Bunk! If you are a concerned parent you would drive to the ends of the earth to show support for your child. No drive is "too far".

Now she wants "satisfaction"?

Parenting is the toughest job there is, but there are many people out there who are not willing to commit to the demands that parenting requires and the end result is problem kids.

James Lonnee never had a chance and I don't think you can blame "the system" for that.

DIS'N DATA

Does the Royal Bank really need seven bucks from me each month for service charges when it reports a profit of \$1 billion?... From the Believe it or Not files. Someone broke into a Georgetown home recently and stole five boxes of frozen hamburger patties... Memo to town planners. There are far too many stops signs in Georgetown.



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