

Judge sentences graffiti felon

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SANTA CRUZ — "SKEETER," "HONKE," "GOME," and "FTL."

Those were just a few of the choice graffiti "tags" authorities found at the RMC Lonestar plant in Davenport last September.

For Michael Pacifico Carrillo on Thursday, the price for taking part in tagging 12 coal-hauling train cars and buildings last September was a trip straight to County Jail.

Judge Richard Attack ordered Carrillo, 21, to begin serving his 210-day jail sentence immediately after the sentencing hearing.

Carrillo, whose "FTL" tag stands for an obscenity against "the law," is the first to be convicted of felony vandalism in Santa



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— Judge Richard Attack, of convicted 'tagger'

Cruz County for the fad.

The "FTL" tag has been sighted on fences and freeway walls throughout the northern part of the county.

Carrillo denies being a tagger. At last month's trial, he insisted he was only

there to take pictures of the tags. Some 20 to 30 other "friends" did the actual vandalism, he said.

But during the trial, authorities said that Carrillo's fingerprints were found on one of 20 cans of spray paint at the scene.

A Capitola hardware store employee testified he sold Carrillo the paint after refusing to sell to a group of juveniles because of their age.

Carrillo was also known to wear a baseball cap with "FTL." Deputies found a cap with the same initials at the scene.

Officers also reported that Carrillo was prone to yelling out the obscenity at them, and giving Nazi salutes.

During an arrest, Carrillo banged his head repeatedly while in the back of a patrol car, then used his bleeding head to write "FTL" on a window.

During one police contact, Carrillo admitted being a "tagger," and dared police to catch him.

A jury of six men and six women convicted him June 25 after a half day of deliberations.

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Graffiti

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In a pre-sentencing interview with deputy probation officer Richard Zimmerman, the court officer described Carrillo as "sullen" and "bland."

"I don't have anything to say," Carrillo reportedly said. "I just took pictures and attempt to buy graffiti."

He also commented: "Cops have attitudes and are power happy."

A photo album of his collection of "tags" used as evidence by the defense during the trial was declared forfeited Thursday by Attack.

Assistant District Attorney Peter Morgan said deputies could use the photos for training purposes. Morgan had argued unsuccessfully for a state prison term in the California Youth Authority.

"He's shown utter disregard for law enforcement and the courts," Morgan said.

An attempt by Carrillo's public defender, George Gigarjian, to portray graffiti tagging as "art" was interrupted by Attack.

"It has no socially redeeming value whatsoever," the judge said.

The judge ordered Carrillo to serve 36 months probation, submit to searches, attend counseling, not associate with "known taggers" or possess spray paint, and put in 500 hours of community service — cleaning up graffiti.

"I want you to get a real chance to see how it's affected other people's property," Attack said.

The judge also said he was pessi-

mistic about Carrillo's chances for succeeding on probation as long as the defendant displayed a "negative" attitude.

"A somewhat negative attitude toward society, police, and the courts is noted," he said. "I don't know if you have much chance."

"I hope you do."