


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/ Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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'Hollywood Tagger' Blamed for \$31,000 in Damage to Metro Property

- Deputies collar suspect after lengthy investigation

By NED RACINE

(May 8, 2007) Completing an investigation that began in 2005, Transit Services Bureau (TSB) deputies arrested a former Hollywood High School student, April 26, for allegedly causing an estimated \$31,000 in damage to Metro property.

TSB deputies Kyle Ynclan and Dennis Chuck began investigating a series of vandalism crimes against Metro property in 2005. The tagger used the moniker "A59ER."

According to Sheriff's Sgt. Augie Pando, most of A59ER's damage was initially limited to a few slap tags and a few scratched bus windows. Since then, A59ER became a prolific tagger of Metro buses and Hollywood-area businesses.

Following an anonymous tip, deputies Ynclan and Chuck spoke with Hollywood High School officials and school police. They identified A59ER as Sergio Escobar, who is 19 years old.

At 7 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, deputies Chuck and Ynclan served a warrant for Escobar's arrest at his Hollywood residence. Escobar was arrested without incident and, according to the deputies' report, confessed to the crimes.

Pando said an added benefit from the Escobar arrest was information gathered during the search of his residence, information that may lead to further arrests.

During the home search, Deputies Ynclan and Chuck discovered numerous items linking Escobar to A59ER, including a Metro bus pass and vandalism tools used to etch bus window frames.

After his arrest, Escobar wrote an apology for the damages he caused Metro property. Currently in jail awaiting trial, he faces 14 felony counts.

