

Courts log county's first felony graffiti conviction

A 21-year-old man was convicted Friday of causing \$20,000 in graffiti damage — the first such felony conviction in Santa Cruz County.

Michael Pacifico Carrillo, 21, was convicted of painting various "tags" on railroad cars at the Lone Star cement plant in Davenport last September.

Assistant District Attorney Peter Morgan said this morning he will ask that Carrillo be sent to the California Youth Authority. The maximum sentence is three years.

Morgan said he is asking for the CYA commitment, rather than prison, because of the nature of the crime, Carrillo's youth and lack of an extensive criminal record.

Carrillo's only prior criminal record was for resisting arrest when he scuffled with a sheriff's

deputy who was breaking up a party.

Morgan said Carrillo wrote one of his tags, "FTL," in blood in the patrol car.

That writing was one of the tips used to trace Carrillo to the Lone Star graffiti last year. The key evidence was Carrillo's fingerprints, in paint, at Lone Star. Morgan said there was more graffiti than one person could have done, but Carrillo wouldn't name any of his accomplices.

Morgan said a restitution order will be sought along with the sentence.

Carrillo's case is the fifth major graffiti arrest in the county in the last two years. One youth received a six-month jail sentence, one was put on probation, and the other two cases are winding their way through the courts.