

GHOST Team Has Last Laugh on Alleged Vandals

(Nov. 14, 2001) They frequently boasted about their vandalism exploits on an Internet web site, kept a scrapbook of graffiti photos and ridiculed the LAPD's GHOST team. But, two ringleaders of the "7-UPS" tagging crew may not be laughing now.

Ray Correa, 21, and Pablo Velasquez, 20, were arrested, Nov. 1, after GHOST officers allegedly saw them vandalizing MTA property as they rode several Metro Buses around the city.

In a search of Correa's home, the officers recovered 59 pieces of evidence – including etching acid and the scrapbook – that allegedly link him to past vandalism incidents.

The District Attorney's office filed five felony and five misdemeanor counts against the pair for vandalism allegedly committed during GHOST team surveillance. Bail of \$100,000 was set for Correa.

GHOST officers also arrested two other men and a juvenile, Nov. 2, as they were allegedly preparing to paint graffiti near the entrance to the old subway tunnel near Belmont High School.

Officers said Ernesto Tellez, 23, Jorge Velazquez, 18, and a 17-year-old came prepared with a gallon of paint, rollers and numerous cans of spray paint. They were cited for misdemeanor vandalism.

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