

# Man gets two years for assault, abduction

Pleaded guilty in March  
to beating up teenager

By Aaron Lee

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A Forest man who ring-led what a prosecutor called a "mafia-style abduction" last year was sentenced in Lynchburg Circuit Court to two years in prison Friday.

Michael Raymond Serro, 23, pleaded guilty in March to felony abduction and misdemeanor assault and battery after Serro and several other men cornered, and beat up, then 18-year-old Troy Helm in May 2006.

"I went 23 years without making a mistake," Serro, who had no prior criminal record, said Friday. "Then, in one night I pretty much threw away my future."

Lynchburg Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmler said Serro invested \$10,000 in May 2006 to put on a local rap concert, but had lost all the money when plans for the show fell through.

Trying to recoup his losses, Serro took out a bank loan for \$8,000 and gave it to a co-worker at T Bone Jack's named William Joseph Neaves, 19, of Lynchburg.

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