Dumb Blonde Joke Gone Bad

Karen Bain

CJUS 400: Criminology and Deviant Behavior

May 17, 2013

Mrs. Loriana Fiorino

Southwestern College Professional Studies

Dumb Blonde Joke Gone Bad

There is no specific makeup of who can be a criminal. They can be male or female, black or white, short or tall and even blonde or brunette. We will see some of the factors that I think contributed to this crime. What kind of punishment would be suitable for this so-called random act of violence from the two? Also, what should come into play for their sentencing? Was this just a dumb blonde joke that went really bad?

**Factors**

So what really contributed to the act that was committed by the girls? I would have to say the environment. Heather had what we could call a good life at home. About to start college, parents that obviously loved her and she had roots in the church. Once she started dancing at the club she got a taste of something new and it was exciting for her. Her new best friend and boyfriend I think had a lot to do with her involvement in this crime. But she still knew what she was getting into from the beginning.

The classical theory in criminal justice suggests that an individual who breaks the law does so with rational free will, understanding the effects of their actions (Schatz, n.d.). These girls knew exactly what they were doing and they even had a chance to back out when they went to the wrong bank.

**Punishment**

Since they knew that there could be consequences to their actions I think they should get the max sentence for the crime they committed. I think all the players in this crime should get max sentence for that matter. Even though the females carried out the crime itself, the two males were accessories. They helped to plan it and put it in motion. Unlike the crime of accessory, in which someone aids another person who commits a criminal act, the crime of aiding abetting also includes anyone who willfully gets someone else to commit a crime on their behalf. If someone “puts in motion” the plan to commit a crime, they can be charged with that crime even if they intentionally refrained from participating in the actual crime itself (Montaldo, n.d.).

**Sentencing**

With this being Heather’s first offense should she get any kind of leniency, should this affect her sentencing? Part of me wants to say yes, but this was pre-planned. She had many opportunities to back out. For her to be able to smile all the way through the crime and immediately go spend the money I think she should be held fully accountable for what she did. Also if this was a misdemeanor I would say different but she committed a felony.

**Just Punishment**

Ten years of probation and a restitution sounds like fair and just punishment. I would only have to ask why did she get off with no jail or prison time. She had the same amount of involvement as the other female. I would have to believe it is because of her background and that crime being her first offense.

**In The End**

In the end, she got ten years of probation and hopefully a lesson learned for the rest of her life. She came from a well to do home, had plans for college and ended up with the wrong group of people. Peer pressure can make anyone do things outside of their norms. With this crime being her first offense I am sure it played a big part in her sentence. So no matter who you are male or female, black or white, blonde or brunette you are capable of being caught up in a crime.

References:

Schatz, B. (n.d.) – *Classical Theories in Criminal Justice* Retrieved from:

<http://www.ehow.com/list_7457240_classical-theories-criminal-justice.html>

Montaldo, C. (n.d.) – *What is the Crime of Aiding and Abetting?* Retrieved from:

 <http://crime.about.com/od/Crime_101/f/What-Is-A-Aiding-and-Abetting.htm>