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Student Shown Tagging Metro Bus Identified

- Media event at Santee school marred by incident; school principal to meet with youth; Metro investigating tagging

(Feb. 27, 2007) They know who he is now, that boy pictured on the front page of the Los Angeles Times tagging Metro Bus 7925.

Unknown to the hooded student, however, the bus carried Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and a host of local school officials during a media event, Monday, at the Santee Education Complex south of downtown LA.

The mayor, along with LAUSD School Board President Marlene Canter, School Board Member Monica Garcia, Superintendent David L. Brewer, Metro's Westside/Central General Manager Mark Maloney and Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford, were briefing local media on a change in Metro Bus Line 48.

Metro re-routed Line 48 to better serve Santee students who previously had to walk through gang territory on Maple Avenue near Adams Boulevard. Some had been robbed and others have skipped school to avoid the gangs.

"Santee students can now ride to and from school without fear of being caught in the crossfire of gang violence," Villaraigosa told the media.

As bus 7925 paused to turn at a busy intersection near the school, those onboard watched open-mouthed as the 17-year-old student ran up and marked graffiti on a side window of the bus.

Photographers snapped the action and the incident was mentioned in news reports Monday night and Tuesday morning.

Santee Principal Vince Carbino told the media he and a school social worker would meet with the young man to "help the student and get him on the right track."

Metro investigators and the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau also are looking into the incident.

Cover story

Los Angeles Times

latimes.com

search  2:06 PM PST, February



(Anna Cusack/LAT)

Not a good sign

A young tagger makes his mark on an MTA bus carrying Villaraigosa and other dignitaries to a media event to announce a new bus stop.

ONLINE: [Article w/video](#)>

Graffiti mars school media event

