

No Justice for Broderick Hehman

By Brian Scott Mednick

In what has to be one of the great legal injustices in this city in recent memory, Hassan Mayfield and Andre Johnson, both 15, and Humberto Guzman and Denzell Fell, both 13, the four black teenagers accused in the death of 20-year-old NYU student Broderick Hehman, will not be charged as adults. Instead, they will be charged as juveniles in Family Court. Had they been charged as adults, they could have faced nine years to life in prison. Now, they will only face a maximum initial sentence of five years “restrictive placement” if convicted in Family Court.

If the color scheme was reversed and it was four white kids chasing down a black kid to his death, there would literally be riots. Al Sharpton would be calling for their heads. Where is the good reverend now? Is the life of a young white man not equally as valuable as that of a young black man? White people simply do not riot. There is a sad complacency among whites that needs to change. Why is it you can march and be proud of being black, Dominican, Puerto Rican, etc., but if you say you are proud to be white, you are automatically a neo-Nazi and a racist? Whites need to stop cowering and being intimidated by the extreme race baiters who think they can make us shudder by throwing the “R” word at us.

I believe in giving credit where credit is due, and I was surprised that Norman Siegel, who never met a miscreant he didn't like, and 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement actually stepped up and noted that there should not be a double standard in this case. Again, where was Rev. Al?

These thugs (I dismiss such innocent labels as “youths” and “juveniles”) admitted they were up to no good. They admitted they were out to rob Hehman. After chasing him into the street where he was hit by a car, Assistant District Attorney Joel Seidemann said, “They didn't call an ambulance. They didn't call for help. Rather, they stood on the street corner and laughed as he lay in the road.” This is the type of disgrace to humanity that should be allowed to walk the streets again?

In all likelihood, these hoodlums will be free before their 21st birthdays. And what then? Are they going to be productive members of society? Are they going to be

thoughtful, hardworking individuals who pay their ConEd bill on time, having benefited from five years of “rehabilitation?” We all know the answer. And if you want to call me racist for saying that, that’s your problem. I am not a racist, I am realist. Justice is supposed to be blind, but sadly in this city, it’s not colorblind. They will be back on the very same streets they were the night Broderick Hehman was killed, looking for their next victim, and that’s something we all should be worried about.